

PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

1st Quarter



PARK NEWS:

By: Jean Webb

2021 is looking like an exciting year for the Pickaway County Park District! We have lots of exciting news to share with you in our new Quarterly Newsletter.

First, are two new canoe and kayak access sites planned for Big Darby Creek, Pickaway County's only State and National Scenic River. These proposed new public river access sites are on S.R. 762 and on Scioto-Darby Rd. You can learn more on our website [HERE](#). The District is hosting a public meeting to discuss the S.R. 762 access, you can visit our website [HERE](#) to register and join this virtual public meeting to learn more and share your input on the project.

Second, is the proposed Scioto River pedestrian bridge. This bridge will link the city of Circleville with the Pickaway Trail and all of the trails at Canal Park. The State of Ohio Capital Improvement Grant awarded the District \$500,000 to start this exciting project. The District will use these funds to go after further grant funding for this multi-year project. Learn more and take a survey about this project [HERE](#). Public Meeting information to come so be sure to keep updated through our social media.

Next is our brand new Jr, Conservationist Program! This program is a fun, do-it yourself nature camp jointly hosted by the Park District, Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District and RPHF Solid Waste District. Register and complete the required number of activities from each topic category, Plants, Animals, Water, Soil, Community, Exploration, and earn a free hat or pin! Learn more [HERE](#).

In addition, show off your photography skills by entering the District's new Photo Contest! Deadline to submit is April 4th, 2021, so get outside and start capturing the moment. Categories are of **wildlife**, **beautiful scenery**, and **people enjoying parks** and **Pickaway County Park District Parks/Trails**. Details on the Contests and how to enter can be found [Here](#).

Curious what else the District is up to? Visit our website for more updates [Here](#). You can also find what we did in 2020 by seeing our 2020 Year End Review [Here](#).

EVENTS IN THE PARK:

(CLICK EVENT TO LEARN
MORE)

Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 23rd

When: 12:00 pm

Where: On Zoom

Public Meeting

St.Rt.762 Scioto Darby

Paddling access
meeting.

February 2nd

When: 7:00-8:00pm

Where: On Zoom

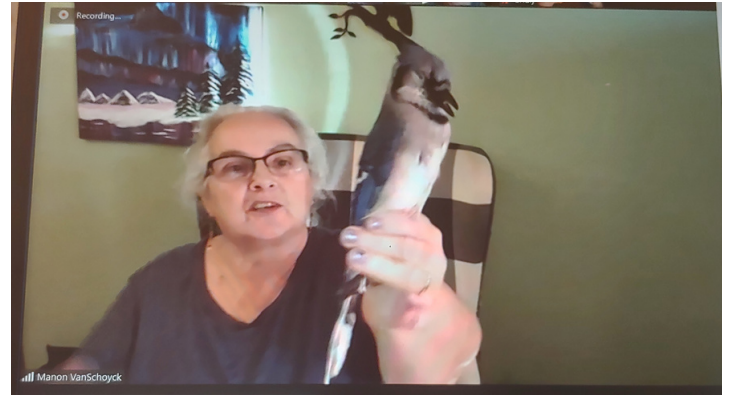


VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

The District hosted our second Volunteer Appreciation Day on January 21st, through a Zoom call due to Covid-19. At this event volunteers new and old as well as all those who were interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer joined a group Zoom chat to catch up on what is new with the Park District. We were thrilled to have back Manon VanSchoyck from Ohio Nature Education to give us an amazing program on Birds in Folklore and in Native American Life. After Manon gave her program, Arista Hartzler, Park District Deputy Director, thanked over 35 volunteers for giving more than 120 hours of their time to care for parks and trails with their talents such as leading education programs, picking up trash, caring for the Canal Park pollinator patch and main park sign, removing invasive species, clearing trail and so much more. The District is so thankful to work with such an amazing group of individuals with an inspiring passion for caring for our community and our natural world. Thank you Park District Volunteers!

Interested in learning more about what it means to be a Pickaway County Park District Volunteer? Visit our website [Here](#) to learn more and get involved with the exciting mission of creating excellent outdoor recreation opportunities for all Pickaway Countians.



Above: Manon sharing about Blue Jays in Native American Culture during our Volunteer Zoom.

Below: Manon Education showing us one of the Owls her group cares for.



Below is a photo from last years volunteer recognition. Left to right, Andi Humphries, Beth Kowalski, Susan Metzger, Jim Wonder, Donna Walters, Esta O'Neil.



OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

- **Summer Program Assistants and Leaders Needed**
Interested? Email Arista Hartzler : ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov
- **Richards Trail Canal Park**
Mulching Wed 10:00 April 14th. The 21st is the second work day if needed.
- **Metzger Preserve Fence**
Remove rocks, trash, stumps
May 12th 10:00, 19th rain date.
- **Pollinator Patch Canal Park**
Removal of invasive. Wed , June 16th, 10:00

NATURE FACTS:

by Arista Hartzler

There are both Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and Ospreys (*Pandion Haliaeetus*) in the Pickaway Parks! Both the Eagle and Osprey prefer lakes, rivers and marshes as habitat making Canal Park and Metzger Preserve favorite places to visit for these beautiful raptors.

The Osprey is a hovering fish hunter that will plunge feet-first into the water, grasping the fish in its talons. You can find several Osprey nests as you travel down the Towpath Trail. These raptors have nested around the quarry along the trail for years and are a trail favorite. Many park visitors enjoy nesting season when the Osprey can easily be seen taking care of their young and even teaching them to fly!

Eagles are often seen along the Scioto River and on the Richards Trail. Canal Park has been fortunate to have a nesting pair of Eagles along the Richards River Trail for several years, and this year it appears that we may have a second nest being built along the same stretch of river! Eagles have made a huge comeback from the 1960's when habitat loss and the wide use of pesticides, like DDT, decimated their populations. In 1979 there were only 4 recorded nests in Ohio. In 2020, over 700 nests were recorded! Ever noticed that a section of the Richards River Trail closes from April to mid-July? This is apart of the federal protect project for the Eagles to insure that we continue to see population numbers climb.



Above: Osprey seen along the Towpath Trail

Below: Juvenile Bald Eagle seen flying around Canal Park



IMPORTANT DATES:

Photo Contest

Deadline to Submit April 4th

When: Midnight

Where: Online

Jr. Conservationist Program

Start Date May 1st

When: Anytime

Where: Information Online

Below Left: Bald Eagle Seen on Richard River Trails
Below Right: Bald Eagle Nest along Scioto River at Canal Park



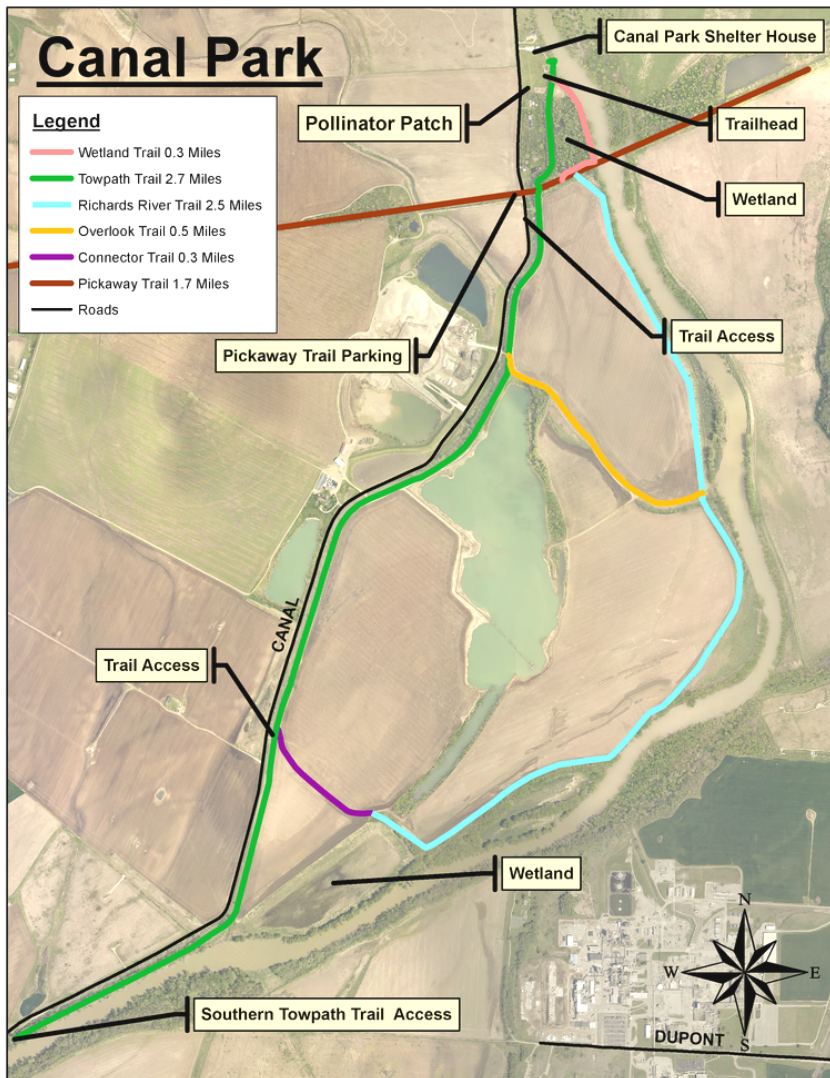


FEATURED PARK: CANAL PARK

by Arista Hartzler

Canal Park is approximately 16 acres, located along the Scioto River. This park features historic canal features, a walking path and scenic views of the Scioto River. Located only two miles south-west of Circleville on Canal road, Canal Park has a large open shelter house that can be reserved for events. The park also has a fire pit, a large flat greenspace, historic canal features, access to the Scioto River for fishing and canoe/kayaking, as well as approximately 7.5 miles of trail. It is a great destination for picnicking, hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, as well as those wanting to see a historic piece of the Ohio-Erie Canal, all of which is pet friendly.

Canal Park features the remains of the 1800's Ohio-Erie Canal that was one of the esteemed modes of transportation of its time. At the entrance to the park is the old Ohio-Erie Canal bed. Past the shelter house and down at the bottom of the hill, is the old feeder canal that was filled using the state feeder dam located at the trailhead to the Towpath Trail. Remnants of the dam can also be seen in the Scioto River. Take time to read our interpretive signs at your next visit to learn more!



QUICK FACTS:

Canal Park

Owner: Pickaway County Park District

Location: 23352 Canal Road

Circleville Ohio, 43113

Over 7 miles of natural multiuse trails, connected to 1.5 mile of paved Pickaway Trail