



Winter Newsletter

December 2013 - February 2014



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Tree News

Chris Clingman, Director

The Park District has been busy removing ash trees from Pattison Park. Ash trees infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are being removed from the gazebo area at the Pattison Lodge as well as by the picnic shelter near the fishing lake. Once infested with these exotic insects, the trees die within a few years. The cut trees will be replaced with either sugar maples or swamp white oaks. The ash borers are moving from west to east across the county and have become major problems at the Cincinnati Nature Center, East Fork State Park, Stonelick State Park, Shor Park, Sycamore Park and Wilson Nature Preserve in addition to Pattison Park.



Efforts continue in Tate Township to control the spread of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB), which will infest 13 different genera (types) of trees, with maples being its favorite target. As of November 16, over 30,000 trees have been removed in an effort to stop the spread of the beetle.

One of the ways both the ALB and the EAB spread is through the movement of infested firewood. To help prevent the spread of these destructive pests, don't move firewood from one location to another. Buying

firewood where you intend to burn it is the best alternative to moving it. Let's not give these pests a free ride to another area to infest. For more information on the ALB go to www.beetlebusters.info for more information on EAB go to www.emeraldashborer.info



You can help the Park District replace lost trees through our tree memorial program. Trees can be planted in honor or in memory of a special person, or a special event such as a wedding, anniversary, birth of a child, or special birthday (40 is not old if you're a tree!). At the base of the tree a small plaque will be placed recognizing the person or the event. Park District staff will work with you to select a native tree and a location in a park. Cost for the tree memorials are \$400 each and includes a one to two inch caliper tree (or larger if available), plaque, and planting. Plantings are generally done in the spring or the fall. Call Chris Clingman at 513-732-2977 for more information.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Park District is once again accepting Christmas Trees for recycling. Live trees can be dropped off at Pattison Park lakeside from December 26 to January 13. Trees will be chipped and mulched. All decorations must be removed from the trees.



For other drop off locations in Clermont County, contact the Office of Environmental Quality at 732-7894 or www.oeq.net



Winter Naturalist Programs

 Program has a fee

 Pre registration required



Luminary Walk Friday December 13 6:00—9:00 pm Pattison Park Lodge

Celebrate the holiday season with an evening stroll along our luminary trail. Then warm up inside the lodge with live Christmas music and crafts inside the lodge, and get your picture taken with Santa Claus! We'll have hot chocolate and refreshments for sale in the lodge as well.



Winter Bird Count Saturday January 4th 8:30 am—12:30 pm Chilo Lock 34 Park Crooked Run Nature Preserve Kelley Nature Preserve Pattison Park Shor Park Sycamore Park Wilson Nature Preserve

Volunteers are needed for the annual census of our feathered friends. Grab your binoculars and enjoy a day of bird watching. No experience is necessary. Pre-registration is required. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up.



Bill Thompson/USFWS

www.clermontparks.org

Winter Survival Skills
Tuesday January 14
6:30—8:00 pm
Owensville Branch Library
2548 US Highway 50
Owensville, OH 45160

Join a park naturalist to learn a few very important winter survival skills. From what to wear, to what to do in an emergency, and how to build a survival shelter, we'll cover all the basics.



Winter Survival 101
Saturday January 25
1:00 pm
Pattison Park

How do you prepare for a winter hike? Are you ready for unexpected

overnight stays? Come discover a few basic survival skills, and practice making shelters, followed by a short hike.



Owl Prowl
Friday January 17
6:30 pm
Sycamore Park

Join us for a walk in the dark. Discover what makes owls such unique and efficient nocturnal hunters.



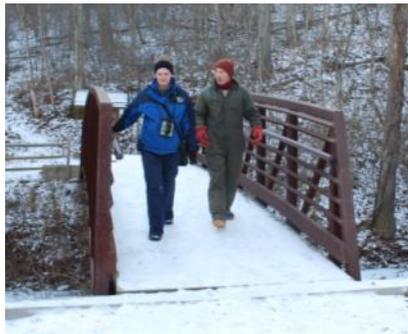
Susan Rachlin/USFWS

We'll enjoy a fun evening hike on the trails and try to call in one of these nocturnal predators for a closer look. Meet at the information kiosk.

Winter Hike
Saturday January 18
1:00 pm

Sycamore Park

Beat the winter blues by joining us on a moderately strenuous three mile hike through Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve.



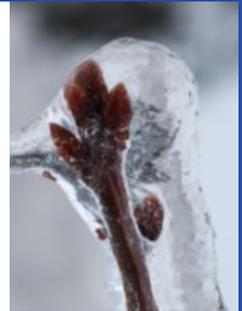
Winter offers wonderful panoramic views of the East Fork River Valley. Warm up with hot chocolate afterwards. Meet at the bridge.

Winter Tree I.D. for Homeschoolers
Thursday January 30th
11:00 am
Pattison Park



Recognizing trees by their leaves can be easy, but how well do you know your winter buds and bark? Sign your homeschooler up and we'll show you that identifying trees during the winter is not as challenging as it may seem. Pre registration required.

Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up. Deadline to register is Monday January 27th. Program is geared for ages 10 and up. Fee is \$4.00 per child.



Winter Tracks Hike
Saturday February 1st
1:00 pm
Pattison Park Lodge

Winter is a great time to get out and explore nature.

We'll take a hike and look for tracks and other clues left behind by some of our winter wildlife.





Winter Hiking Basics
Thursday January 9th
7:00 pm
Pattison Park Lodge

Photo: Daniel Leifheit

Everything you need to know and some of what you don't, come learn about cold weather challenges. Clothing, equipment, and winter preparation are some of the topics that will be covered in this hour long presentation by Roads, Rivers, and Trails outfitters.



Life on the Appalachian Trail
Pattison Park Lodge
Thursday February 6th
7:00 pm
Presented by;
Roads, Rivers and Trails

Join us on a trip through Appalachia. Hikers from the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail share their stories and pictures. Experience the magic of life on the trail and the trials faced on the journey across fourteen states. Roads, Rivers, and Trails outfitters will present a slideshow followed by an open Q and A.



Photo: David W. Brooks

Maple Syrup Open House
Saturday February 15th
Pattison Park
1:00 pm

Follow along as we take you through our sugarbush. You'll see every step of the process as we turn our maple sap into syrup. We'll even have a few samples of the sugary goodness to taste. Meet at the Sugar Shack (in the Pattison Lodge parking lot).



Maple Syrup for Homeschoolers
Monday February 24
10:00 am
Pattison Park Lodge



Join our naturalists for a morning in the sugarbush. You and your child will discover everything there is to know about making maple syrup. We'll tap trees, collect sap, and see how we turn the clear liquid into the sweet golden brown syrup. Fee is \$4.00 per child. Deadline to register is Thursday February 21. E-mail krobinson@clermontcountyohio.gov to sign up.



www.clermontparks.org

Thank you to the following for their recent donations to the Park District:

Ken and Janet Stewart in memory of Kelly Fitzgerald.

Family of Victor E. Johnson for a tree memorial to be planted at Pattison Park, in his memory.



Are you following us?

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.



Pattison Lodge & Gazebo Rate Changes

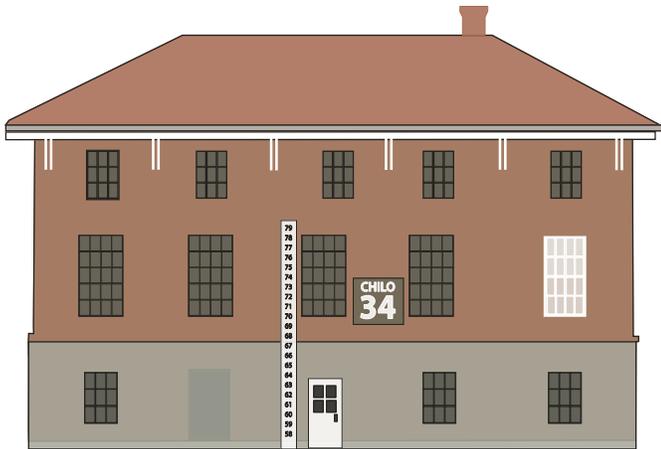
At the November Board meeting of the Clermont County Park District, board members decided to raise the rental rates for the Pattison Park Lodge and Gazebo. It is a popular site for weddings and receptions, family dinners, and meetings, hosting over 130 events a year. Beginning with reservations made after January 1, 2014 the rate schedule will be as follows:

Saturdays \$650
Fridays and Sundays \$550
Monday thru Thursday \$200

The rate change does not affect events that are already scheduled. Rental time is from 10:00 AM until 1:00 AM. The lodge has seating for 214 people with a combination of rectangular and round tables. The kitchen area has a microwave, restaurant style coffee maker, refrigerator, tubs to ice down drinks, and counter space. Renters choose their own caterers for their event. For more information on the lodge and gazebo call the Park District main office at 513-732-2977.



Visitor Center Closed for the Winter



The Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum will be closed for the winter months. We will re-open in mid-March. Groups of 15 or more may schedule an appointment to visit the museum. Please call 513.876.9013 to make arrangements.

Save the Date Pancakes in the Park Saturday March 8, 2014 Pattison Park Lodge



Special Thank You

The Park District would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for donating their time to help make the Chilo Lock 34 Fall Festival a success:

*Steve Featherston
Felicity-Franklin High School FFA
Gorman Heritage Farm Harness Club
The Home Depot (Beechmont Avenue)
Kid's Workshop*

Without their assistance, we would not have been able to have such a successful and free event.



Thank you to the *Midwest Astronomers* for donating their time, knowledge, and use of their telescopes for an evening of stargazing at Chilo Lock 34 Park on Friday November 8th. We had a great turnout, and those that came were rewarded with wonderful views.



New Section of Williamsburg to Batavia Trail Opens

On October 26 the Park District, along with its trail partners, celebrated the completion of the campground section of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail. This new section of trail connects the East Fork State Park Campground to the existing trail and provides a route into the Village of Williamsburg. The new segment brings the total miles of trails completed to 4 out the trail's total length of approximately 15 miles. The segment also provides a connection to all the roads on the north side of East Fork State Park providing cyclists with a great variety of areas to ride with light vehicular traffic.



Parking for the new segment will be at the East Fork State Park Campground gatehouse. Follow the campground road from the gatehouse for approximately three quarters of a mile until you reach the new trail segment on the left. The new portion of the trail is approximately 0.6 miles long and meets the existing trail at the Old Cain Run Road Lake Overlook. From there you follow the existing trail to the ODNR Division of Wildlife wetland overlook, the Cain Run pedestrian bridge, the Broadway-East Fork Overlook and into the Village of Williamsburg.



This section of trail was constructed by the John R Jurgensen Company. Project management was provided by ODOT. Project engineering was by Eggeman Engineering. Major grant funding for the project came from OKI Regional Council of

Governments through a federal transportation enhancement grant.

To learn more about trails in Clermont County and the Greater Cincinnati Region, plan on attending Green Umbrella's public input meeting for a Regional Trail Plan. The meeting will be held at Clermont County Park District's Pattison lodge on Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.



New Bird Blind Constructed

The Clermont County Park District would like to thank Frankie Verdin, for constructing a new bird blind in the wetland at Chilo Lock 34 Park. Frankie constructed the bird blind as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Verdin belongs to troop #196 in Bethel. Thanks Frankie!



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 November 30

904,768 Trees surveyed
10,643 ALB infested trees confirmed.
10,354 ALB infested trees removed
20,805 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.



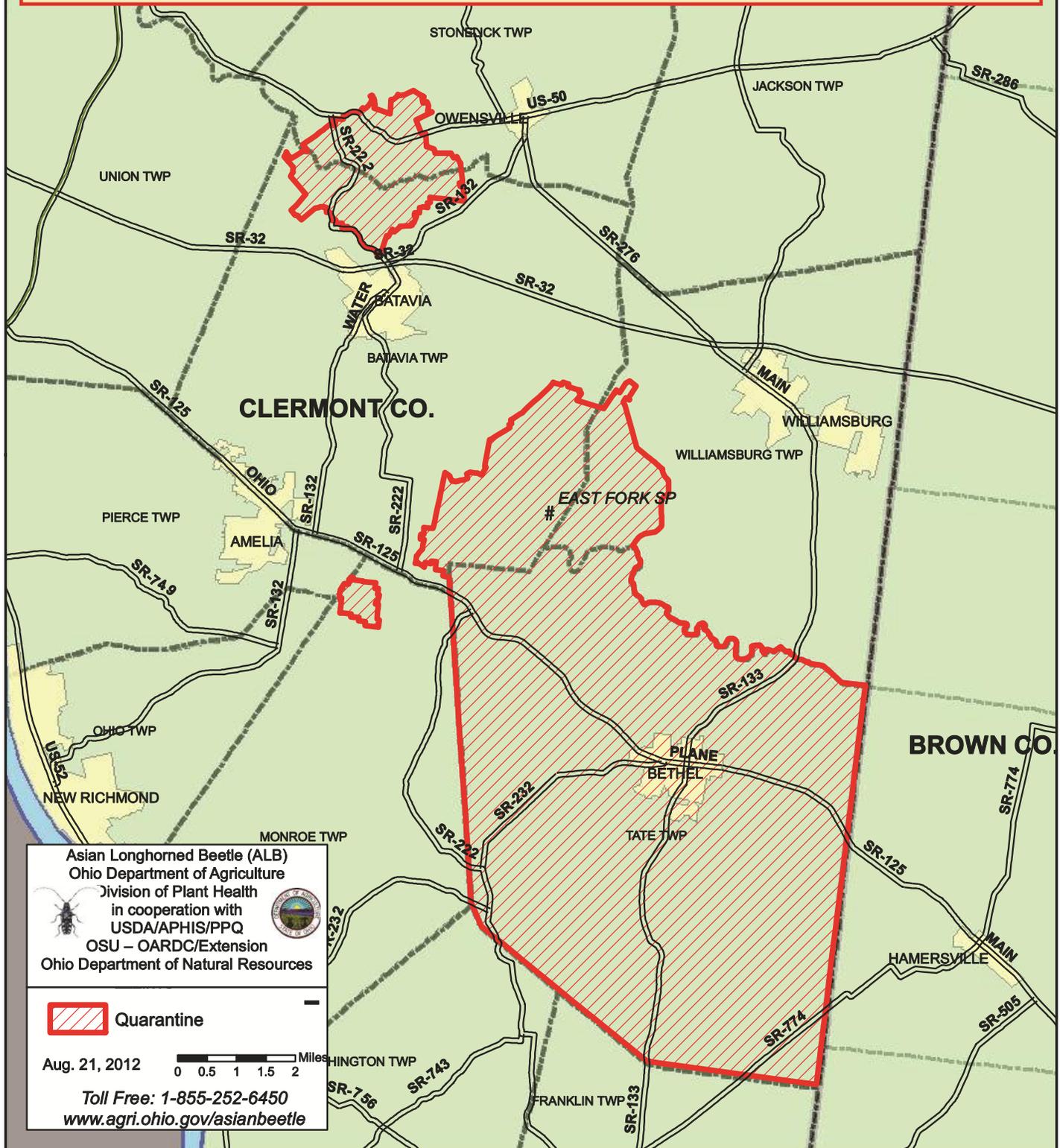
Close up of the perfectly round, dime sized exit hole.



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

Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin



Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

New rates effective January 1, 2014

Monday through Thursday \$200
 Friday and Sunday \$550
 Saturday \$650



Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)

Monday through Thursday \$125

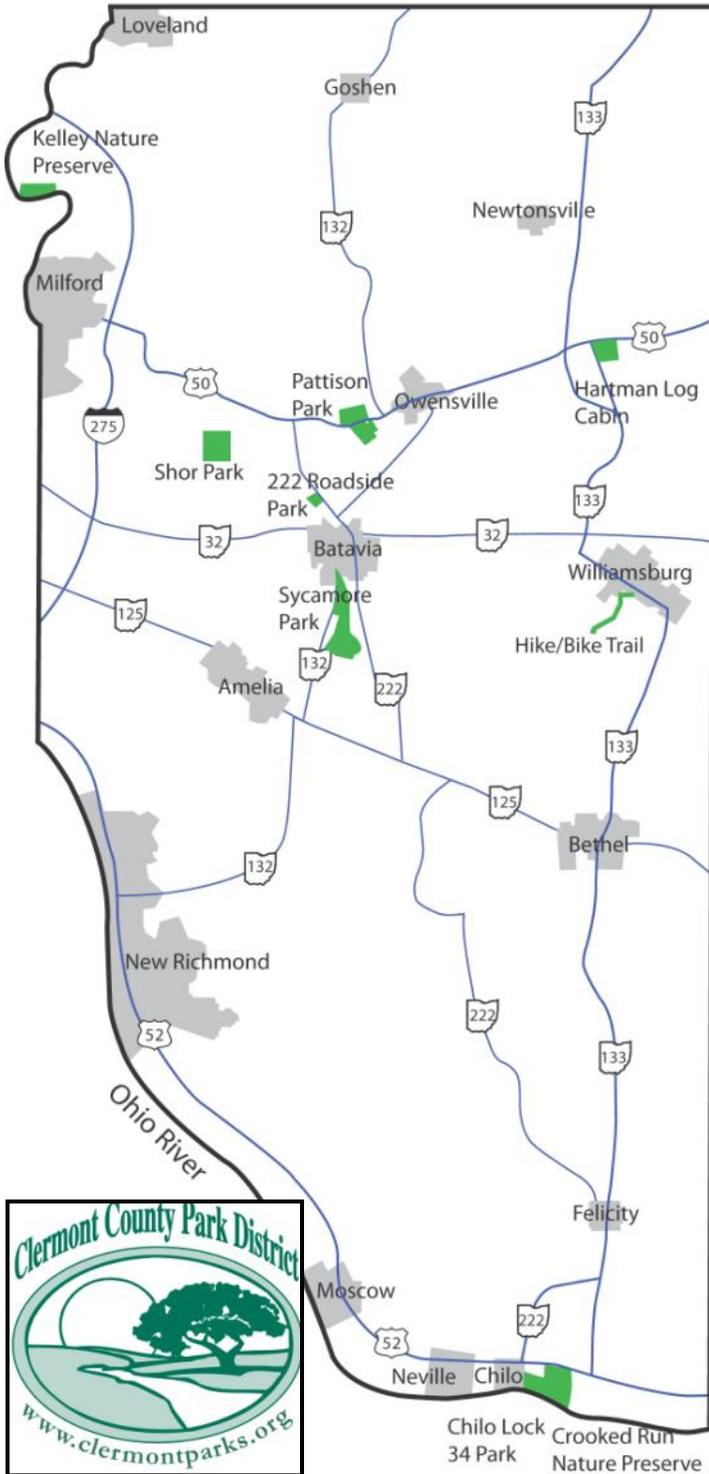
Friday through Sunday \$175

**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 145 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