



Clermont County Park District Autumn Newsletter September - November 2013

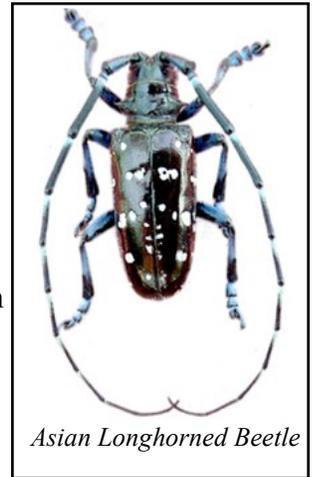


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Taking Root *Chris Clingman, Director*

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) has been getting a lot of attention lately in Clermont County, and they deserve it! These invasive insects can infest and destroy up to 13 genera (varieties) of trees, including buckeyes and maples. There is another invasive pest that has been slowly eating away at our local forests and its presence is starting to impact our parks. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) attacks and kills all species of ash trees found in our area. EAB is a foreign pest, native to Asia, that was accidentally introduced into the United States through packing material that arrived in the Detroit, Michigan area. They were first identified in 2002, but it was estimated that they had been in the area for at least ten years.



Asian Longhorned Beetle

Eventually, EAB spread out from Detroit and headed south to Ohio. Research showed that the bright, metallic green insect would fly about half a mile or less from an infested tree to find a new ash tree to feed on. However, the insect was starting to appear in areas far away from previously infested areas. It was soon discovered that through the movement of firewood, the EAB could travel further and infest more areas at a faster rate. Unsuspecting people were moving firewood that was infested with the EAB to new places across Ohio and the eastern U.S. To combat the spread of the EAB, The Ohio Department of Agriculture began to place quarantines on areas to try and prevent the movement firewood. It was later discovered that the EAB was already present in areas that were thought to be non-infested. As the EAB worked its way south, it appeared in Anderson Township, and has since spread throughout Clermont County. Unfortunately, it appears the EAB is here to stay.



Emerald Ash Borer

While driving along I-275 and I-75 north of 275 it is easy to see the “skeletons” of dead ash trees standing along the highways. In Clermont County, they can be seen along many of the rural roads and highways. At Pattison Park we recently removed over 20 ash trees that were dead or were dying. Falling tree branches threatened parked cars, power lines and buildings. Many of the trees were 90 feet tall and a crane was used in order to safely remove them. More trees will be removed this winter at Pattison Park, as well as some of our other parks. At the current rate, it looks like ash trees will follow the plight of the American chestnut and the American elm trees in becoming only a memory in our forests. Chestnut trees fell victim to the chestnut blight during the early part of the 1900’s while American Elm trees gave way to dutch elm disease beginning in the 1940’s and 1950’s. Those trees have all but been eliminated from our eastern forests today.

To help fill the void in our forests, OKI Regional Council of Governments is launching the “Taking Root Campaign”. Taking Root is a collaborative, broad-based campaign to address the current historic loss of our region’s tree canopy. The campaign hopes to improve our forests by; planting trees, better managing of our local forests, promoting the many benefits of healthy trees, and fostering a sense of stewardship among individuals and communities. A major goal is to plant two million trees by 2020 – one for every person in the eight-county Greater Cincinnati region. The campaign kickoff will be Thursday, September 26 at 10 AM in Eden Park in Cincinnati, with a tree planting ceremony.

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Williamsburg - Batavia Hike/Bike Trail Update Chris Clingman, Director

Construction on the second phase of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike trail is well underway. This section of trail will connect the East Fork State Park campground with the existing trail, thereby connecting users to the Village of Williamsburg. The trail is different from the Little Miami Trail in that it shares roadway with vehicles in some places and other areas it is a separate trail. It also differs by making use of old roadways that were abandoned during the construction of Harsha Lake. So, riding your bike or walking down the trail will be more like taking a trip on an old country road. You will have hills to climb, fields to pass, creeks to cross, and the occasional car to share the road with you. Places to stop along the trail will include the East Fork River Valley overlook on the old Broadway trail section in Williamsburg, The Cain Run Creek bridge and waterfalls at the end of Williamsburg-Bantam Road, the wetland observation deck, and the lake overlook at the end of old Cain Run Road trail segment.



Construction is scheduled to be completed in mid October. We ask that you please stay out of the construction site. With heavy equipment moving around the area is just not safe for visitors to take a look. Pictures showing the progress can be found on the [trail's facebook page](#). Trail opening information will be posted on the [Park District's website](#) and [facebook page](#).

Are you following us?

flickr™

facebook®

Have you visited our Facebook or Flickr pages recently? We're always looking for new photos of our parks, so we encourage you to take lots of photos on your next visit to your favorite Clermont County park and upload them to share with everyone.

Taking Root (continued from page 2)

This planting will commemorate a tree planting that was held in 1882 on the seventh annual Arbor Day. That event was organized because the region's once abundant forests had all but disappeared in the rush to build cities, clear land for farming and to fuel a growing industrial giant. On that day, all students in the Cincinnati Public Schools went to an abandoned vineyard and planted trees. Today, that vineyard is the wooded Eden Park, overlooking the Ohio River and the city of Cincinnati. Individuals took action then to help save or restore our forests. Today, the Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle are threatening our forests, tree lined streets, shaded parks, and our backyard trees. Action is needed again. To participate in the Taking Root campaign go to <http://www.greenumbrella.org/takingroot> for more information.



Shor Park Update

Chris Clingman, Director

If anyone has driven by or walked the trails of Shor Park recently, they may have noticed quite a few changes. The changes are part of a grant project to improve water quality. The Park District is partnering with the Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District to demonstrate alternative stormwater management practices at the park. The project is funded by an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Surface Water Improvement Fund grant.



Blue vervain

Work began this summer on the rain garden and bioswales in the parking lot area of the Park. Bioswales are a gradually sloped depression that collects surface runoff from rain water. The bioswales use special soil types and vegetation to act like a sponge, absorbing stormwater and filtering out pollutants, before releasing it. After the runoff is filtered in the bioswale, it then travels under the parking lot and into the rain garden. The rain garden takes advantage of the vegetation to further filter the storm water, before it is released back into the nearby stream. The goal of this system is to filter and clean the water before it enters surrounding streams. Some of the pollutants that are filtered using a bioswale and rain garden are sediment, chemicals, and residue from automobiles (i.e. motor oil and other automotive fluids). In addition to filtering the pollutants, the rain garden will also reduce the velocity of the water before it enters the stream, thus reducing soil erosion.

To date, proper soils and drainage pipes have been installed. Vegetation will be planted this autumn. Special deep-rooted plants are necessary for a proper rain garden. These deep rooted plants can withstand saturated soils for an extended period of time.

In addition to the rain garden and bioswales, the grant also includes a habitat restoration project in the fields along Tealtown Road. The project began with employees from Cardno JF New removing invasive non-native plants by using a combination of mowing and herbicide applications. Invasive callery pear trees had taken over the front field crowding out many native plants. Once the pear trees had been removed, many native plants that are found in wet prairies or meadows started to emerge. Several species of rushes and sedges are



Before

April 2013



After

August 2013

now growing as well as little bluestem grass, blue vervain, boneset, goldenrods and many other native plants. A selective mowing and herbicide application targeting the invasive species will take place this fall. Once the invasive species have been removed, many native plant species will be planted to increase the biodiversity of the site. By allowing the native plant community to return, the increased plant diversity will attract a greater number of wildlife species.

To experience this change firsthand, get out and enjoy the trails this fall. The differences in soil moisture and the associated plant community will be quite noticeable, especially during the wet seasons. We encourage you to visit the site throughout the year to see how it progresses. For more information on the project visit [our website](#).

Before and after views of the field at Shor Park. Invasive Callery Pear trees were removed, to allow for wetland development, and establishment of native vegetation.

Summer Naturalist Programs September - November



**Advance Registration
Required**



**Program has
A fee**

Preschool Storytime:

Join us for our monthly story time programs. We'll have stories, crafts, and a hike.

Monarch Butterflies

**Wednesday
September 11th
11:00 am
Sycamore Park**



Fall Colors

**Wednesday
October 9th
11:00 am
Sycamore Park**

Homeschool Stream Study

**Thursday October 3
Sycamore Park
10:00 am**



Bring your child to the park as we explore the East Fork of the Little Miami River. We'll use nets to catch aquatic critters, then use those bugs to determine how



clean our water is. Deadline to register is Monday September 30th. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up. Fee is \$4.00 per child.

Pumpkin Party

**Thursday October 17
7:00 pm**



Pattison Park Lodge

Get ready for Halloween by decorating pumpkins with us! Pre-register for a pumpkin to decorate. Those not pre-registered can bring their own pumpkin to decorate



Fee is \$3.00 per pumpkin. Limited registration so call now! 513-876-9013. Deadline to register is Monday October 14th.

Monarch Tagging

**Saturday September 14
1:00 pm
Shor Park**

Join us as we search the fields for the Monarch butterfly. If we catch any, we'll tag and release them. These tags are helpful in tracking the migration of Monarchs as they fly south to their wintering grounds in Mexico. Bring your own net if you have one.



Campfire Songs

Friday October 18th
Sycamore Park
6:30 pm

Enjoy the cool crisp fall weather as we sit by the fire. Local musician Steve Featherston will be performing popular campfire songs, and we'll provide the marshmallows to roast. You'll also be able to take a naturalist guided night hike along the trails, to see what creatures may be out and about. **Pre registration is required.** Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up. The deadline is Wednesday October 16th.



Habitat Help Day

Saturday November 2nd
Sycamore Park
9:00 am—12:00 pm

We're looking for several dedicated volunteers to pitch in and improve the habitat at Sycamore Park. We'll be cutting and removing the invasive bush honeysuckle that has over taken part of the park.



By removing this invasive plant, we can allow for more of our native plants to grow. To sign up call 513.876.9013.

Fall Colors Hike

Saturday October 19th
Sycamore Park
10:00am

Follow a naturalist on a moderate 2.5 mile hike through Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve as you enjoy the colorful fall foliage. Meet by the pedestrian bridge.



Stargazing

Friday November 8th
Chilo Lock 34 Park
7:00 pm

Join members of the Midwestern Astronomers group for an evening under the stars. They'll bring their knowledge, expertise, and of course—telescopes to share! If the skies remain clear, we will be rewarded with great views of a crescent moon, Venus, Uranus as well as many other constellations. **Note: The program will be cancelled if the skies are cloudy.** Please check our website the day of the program, if the weather looks questionable.



Special Thank you to the following for volunteering at the Ohio River Sweep on Saturday June 15. Kelly McBride, Tim McBride, Katie McBride, Chris Stober, Elizabeth Pisarczyk, and Jim Thomas.

Special Thank you to Jim Thomas and Jane Van Coney for continuing to do a weekly butterfly monitoring survey at Chilo Lock 34 Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve this summer.





The Clermont County Park District is once again partnering with the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality as part of the Great Outdoor Weekend. Join us on Saturday September 28 at Sycamore Park for some free, outdoor fun (see below for program details).

The Great Outdoor Weekend, the nation's largest outdoor recreation and nature education sampler, will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year with over 150 free events and activities by 50 organizations around the tri-state region. Get outdoors and see what the weekend has to offer at www.GreatOutdoorWeekend.org.

Sycamore Park Stream Splash

Saturday September 28

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Grab a net and join us as we splash around in the river searching for aquatic insects and other critters. We'll use the bugs we catch to determine how clean the water is. Bring boots or old shoes, and be prepared to get wet. The program is ongoing, so drop in anytime.

East Fork Canoe Adventure

Saturday September 28

9:30 - 11:30 am

12:00 - 2:00 pm

Enjoy a naturalist guided canoe adventure down the East Fork of the Little Miami River as you search for beaver, wood ducks, turtles and



other aquatic wildlife. Participants will be given a brief safety demonstration before entering the water. **Pre registration is required. Please call the Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District at 513-732-7075 to sign up. For safety reasons, please no children under the age of 4.**



FALL FESTIVAL

CHILO LOCK 34 PARK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 12:00 – 4:00 PM



Wagon Rides

Courtesy of Gorman Heritage Farm. Enjoy a leisurely ride through the park on a mule powered wagon.



Try our pumpkin slingshot!

Live Music by Steve Featherston

Steve Featherston has been playing & singing around Clermont County for over 20 years. His style is an eclectic mix of light rock, country & folk music, with a little blues thrown in. Concerts have included kids' shows, art fairs, libraries & churches, plus he regularly plays for area seniors.



*Pumpkin
Painting
Kids games*

www.clermontparks.org





CHILO *Living and Working with the Ohio River*

Chilo Lock 34 Park Visitor Center and Museum Autumn Hours

September & October

Thursday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

November 1 - 30

Friday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm



Spotlight Species: Monarch Butterflies

Monarchs may be one of the most recognizable, and most popular butterflies in North America, and for good reason. These delicate insects may have the most fascinating life history of any other insect in our area.

In late summer, and early autumn, tiny white eggs, can be observed on the underside of milkweed leaves. Like most butterflies, monarchs have a specific host plant, meaning they will only lay eggs on the leaves of milkweed plants. After about 2-3 days, the tiny young caterpillar will emerge and begin eating its own eggshell. Soon, they will move on and begin eating milkweed leaves. As caterpillars they are eating machines and grow rapidly in the roughly two weeks they spend in the larval stage of their life. Soon, they'll begin spinning their chrysalis, where they'll stay for 1-2 weeks before emerging as butterflies. During September, monarch butterflies that have recently emerged from their chrysalis will begin an epic journey as they begin migrating to Central Mexico for the winter. In their wintering grounds, monarchs will congregate by the thousands. Monarchs can easily be attracted to your yard by providing lots of flower plants and nectar sources, as well as milkweed.



Asian Longhorned Beetle Invades Clermont County

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture are continuing to monitor the status of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Clermont County. The ALB is an invasive destructive pest native to Asia. The ALB feeds on its host tree and will eventually kill it. The ALB prefers maples, but will also use buckeye, hackberry elm, ash, birch, and willows as its host tree. If the ALB continues to spread, it will be very destructive, resulting in thousands of dead trees.



Number of trees affected as of August 24

619,105 Trees surveyed
10,181 ALB infested trees confirmed.
9,850 ALB infested trees removed
4,071 ALB high risk trees removed
13,232 High risk trees treated

If you find evidence of the ALB on your property, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450.



Adult ALB showing egg laying sites on tree bark.



Egg laying sites in tree bark.



Tree showing multiple exit holes, where adult ALB's emerged.



An adult ALB emerging from the inside of a tree. After transforming from pupae to adult, ALB's bore perfectly round dime sized exit holes on host trees.



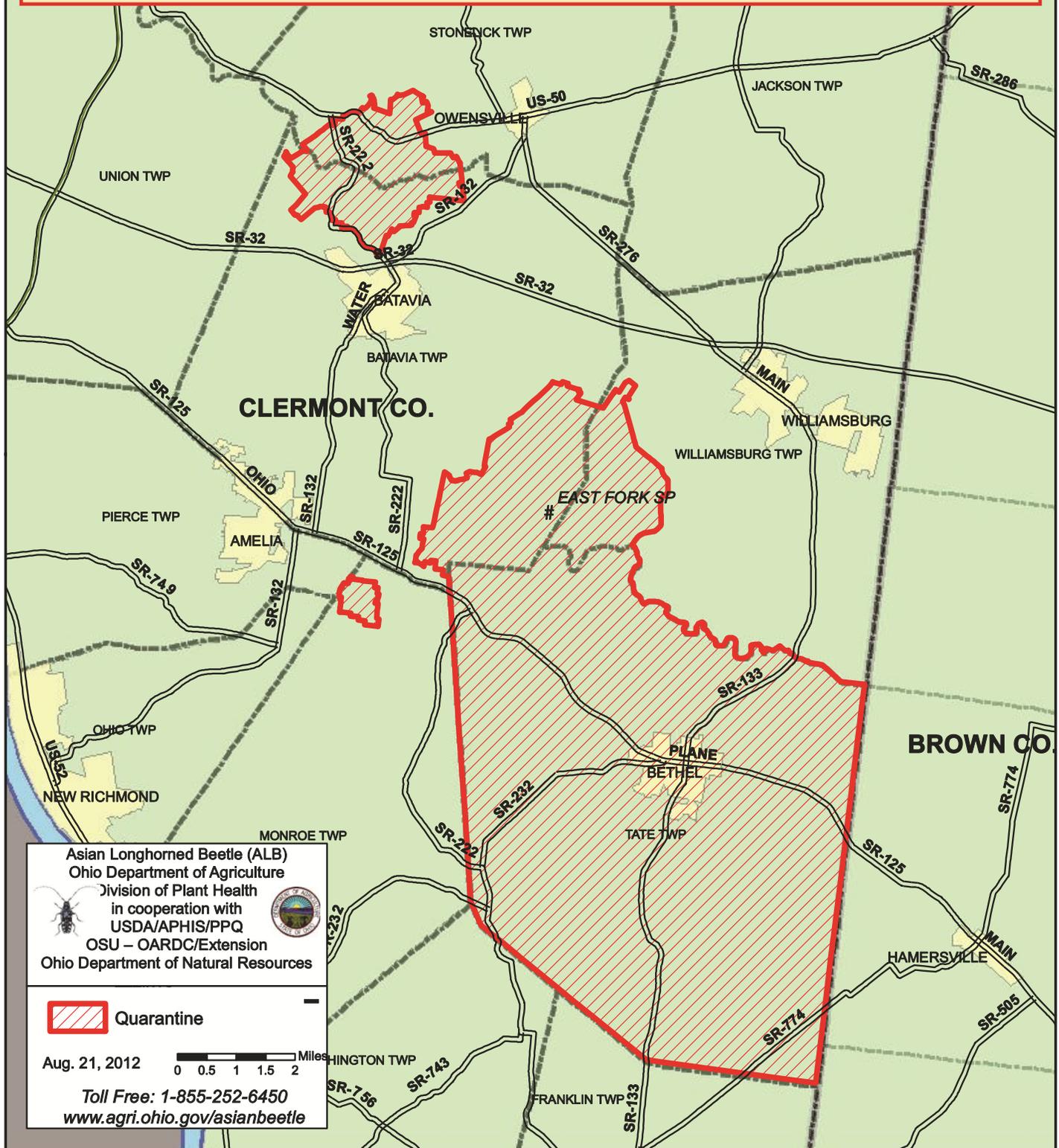
Close up of the perfectly round, dime sized exit hole.



If you find evidence of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, report it to the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-855-252-6450 For more information on the Asian Longhorn Beetle visit www.beetlebusters.info

Ohio's Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine

Firewood and other regulated articles are prohibited from leaving the quarantined areas of Clermont County, which include all of Tate Township, East Fork State Park, and the regulated areas of Monroe, Batavia and Stonelick Townships.



Picnic Shelter Rentals

The Park District has picnic shelters for rent at Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, and Pattison Park for your summer picnic or family gathering.

Call the Park District administrative office at 513.732.2977 to make your reservation or check on availability.



<u>Park/Shelter</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Chilo Lock 34 Park	50	\$75
Pattison Park	150	\$100
Sycamore Woods	50	\$75
Sycamore #2	150	\$100



Sycamore Park Playground

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin



Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

In Season (May 15—October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$475

Saturday \$550

Out of Season (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$425

Saturday \$500



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$125

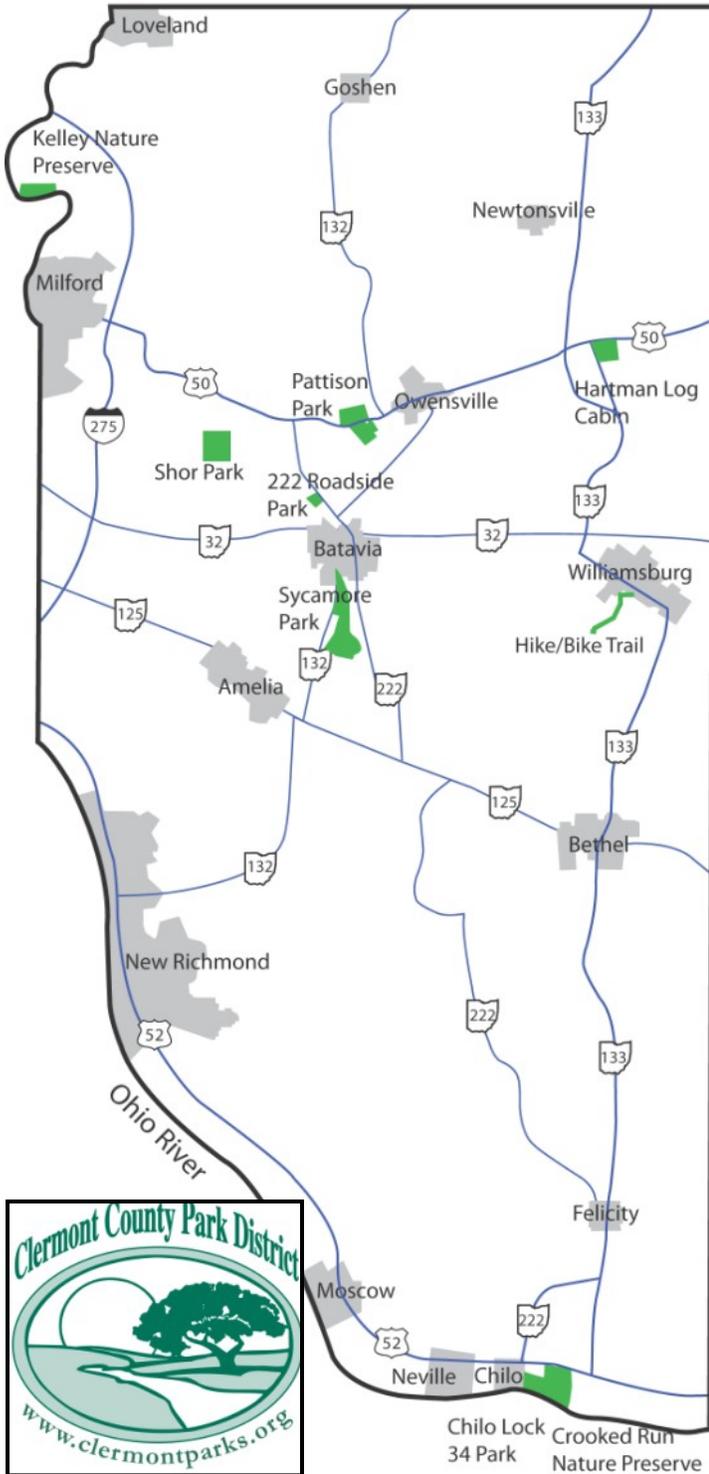
Friday through Sunday \$175

**Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Sunday \$125





Mission Statement

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historical value.

Monthly board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm in Pattison Park Lodge. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 513.732.2977.

Chilo Lock 34 Park 39 acres
 521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112
 513.876.9013

Crooked Run Nature Preserve 77 acres
 521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112

Hartman Log Cabin 5 acres
 5272 Aber Road Williamsburg, OH 45176

Kelley Nature Preserve 42 acres
 297 Center Street Loveland, OH 45140

Pattison Park 45 acres
 2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103

Shor Park 56 acres
 4659 Tealtown Road Batavia, OH 45103

Sycamore Park 53 acres
 4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Wilson Nature Preserve 105 acres
 4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103

Williamsburg - Batavia Hike/Bike Trail
 Broadway Road Williamsburg, OH 45176
 2.5 miles long

Contact Information

Administrative Office
 2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103
 513.732.2977
 parkdistrict@clermontcountyohio.gov

Naturalist Office
 PO Box 106 Chilo, OH 45112
 513.876.9013

Board of Park Commissioners

David Anspach Kenneth Stewart
 William Stearns, *Chairman*

Chris Clingman, *Director*

www.clermontparks.org