



# Autumn E-Newsletter September—November 2010

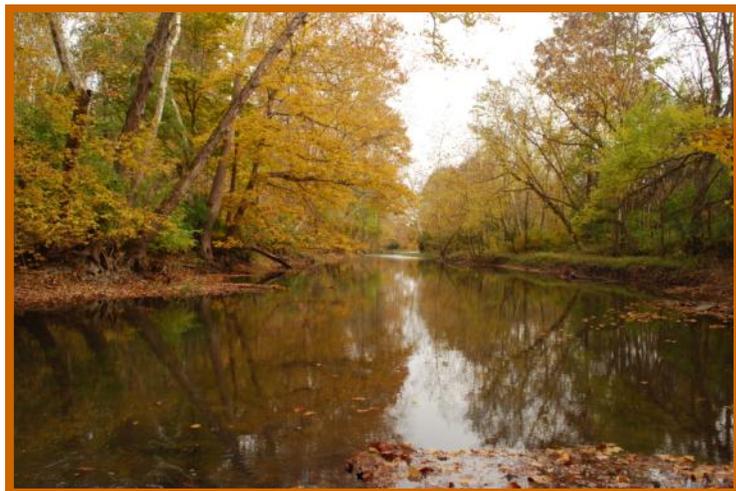
## Protecting Riparian Forests

**Keith Robinson, Naturalist**

Riparian forests are wooded areas found alongside streams and rivers. They play an important role benefiting both wildlife and humans. Healthy riparian forests can reduce flooding, reduce soil erosion, filter pollutants from the water, shade the stream, and increase oxygen levels in the water. Because of their high ecological importance, the Park District has recently placed an emphasis on protecting these sensitive habitats.

Allowing the vegetation alongside a stream or river to grow helps to improve the quality of the water.

The tall trees often found growing near rivers and streams (sycamore, willow, cottonwood, silver and red maple are just a few) provide a source of shade for the water below. The shade from these trees lowers the temperature of the water. When water temperatures get too high, dissolved oxygen levels reach critically low levels, which can be deadly for fish and other aquatic animals.



Another benefit of riparian zones is the ability to reduce flooding and soil erosion. It is a natural occurrence for most rivers and streams to experience seasonal flooding. These floods are often beneficial for the habitat by depositing layers of nutrient rich silt in the flood plain. However, during spring floods, areas with an abundance of vegetation will act as buffers, slowing down the movement of water and even storing excess water. Wooded stream banks will erode at a much slower rate than stream banks that have been stripped of native vegetation.

A number of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife can also benefit from healthy riparian forests. The large Sycamore trees that line the banks of most of the rivers and streams in Clermont County provide homes for a number of species of wildlife. As Sycamore trees get older, they will decay and hollow out on the inside, leaving natural cavities in their upper and lower branches. These cavities can provide shelter for raccoons, squirrels, bats, wood ducks, flying squirrels and even owls. At the bottom of these trees, the massive root system is often submerged beneath the water; these roots provide shelter and protection for small fish and other aquatic critters.

The Clermont County Park District has been successful in protecting several riparian forests with the parks and preserves throughout the county. Five of our parks (Kelley Nature Preserve, Crooked Run Nature Preserve, Sycamore Park, Wilson Nature Preserve, and the 222 Roadside Park all contain riparian forests along one of three different rivers (Ohio, Little Miami, East Fork).

*(Continued on page 2)*



### *Riparian Forests, continued*

One of the biggest acquisitions came in late 2008 when the Park District purchased the 105 acre James L. and Frances Wilson Nature Preserve, adjacent to Sycamore Park. This new nature preserve, the largest owned by the Park District, protects over two miles of shoreline habitat along the East Fork of the Little Miami River and includes a 25 acre island. This wooded nature preserve is home to wild turkey, white-tailed deer, red-tailed hawks, red fox, beaver, and wood ducks.

The Park District also recently completed the purchase of additional riparian forests along the East Fork of the Little Miami River. As part of a collaborative project between the Park District, Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality, Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District and the Clermont County Sewer District, the Park District recently secured 67 additional acres of riparian forest. These 67 acres were purchased through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP). These new properties known as river reserves protect over 6800 feet of stream both on the East Fork of the Little Miami River and its tributaries. It also brings the total acreage of the Park District to nearly 600 acres. To enjoy some of the many benefits these riparian forests offer join us for an East Fork Canoe Adventure (more details on page 5) or a Fall Colors Walk at Wilson Nature Preserve (details on page 6) this fall.

### **Park District News**

#### **Chris Clingman, Director**

Progress is being made at the new park on Tealtown Road. The Park District board decided on the name in conjunction with the land's donor. It will be known as Shor Park, donated in memory of S. David Shor by Sylvia Shor. When Mrs. Shor donated the land, she restricted development of parking lots, playground, restrooms, and other facilities to the corner of the property located at School House Road and Tealtown Road. The remainder of the property is to be kept as a natural area with hiking trails. The first phase of the trails should open in September. To get an up close look at the property, join our naturalist staff for a sneak peak around the property on October 3. A formal opening of the trails will also take place this fall. Additional facilities will be developed as funds become available.



*A new expanded boat dock at Chilo Lock 34 Park features 200 feet of courtesy dock..*

In addition to the new parking lot at Shor Park, the Park District was able use additional funds from the ODOT MetroParks Road Fund to repave the Pattison Lodge parking lot. We were also able to repave the Kelley Nature Preserve entrance road and repair the rather large pot hole that was in the road.

The new boat docks at Chilo Lock 34 Park were installed September 1. That gives the park an additional 100 feet of courtesy docks, bringing the total to 200 feet, plus boarding docks on the both sides of the two lane ramp. There are 60 car and trailer parking spaces available for boaters using the ramp. This was all funded through an ODNR, Division of Watercraft grant.

The Sons and Daughters of the Pioneer Rivermen continue to support the Park District with a grant to build a shelter over the steam engines from the steamboat *Wake Robin*. These engines were salvaged by B & B Riverboats when the *Wake Robin* sank a few years ago. At the time the boat was being used as a haunted boat near Louisville. The *Wake robin* was the last steam powered vessel used by the US Army Corps of Engineers.



# Shor Park



The Park District is proud to announce its newest park, Shor Park. Shor Park was donated by Mrs. Sylvia Shor in honor of S. David Shor.

The Park District is collaborating with the Union Township Trustees on funding for the park. Union Township has committed \$250,000 to assist in funding the development of the park. This funding allowed the Park District to construct a parking lot and turn lane on Tealtown Road to provide easier access to the park. The Clermont County Engineer oversaw the construction of the turn lane.

To view our newest park, join us for a naturalist guided hike on Sunday October 3rd at 1:00 pm.

Visit our [website](#) For details on the grand opening of the park as they become available.

## Shor Park Concept Plan

### Future Park Improvements

- Picnic Shelters
- ADA All Access playground
- Life trail with exercise stations
- Rain gardens to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Trailhead kiosk



Located on Tealtown Road in Union Township, the park is 53 acres in size. The Park District acquired the property in 2003 through a generous donation by Mrs. Sylvia Shor. Per Mrs. Shor's request, the majority of the park will be left in a natural state. Future development of the park will be concentrated in a six acre area of the park where the parking lot is located.

# Autumn Naturalist Programs September—November

## Monarch Tagging Saturday September 11 1:00 pm

### Chilo Lock 34 Park

Each fall, monarchs make an amazing journey to Mexico for the winter. Join the naturalist at Chilo Lock 34 Park to catch and tag these beautiful butterflies on their migration route. All ages are welcome; bring a butterfly net if you have one. Program will begin in the visitor center.



## October Stroll Saturday October 2 10 - 11:30 am Kelley Nature Preserve

Follow a naturalist through the preserve as you enjoy some early fall color and see what fall flowers are still blooming. Meet at the information kiosk.



## Sneak Peek Hike Sunday October 3 1:00 pm Shor Park

Be one of the first to get a look at the Park District's newest park, Shor Park. This 53 acre park in Union Township is still a work in progress, but will have hiking trails open to the public this fall. Some of the trails are not constructed yet, so long pants are recommended.



 Program has a fee

 Pre-registration is required

## History of Chilo Lock and Dam #34 Saturday October 9, 1:00 pm Sunday October 10, 1:00 pm Chilo Lock 34 Park

Celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Chilo Lock and Dam with a look back in time. We'll look at the history of the park from its beginning as a lock and dam. Discover how these unique wicket dams were built and why. We'll also take a brief walk around the park grounds to see what once stood on this historic 14 acre site.



1925

2010



## Fossil Hunt Saturday October 16 11:00

### Sycamore Park

Explore the streambeds of Sycamore Park to discover what Ohio looked like millions of years ago. We'll scour the streambeds as we search for and identify fossils.





An initiative of **GREEN UMBRELLA** Regional Nature Alliance

The Clermont County Park District is once again participating in the Great Outdoor Weekend. Sycamore Park in Batavia will be one of many locations throughout greater Cincinnati where you can enjoy free outdoor activities during the weekend of September 25th and 26th. For more information visit [www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org](http://www.cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org)

### **Sycamore Park Stream Splash Saturday September 25 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Sycamore Park**

Grab a net and join us as we splash around in the river searching for aquatic insects and other critters. We'll use the critters that we catch to determine how clean the water is. The Ohio EPA will also be doing fish shocking demonstrations to sample the diversity of the fish in the East Fork. Programs are ongoing, so drop in anytime.



*Photo: Adam Hoople*



### **East Fork River Canoe Adventure Saturday September 25 9:30-11:30am, 12:00—2:00 pm Sycamore Park**

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. We'll make a brief stop on the 25 acre island of the new Wilson Nature Preserve before ending at Sycamore Park. After the trip, grab a kick net and help us collect aquatic insects to determine the quality of the water in the river. Participants will be given a brief safety demonstration before entering the water.

**\*Pre-registration required. Call 513-732-7075 to register before September 17th. Participants must sign a waiver prior to the program.**

*(For safety reasons, please no children under the age of 4).*

*Programs are co-hosted by the [Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District](#) and [Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality](#).*



**Preschool Story Time**  
**Wednesday September 8th 1:30 pm**  
**(Monarch Butterflies)**

**Wednesday October 20th 1:30 pm**  
**(Autumn)**

**Sycamore Park**

Bring your preschooler for a special program in the park. Enjoy stories, crafts and hikes with the naturalist. Each month is a new topic.

*September's story time will be on the second Wednesday instead of the usual 3rd Wednesday.*



**Cast Iron Cooking**  
**Saturday October 23**  
**1:00 pm**



**Wilson Nature Preserve**

Cool fall weather means its time for campfire cooking. Using dutch ovens and skillets, help prepare a meal over coals. Spaces are limited, pre-registration is required and a fee is involved. Please call 513-876-9013 or email [lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us) for more information or to sign up. Adults only please.



**Fall Colors Hike**  
**Sunday October 24**  
**1:00 pm**

**Sycamore Park**

Hit the trails and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage. We'll hike approximately three miles in Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve. Meet at the bridge.



**Garden Work Day**  
**Saturday November 6**  
**10:00 am**

**Chilo Lock 34 Park**

Help clear the beds of the Victory Garden and prepare for winter's arrival.

**Habitat Help Day: Honeysuckle Removal**

**Saturday November 13**  
**9:00-12:00**

**Sycamore Park**

Help improve the forested habitat at Sycamore Park for native flora and fauna. Volunteers are needed to help clear invasive bush honeysuckle. Light refreshments will be served after. Email [lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us) or call 513-876-9013 for more information or to sign up.



**Turkey Talk**  
**Wednesday November 24**  
**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.



Thank you to the following individuals who donated their time to assist with the butterfly monitoring survey at Chilo Lock 34 Park and Crooked Run Nature Preserve this summer.

Erin Lowery  
Jim Thomas  
Jane Van Coney  
Charles Watson Jr.

Over 40 species of butterflies have been observed in the park and preserve this year.

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Thank you to Frank Schube and family and Dualite for a \$5000 donation to the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike/Bike Trail. This is an additional gift to the \$5000 that they donated earlier. We are greatly appreciative of the continued support of this project by Dualite.

### *We need your photos!*

The Park District is always in search of new photos of our parks and especially people using our parks. If you have any photos that you'd like to share with us from one of our parks, please e-mail it to Keith Robinson at [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us)



*Pattison Park*

Your photos may appear on our website, or may even be included in future editions of our electronic newsletter.

### ***Identification Challenge***

As part of our quarterly newsletter, we will have a new feature in each issue to test our readers knowledge of local flora and fauna.

*Do you know what is this?*



Answer on page 10

### **Park District wins 4 ribbons at Clermont County Fair!**



The Park District is proud to announce it won a blue ribbon for its maple syrup at the Clermont County Fair.

Other award winners at the fair came from the vegetable and herb gardens at Chilo Lock 34 Park.

Maple Syrup	1st place
Lavender	1st place
Bee Balm	1st place
Shell Beans	2nd place



The Park Districts home made maple syrup placed 1st in the 2010 Clermont County Fair.





## Fall Back Into Time

**“Ralph the Diver”** Winner of the inaugural Fall Back Into Time contest in 2009 is back for another year. Ralph is loosely based on Ralph Lindsey a former diver and lockman at Chilo Lock 34 Park from 1949-1964. In 2009 Ralph the Diver brought in over 1400 votes, which meant a \$1400 donation to the Clermont County Park District. To cast your vote visit the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum, or visit [www.fallbackintotime.com](http://www.fallbackintotime.com)

The 2010 Fall Back Into Time is organized by the [Friends of the Jennie Wade](http://www.fallbackintotime.com). For more information on this years event visit [www.fallbackintotime.com](http://www.fallbackintotime.com)

Two local antique car clubs will be visiting Chilo Lock 34 Park around 2:00 pm on Sunday October 10th. Visit the park to see a large collection of Model A and Model T cars.



### Prints Available

A hand painted mural of the riverfront in Ripley, Ohio circa 1850 will soon be on display as part of a new exhibit at the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum. Prints of this mural are now available for purchase. For a donation of \$25.00 to the Friends of the Jennie Wade, you can have a 10”x20” print hand signed by the artist. Prints are available in the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum.



## Attention Teachers!

We are now taking reservations for naturalist programs for the 2010-2011 school year. Reservations fill up quickly, so make your reservation early. Programs are offered on most Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

To schedule a field trip for your classroom contact Keith Robinson at 513.876.9013 or [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us)

### Naturalist Program Fees

In-park field trip \$2.00 per student

In- classroom visit

\$35.00 for first program

\$20.00 for each additional program



### Naturalist Program Offerings

#### *Program Topic*

Fossils and Geology

Ohio River Yesterday and Today

Habitats and Animal Adaptations

Seasons

From Sap to Syrup (Offered only in February)

Wild and Wet Weather

Stream Study

#### *Location*

Sycamore Park

Chilo Lock #34 Park

Pattison, Sycamore, Chilo Lock #34 Park

Pattison, Sycamore, Chilo Lock #34 Park

Pattison Park

Pattison, Chilo Lock 34 Park

Sycamore Park

[Click here for our school program brochure](#)



## Clermont County Park District Celebrates 40th Anniversary with New Video.

The Park District has been working with the Clermont County Office of Public Information to film a new promotional video celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Clermont County Park District.

The video can be seen at the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum. A limited number of copies are also available at the visitor center, or at the Park District's administrative office at Pattison Park.



## Exploring our Parks 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Geocache Hunt

The Clermont County Park District will be joining in the fun of Geocaching and celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with placing 6 caches in 6 different parks. Pack up the family and enter the coordinates below and start your journey visiting and exploring your Clermont County Parks.

Each of the first five caches you find will have a piece of the sixth caches' coordinates, after visiting all five you'll have all the coordinates you'll need to find that bonus park.

You may start at any of the coordinates given below but to find the bonus cache you must visit all five.

N 38 47.402                      N 39 12.640  
W 084 07.852                      W 084 07.852

N 39 08.153                      N 39 07.147  
W 084 03.052                      W 084 08.884

N 39 05.369

W 084 11.189

To find out more about Geocaching go to  
[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

### I.D. Challenge answer (from page 7)

*New England Aster*



A common wildflower, New England Aster grows from mid summer through mid autumn, and is most associated as one of our most recognizable fall wildflowers. Taking advantage of cooler temperatures when most other flowers have died back, New England Asters can be found along the trails at Kelley Nature Preserve, Chilo Lock 34 Park, and the Wilson Nature Preserve.



## CHILO *Living and Working with the Ohio River*

*Visit the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum*

*521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112*

**Autumn Hours**

*September (after Labor Day)*

Wednesday—Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

*October—November*

Thursday—Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

Closed Thanksgiving Day



### **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.



### 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.



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

### Attention Shutterbugs!

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.com. 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/clermontcountyparks/>  
or you can e-mail your park photos to [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us)



### Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin Now Taking Reservations for 2011.



#### 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 \$100

Friday through Sunday \$150

*\*Includes the use of the picnic shelter*

*Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)*

Monday through Sunday

\$100

## 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](http://www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov)

## Board of Park Commissioners

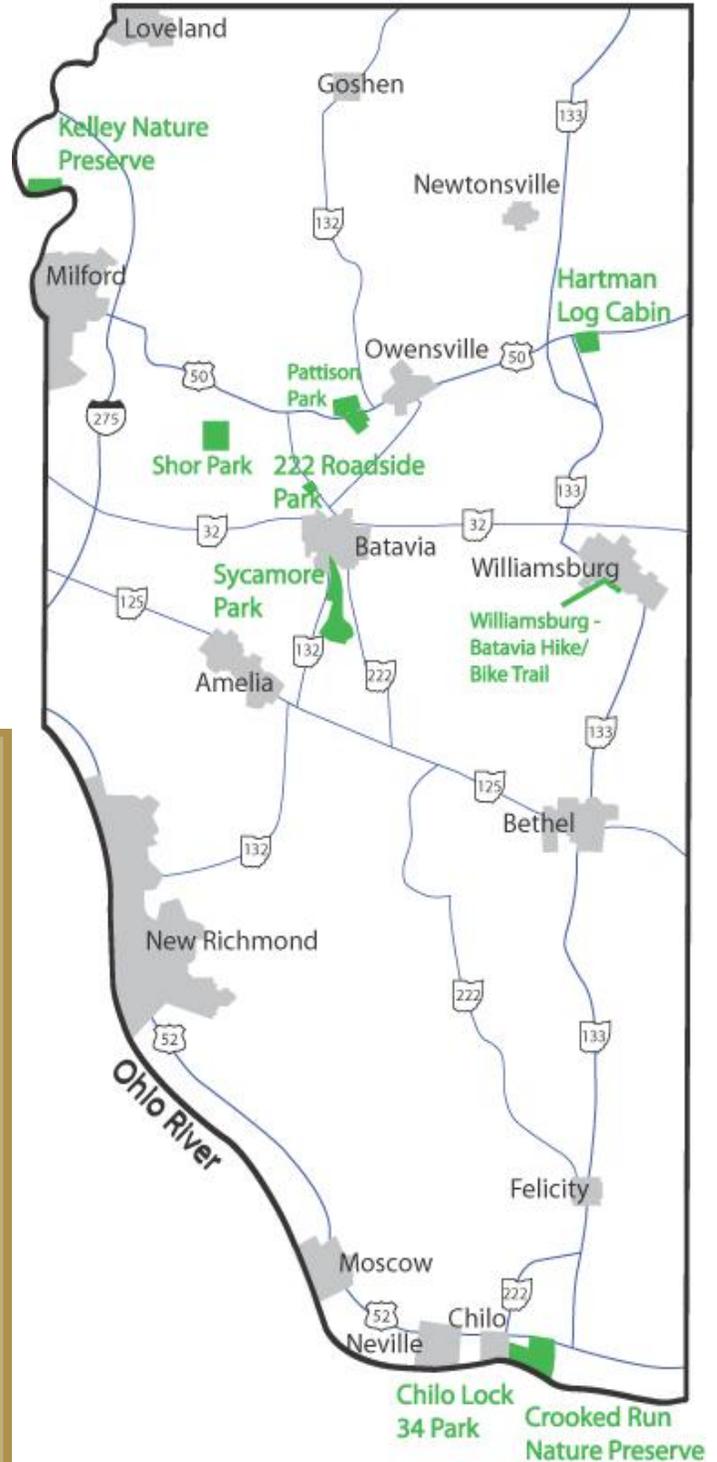
David Anspach                      Kenneth Stewart  
William Stearns, *Chairman*

Chris Clingman, *Director*

The Clermont County Park District operates six parks, five green spaces, and three nature preserves totaling 519 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



### Chilo Lock 34 Park (39 acres)

US Highway 52 Chilo, OH 45112 513.876.9013

### Crooked Run Nature Preserve (77 acres)

US Highway 52 Chilo, OH 45112

### Hartman Log Cabin (5 acres)

5272 Aber Road Williamsburg, OH 45176

### Kelley Nature Preserve (42 acres)

297 Center St. Loveland, OH 45140

### Pattison Park (45 acres)

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103 732.2977

### 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 to Batavia Hike Bike Trail (2.5 miles)

End of Broadway Road Williamsburg, OH 45176