

# PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

2nd Quarter



## PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

The District is gearing up for another busy year, planning volunteer events, education events, and hikes as well as working on a large arrangement of exciting projects! You can see our full listing of volunteer events [here](#) and our full park program listing [here](#).

First on our project list for 2022 is improvements at Canal Park. Starting in April, we will be expanding the main parking lot. Canal Park sees almost 20,000 visitors a year and this means that its current parking lot is often full and is too small for many of the larger events at the park. This is especially true considering the next exciting improvement coming to the park, the new playground. Contractors are nearly done building the boardwalk portion of this feature, which will serve both as a portion of the Towpath Trail and the backdrop for the playground. This feature will lead to the entrance of a tree house fort, be the start of slides and other climbing features as well as hold the platforms to begin a ride down the two ziplines. The boardwalk is expected to be completed at the beginning of May. Once this is completed the District will begin building the other playground features. It is expected that the majority of the playground will be finished by the end of summer.

Curious to learn about more of the Park District's Projects? Visit our website [Here](#). Curious to know more about the events you see listed on the right? Visit our website [Here](#).

## EVENTS IN THE PARK: UPCOMING PARK EVENTS

### Jr. conservationist Program

April 1st - October  
This is a virtual program

### Group Walk

April 6th 9:30am @ Metzger  
Preserve (Pickaway County)

### Celebrate Trails Day: Bird Walk

April 23rd at 9:30 am @ Canal  
Park

### Bird ID Walk

30th at 9:30 am @ Canal Park  
South Parking Lot

### Group Walk

May 4th 9:30am @ Metahqua  
Nature Preserve on the Pawpaw  
Trail (Ross County)



## VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

The District gathered to celebrate our wonderful volunteers with a volunteer appreciation day back in February! This day was for all current volunteers and future volunteers. We started out our appreciation day with an excellent presentation by Sarah Scholts from ODNR on the History of Wildlife. Following the presentation we honored our volunteers who had service hours form 2021. There were updates and training given by members of the District staff.

New this year is our 2022 volunteer event calendar which you can find on our website here. This calendar maps out dates all year long . Starting in April and May there are event planned to help the Columbus Audubon with Calamus Swamp projects, as well events to repainting picnic tables, planting our park signs, and remove invasive species from around our various parks. Everyone is welcomed to join!

Keep an eye out for future invasive removal events and other activities going on at the park by signing up to be a volunteer on our website. Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) for our calendar of events.

Below: Volunteers and PCPD Staff at February's Appreciation and training day.



Above: ODNR's Sarah Scholts Presenting History of Wildlife for PCPD Volunteers

## OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

- **Experience Earth Camp Counselors and Presenters Needed for July 19th - 22nd**

Interested? Email Arista Hartzler :  
ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov

- **Volunteers needed to Help with Pickaway County Fair Booth June 20th - 24th**

Interested? Email Arista Hartzler :  
ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov

- **Looking to Give Back?**

Volunteer with the District! Email Arista Hartzler at  
ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov for more information





## NATURE FACTS:

by Arista Hartzler

Although most salamanders do not become land dwellers until they have reached a terrestrial juvenile stage, just the opposite is true with newts. About three or four months after hatching, the tiny larva loses its gills, acquires lungs, and begins life on land in the Red Eft immature state. Unlike the adult newt, the eft's bright red-orange skin is somewhat dry and rough. Its tail is rounded, much like a lizard's, rather than wedge-shaped. During the next two to three years, it will forage on the forest floor, often wandering about during the day, especially during or just after a rain. Although it is conspicuous during this Red Eft stage, other animals seldom bother it because its skin glands produce irritating secretions. During the third year of its life, a remarkable transition occurs. The skin becomes slimy and changes from orange to olive green. The tail becomes broad and wedge-shaped, and the body looks more like that of a salamander than a lizard. At this point, the salamander returns to water to breed and remains there for the rest of its life as a mature Red-spotted Newt. Newts occur sporadically throughout our state in permanent or semi-permanent bodies of water bordered by relatively undisturbed woodlands.



Above: Mature Red Spotted Newt from ONDR's Website

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 15th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

### April Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 26th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

### May Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 22nd

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

Below: Immature Red Spotted Newt





## FEATURED PARK: MARY VIRGINIA CRITES PARK

by Arista Hartzler

Park visitors visiting Mary Virginia Crites Hannan (MVCH) can enjoy the county's only "Boundless Playground". This playground has several accessible play features for children of all abilities. Take the opportunity to walk or bike the park's 1.2 mile paved trail and enjoy a hike through the woods on the hiking trail. If you are looking for something for your pet to do off leash, take them over to the park's dog area which features two separate sections for large and small dogs. Or maybe you are looking to cool off at the park's splash pad, which is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. You can also find a butterfly garden, a bird watching station, several shelter houses, outdoor exercise equipment and fire pit at various locations around the park.

Learn more [here](#).



### QUICK FACTS:

Owner: City of Circelville  
 Location: 1230 Pontius Rd,  
 Circleville, OH 43113  
 Contact: (740) 474-9502

