



Autumn E-Newsletter September– November 2009

Fall Foliage

Keith Robinson, Naturalist

Autumn is a spectacular time of year for many outdoor enthusiasts. The cool crisp days of October and November are usually a welcome relief from the hot and humid dog days of late summer. Though the New England States claim to have the most scenic fall foliage, the rolling hills of southwestern Ohio can be quite impressive as they are ablaze with the vivid reds, yellows and oranges that make this season so spectacular.



The official beginning of fall is marked by the autumnal equinox, in which we receive exactly 12 hours of sunlight. This year fall officially begins on September 22nd. The amount of sunlight we receive each day continues to decrease until we reach the winter solstice (the first day of winter). This decrease in the amount of sunlight we receive causes our days to shorten and our temperatures to drop. The decrease in sunlight is what triggers many of the annual fall rituals in nature. Groundhogs hibernating, birds migrating and deciduous trees changing color all get their cues from the sun.

Trees contain a green pigment in their leaves called chlorophyll. This chlorophyll is used by the trees during photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process in which trees and plants make their food. During summer when days are the longest, trees will absorb sunlight and carbon dioxide through their leaves and water through their roots. Together, the sunlight, carbon dioxide and water form glucose (a type of sugar) which is used as the trees food source and oxygen which is released back into the air. This process continues all summer, as long as a tree has its green leaves. Because the process of photosynthesis is driven by the amount of available sunlight, trees must shut down during the winter when days are shorter. If the trees continued photosynthesis throughout winter, they would use more energy than they would receive and would eventually starve themselves to death. Evergreen trees, such as pines, spruces and firs, have special adaptations to help undergo photosynthesis even during the winter.

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Park District News

Chris Clingman, Director

We are always trying to find ways to supplement and/or stretch our operating budget in order to provide, improve and increase the parks and their facilities. This fall we are participating in a creative fundraising and publicity project geared toward bringing more visitors to the Ohio River area. Area historical societies are being represented by an historical character associated with their organization. For example, a U.S. Grant impersonator will be representing the U.S.

Grant Homestead Association. All the characters will be on a website where visitors can find out more about each historic site and can vote for their favorite character. To vote you will be asked to make a one dollar donation for each vote, with all the money each character generates going to his or her organization. Voting is now open online at www.fallbackintotime.com. This is a fun way to find out more about historic sites in the area and plan a close to home vacation. Join us for the *Fall Back into Time* event on Saturday October 10th at Chilo Lock 34 Park and meet the characters in person.



The Clermont County Park District Board of Park Commissioners, with funding from the Union Township Trustees, and the Ohio Department of Transportation put out to bid the Tealtown Road Park Phase One Project. The project includes the construction of a park entrance road and parking lots, along with bioswales and rain gardens to handle the storm water runoff. Future development of a playground, restroom and picnic facilities is dependent upon available funding. The Park District Board awarded the contract for the site work for the parking lot and entrance road to Broshear Contractors. Work should begin in September.



In 2010 the Park District will be marking its 40th anniversary. We are in search of photographs of events held in the parks. If you have a photo of a family reunion, wedding, or other event, we can scan the photo and return it to you. We are also looking for photos of the Sycamore Park area before it was known as Sycamore Park. At one time that area was the home field for the Batavia High School football team. Contact the park office at 513.732.2977 for more information.

Phase one of the Williamsburg to Batavia hike/bike trail opened in June and people have been enjoying it ever since. This is a collaborative project between several different agencies and a thank you needs to be expressed to all: Villages and Townships of Williamsburg and Batavia, Clermont County Engineer's Office, ODNR Division of Wildlife, ODNR Division of State Parks, Clermont County Commissioners, OKI, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Harmony Hill Museum. Also special thanks to Dualite, National Bank and Trust, and Duke Energy for their donations.

A new playground has been added to Sycamore Park. Thanks to a grant from the Pattison Foundation, the Park District has installed a new "Tot Lot" Playground. The new playground is designed for children ages 2-5. In addition to the playweb and the climbing rocks this is the third new playground installed at Sycamore Park since 2006.



As the summer growing season comes to an end, the trees prepare for a long winter of dormancy. Since there isn't enough sunlight for photosynthesis, the chlorophyll is no longer needed and the production of it comes to an end. As the dark green chlorophyll begins to fade from a leaf, other hidden pigments finally start to show. In addition to chlorophyll, all deciduous trees also contain yellow and orange pigments known as xanthophylls and carotenes. These pigments are present in the leaf all summer but are hidden by the more dominant green of the chlorophyll. As the dark green chlorophyll fades, the leaves slowly turn to a vibrant yellow or orange color as the other pigments become visible. The yellow of bananas and the orange of pumpkins and carrots are a result of carotene pigments. Tulip poplar, ash, birch, hickory and locust trees will usually show yellow foliage during autumn.



In addition to ending the production of chlorophyll trees have another way of preparing for winter. They form a layer of cells known as the abscission layer, where the leaf stem meets the branch. These cells are formed to prevent the flow of water and sugar between the leaf and the tree. As this layer is formed, sugar will sometimes be trapped in the leaf. When this occurs the sugar that is trapped will transform into another pigment known as anthocyanin. It is this anthocyanin pigment that is responsible for some of the most vivid reds and purples of the fall. While these red pigments can be more colorful and spectacular than the yellows, they are not as reliable. The change in color from green to red is very dependent upon bright sunlight. As summer ends and fall approaches, cool night time temperatures and bright sunny days will enrich the reds and purples as they are developing. Cloudy or rainy days and warm evening temperatures will generally produce duller fall colors. Sugar and red maples, sweet gum, sassafras, pin oak, scarlet oak, red oak and dogwood are just a few of our native trees that will display deep red colors, if the conditions are right.

With its rolling hills and scenic streams, Clermont County offers many outstanding opportunities to enjoy fall foliage. Take a drive out to Chilo Lock 34 Park and enjoy the changing leaves from the Ohio River Scenic Byway or enjoy the vivid colors on foot. The miles of hiking trails at the brand new James L. and Frances

Wilson Nature Preserve offer excellent vistas to enjoy the spectacular autumn display of color. Check out our naturalist program listings also and join them for one of the many programs being offered throughout the Park District this fall.

A Special Thanks To . . .

Dave Anspach, Adam Stober, Chris Stober, Jim Thomas, and Linn Van Woerkem for participating in the Ohio River Sweep at Chilo Lock 34 Park on June 20.

The Girl Scouts for volunteering their time to clean out the garden beds at Chilo Lock 34 Park.



Autumn Naturalist Programs

September—November



Program has a fee



Pre-registration is required

Monarch Tagging

Saturday September 19

2:00 pm

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Join in the nationwide citizen scientist research project into the famous Monarch migration. We will be catching Monarch butterflies, then placing a small, harmless tag on their wing before releasing them to finish their journey. We will also have an update on Monarchs tagged at last year's event. Bring your own butterfly net if you have one. Pants and sturdy shoes are recommended.



Tree I.D.

Sunday September 20

2:00 pm

Pattison Park

How well do you know your trees? Follow a naturalist and find out as you learn more about our local trees and what uses they have. Meet at the picnic shelter.



Preschool Story

Time:

Butterflies

Wednesday September 16

1:30 pm

Sycamore Park

Explore a flying wonder just a preschooler's size: the butterfly! We'll search the flowers and forested trails for butterflies, listen to stories with Angie the Librarian, and make a butterfly craft.



Great Outdoors Weekend

Wetland Walk

Saturday September 26

11 am & 2 pm

Chilo Lock 34 Park

In the mood to get your feet wet? Or are you trying to stay dry? A walk through the wetland lets you decide! Explore what's going on underwater and search for flowers, butterflies and other wetland visitors along the edge.



Homeschool Weather

Thursday September 24

11:00 am

Pattison Park



Bring your homeschooled child out to learn the basics of weather forecasting. We'll examine warm fronts, cold fronts, high and low pressure systems, and even how to forecast the weather by looking at clouds. Program is geared for children 8 years and older. Pre registration is required. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up.



Autumn Stroll

Sunday October 4

1:00 pm

Kelley Nature Preserve

Enjoy a leisurely walk through Kelley Nature Preserve. Walk through the meadow to see which fall flowers are putting on a show and hike through the forest to get a sneak peek at the fabulous fall foliage. Meet at the information kiosk.



Fall Back Into Time

Saturday October 10

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Sponsored by: the *Friends of the Jennie Wade*

10:00—11:00 am

Bring your kids to learn how to make clay marbles the old fashioned way.

11:00 am

Musician Steve Free will be teaching some of his songs to children.

1:00 pm

Musician Steve Free performs a free concert in the park.



See Historically themed characters come to life representing local historical organizations and museums. Cast your \$1.00 vote for your favorite character at www.fallbackintotime.com. Proceeds from your vote will benefit the characters sponsoring agency.



“Ralph the Diver”
Representing the
Chilo Lock 34 Visitor
Center and Museum

BB Riverboat Cruises

Chilo Lock 34 Park to Augusta Ky,
Saturday October 10th

Augusta Departures

9:00 am

1:00 pm

5:00 pm

Chilo Departures

11:00 am

3:00 pm

7:00 pm

One way tickets (children) \$9.00

One way tickets (adults) \$16.00

Round Trip tickets (children) \$16.00

Round Trip tickets (adults) \$25.00



Stop in historic Augusta for their annual
Turning of the Leaves Festival.

Call 1.800.261.8586 or visit www.bbriverboats.com
for ticket information.



Preschool Story Time: Celebrate Nature

Wednesday October 14

1:30 pm

Sycamore Park

Hey Preschoolers! Bring all your friends to the last story time of the year! We'll play games, listen to stories and visit our favorite places in the park to say goodbye to summer and hello to fall.



Basic Nature Photography



Wednesday October 14

6:30 pm

Pattison Park Lodge

Learn a few very simple tips and techniques to make your nature photographs stand out. This class is intended for beginners of all ages. Registration is required. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up.



Animals of Halloween Fall

Night Hike

Friday October 23

6:30 pm

Sycamore Park

Cats, bats, owls and spiders! Learn the truth about the creatures of Halloween and follow the naturalist on a spook free family friendly night hike.



Fall Colors Hike

Saturday October 24

Sunday October 25

1:00 pm

Sycamore Park

Explore the 158 acres of Sycamore Park and the new Wilson Nature Preserve as you enjoy the beautiful fall foliage.

We'll search for fall color in flowers, foliage, fungus, and more. This long hike will take us over uneven terrain and up along the hill tops so dress properly, including footwear, and bring your own water. Meet at the pedestrian bridge.



Fall Garden Prep

Saturday November 7

9:00 am

Chilo Lock 34 Park

The growing season has finally ended as fall's killing frosts are soon expected. Help prepare the Victory Garden for winter by gathering the last of the summer harvest and clearing the beds. No gardening experience is needed and all ages are welcome.



Habitat Help Day: Honeysuckle Removal



Saturday November 14

9:00 am

Sycamore Park

Help restore the park's natural ecosystems! Fall is the best time to remove the highly invasive bush honeysuckle, a woody shrub that crowds out our native wildflowers, shrubs and forest regenerating tree saplings. Please call the Naturalist Office at 513.876.9013 to sign up for Habitat Help Day. Light refreshments will be served afterward.

Getting Ready for Winter

Sunday November 15

1:00 pm

Kelley Nature Preserve

Fall is winding down and winter is nearly here. Make sure to get outside and hike before the busy holiday season arrives. See how plants and animals prepare for the long and cold winter ahead. Meet at the information kiosk.



Turkey Talk

Wednesday November 25

1:00 pm

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Celebrate Thanksgiving a day early. Join the Naturalist for some cool turkey facts and discover the fascinating history behind the season's most famous bird. We'll make turkey crafts and cookies to take home. Meet in the Visitor Center.



Winter Night Hike

Friday December 4

6:00 pm

Sycamore Park

Even though the days are short and the nights are long, the forest is still active with wildlife. Join the naturalist for a nocturnal adventure as we look for raccoons, listen for owls and see what other nocturnal wildlife we can find. Meet at the information kiosk.



Winter is for the Birds

Wednesday December 9

6:30 pm

Hartman Log Cabin

If you've always wanted to create a backyard bird feeding station, now is the time. Find out all you need to know to attract goldfinches, cardinals, sparrows, woodpeckers, and more.



Mark Your Calendars

Save the Date!

Duck Decoy

Carving

Classes

Saturdays in January

(9, 16, 23 & 30)

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Cost \$25.00 per person

More information in the Winter Newsletter.



Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum

If you haven't been to the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum recently, start planning your trip now. We've been busy adding new displays.



Autumn Hours of Operation

September (After Labor Day)

Wednesday—Sunday

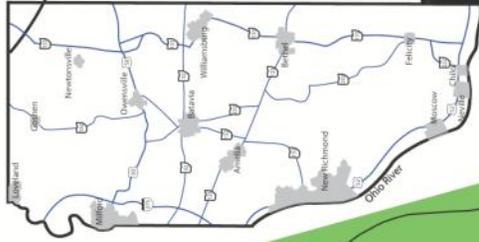
12 pm to 5pm

October—November

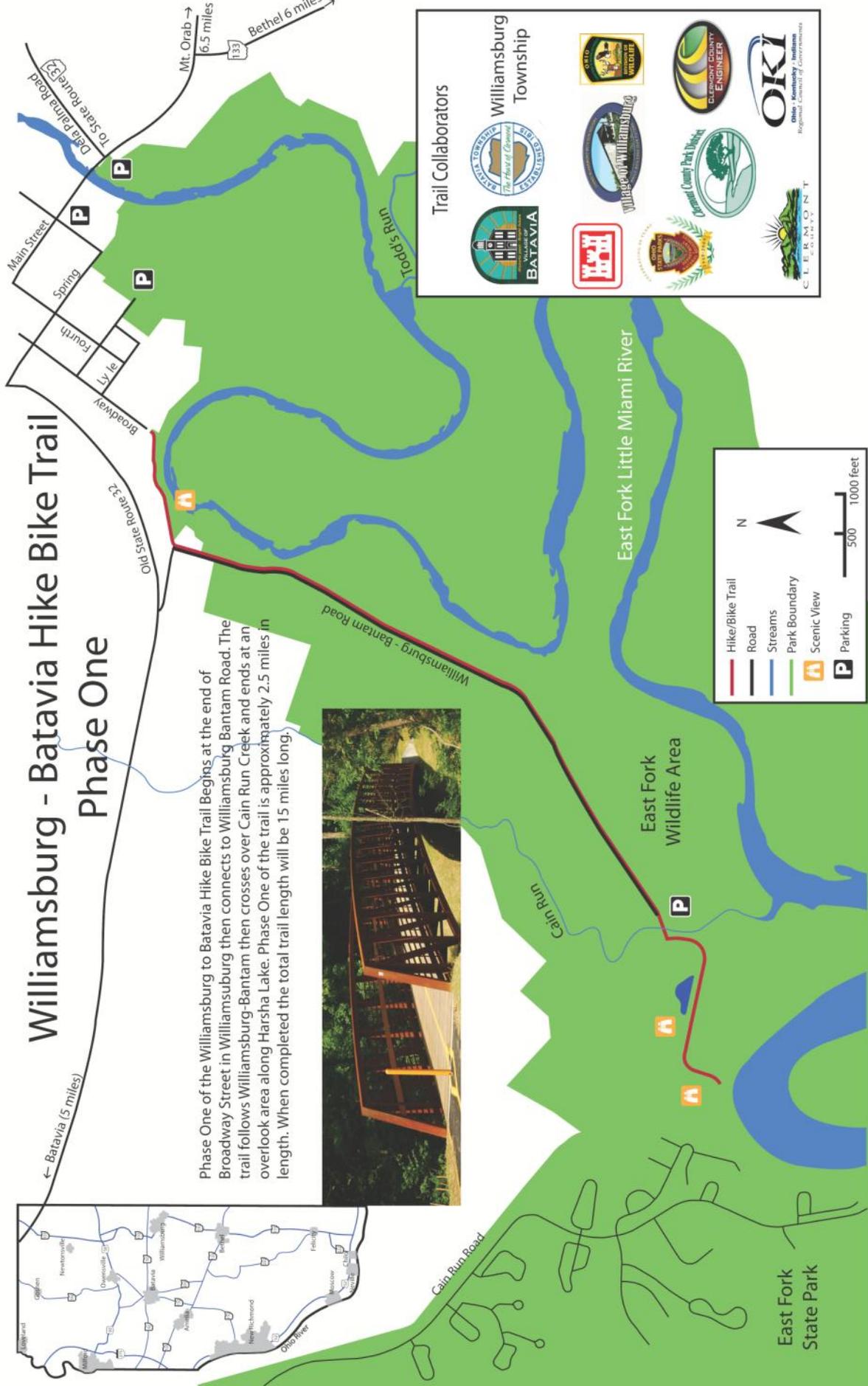
Thursday—Sunday

12pm to 5 pm

Williamsburg - Batavia Hike Bike Trail Phase One



Phase One of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail Begins at the end of Broadway Street in Williamsburg then connects to Williamsburg Bantam Road. The trail follows Williamsburg-Bantam then crosses over Cain Run Creek and ends at an overlook area along Harsha Lake. Phase One of the trail is approximately 2.5 miles in length. When completed the total trail length will be 15 miles long.



Legend:

- Hike/Bike Trail (Red line)
- Road (Black line)
- Streams (Blue line)
- Park Boundary (Green outline)
- Scenic View (Orange 'A' icon)
- Parking (Black 'P' icon)

Scale: 0, 500, 1000 feet

North Arrow: N

Trail Collaborators

[Click here for high resolution pdf](#)

Attention Teachers!

Did you know the Park District offers field trip opportunities to any school in Clermont County?



Topics include

Habitat and Animal Adaptations
Making Maple Syrup
Fossils and Geology
Ohio River History
Weather
Seasons



Call now to schedule your visit. Dates are limited and open dates fill fast. Contact the naturalist office at krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us or 513.876.9013 for more information.

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin Now Taking Reservations for 2010.

Call 513.732.2977 to make your reservation.



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



Attention Shutterbugs!

flickr[™]

If you enjoy visiting the Clermont County parks, and you have a camera, then we're looking for you. The Park District has created a group on "Flickr". We are always searching for good photographs to use on our website, newsletter, and media releases. If you would like to join our group and share your favorite Clermont County Park District photos just visit <http://www.flickr.com/groups/>



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$100

Friday through Sunday \$150

**Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)

Monday through Sunday

\$100

The James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve Coming Soon. . .

One of the big projects the Park District has been working on this year is the opening of the James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve. The 105 acre nature preserve was purchased at the end of 2008 with an \$845,000 grant from the Clean Ohio Fund. With the winter ice storms and the many heavy rains this spring and summer, a lot of work was needed ensure the trails were safe for hikers and park users. Trail work is nearly complete and we hope to have the grand opening sometime this fall.

Visit our [website](#) for details on the grand opening of the newest nature preserve in Clermont County.



Attention Scout and Youth Group Leaders!

Did you know the Clermont County Park District offers overnight camping in our Yurts?

We have two yurts available at Chilo Lock 34 Park for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, church youth camps, or any other organized civic minded youth group.

Yurts are \$50 per night and will comfortably sleep 20-25. The yurts come furnished with a wood burning stove.

To rent the yurts for your youth group please call Pattison Park at 513.732.2977.



Nature Notes

Laura Hoople, Naturalist

Change is in the air as kids head back to school, the weather turns cool and the daylight hours begin to shorten. Exciting changes are happening in our natural world as well and your Clermont County Parks are the perfect place to witness them for yourself. Watch, look, and listen for these fall events.



Pawpaws

From the end of August through October, these large edible native fruits are slowly ripening. We find these understory trees commonly in all of our county parks. Look around at Crooked Run Nature Preserve and find places where fox have been dining on the autumn delicacies.

Harvest Moon

October 4th is this year's Harvest Moon, named not only for occurring during harvest time but also because its light is so bright farmers could work by it to bring in their crops. The full moon's light will be seen from sunset to sunrise if the sky isn't cloudy.

Spicebush

The leaves of spicebush turn a beautiful golden yellow each fall and the bush's berries turn a bright red, ripening from late summer through October. Birds, raccoons and opossums all eat these delicious berries. Visit the new James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve to find these aromatic bushes and spicy sweet berries.

White-tailed Deer

Fall brings an exciting time in the lives of deer and makes them the most visible to humans. The "rutting" or breeding season begins in mid October, with the peak in early to mid November. Bucks (male deer) lose the velvety coating on their antlers and spend their time looking for does (female deer) and competing for mates. These large mammals are most active at dusk and dawn so use caution when traveling the roads of Clermont County.

Fall Colors

Throughout the season, those famous fall colors are beginning to show on trees throughout the region. Join in a hike or a program at one of your Clermont County Parks and enjoy the beauty of fall.

Chilo Lock 34 Park

521 County Park Road

Chilo, OH 45112

39 Acres

Features a three story visitor center and museum in an old lock and dam building along the Ohio River. The park has picnic shelters, playground, and a boat ramp and dock with public access to the Ohio River.

Crooked Run Nature Preserve

77 Acres

Adjacent to Chilo Lock 34 Park is Clermont County's only state dedicated nature preserve. Crooked Run attracts a diversity of wildlife, including birds, making this a popular bird watching spot.

Pattison Park

2228 US Highway 50

Batavia, OH 45103

45 acres

This park is home to the Pattison Lodge and Gazebo, a popular wedding and reception site. A fishing lake, picnic shelter, playground, paved walking trail, and hiking trails with interpretive signs are also found at Pattison Park.

Sycamore Park

4082 State Route 132

Batavia, OH 45103

158 acres

Sycamore Park recently expanded from 53 to 158 acres, making it the largest park within the Clermont County Park District. Picnic shelters, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts and two playgrounds make this a popular park for summer picnics. Hiking trails and fishing access to the East Fork of the Little Miami River are available.

Kelley Nature Preserve

297 Center Street

Loveland, OH 45140

42 acres

This nature preserve features hiking trails and a canoe access to the Little Miami River, designated as a state and national scenic river.

Hartman Log Cabin

5272 Aber Road

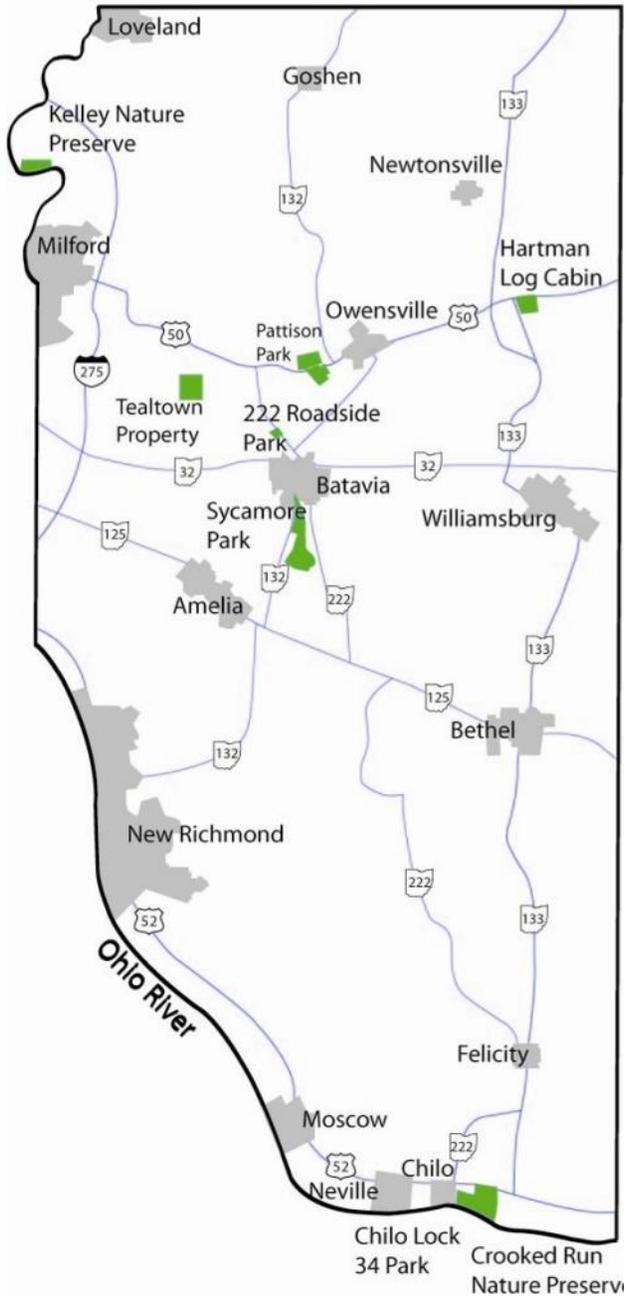
Williamsburg, OH 45176

5 Acres

A historic 1800's log cabin can be rented for small gatherings.



The Clermont County Park District operates five parks, three green spaces, and two nature preserves totaling 449 acres.



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.

Board of Park Commissioners

William Stearns, *Chairman*
Kenneth Stewart
David Anspach

Chris Clingman, *Director*

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.

Contact Information

Administrative Office
Pattison Park
2228 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103
513.732.2977
parkdistrict@co.clermont.oh.us

Naturalist Office
Chilo Lock 34 Park
PO Box 106
Chilo, OH 45112
513.876.9013

www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov