

# PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

3rd Quarter



## PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

Have you been looking for a new Canoe/kayaking location in Pickaway County? Well, look no further than the Park District's newest project, an access into Big Darby Creek at Scioto Darby Road! This access is nearly complete and is expected to be opened to the public by the end of the month. The site allows parking for approximately 10 cars. This access provides an easy entrance into the creek for fisherman and paddlers with only a short walk from the parking lot to the bank. The District received funding for this project from ODNR's Division of Parks and Watercraft Paddling Enhancement Grant Program and we are eager to develop more access to this creek as well as our other waterways in the future. Visit our website for updates on when the access is open to the public and for more paddling information.

The District is also excited to share that we received a grant from Clean Ohio Trails Fund for \$303,402 to put a bridge over the Ohio- Erie Canal at the conjunction of Canal Park and the Pickaway Trail on Canal Road. This connection is vital to the Pickaway Trail as we strive to make a continuous stretch of trail from Circleville to New Holland. The District is expecting to begin construction next year. To keep updated by visiting our website.

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

#### Friday In The Park

Aug. 13th 10am @ MVCH

#### Canal History

Aug. 21st 10am @ Canal Park

#### Fabulous 50 Walk

Sept. 1st 9am @ A.W. Marion

#### Astronomy

Sept. 11th 7:30pm @ Canal Park

#### Hiking 101

Sept. 25th 11am @ Canal Park

#### Canal Heritage Event

Oct. 2nd 12am @ Canal Park





## VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

As the flurry of summer activity draws to a close and school begins again, the District is reflecting on all of the fun we had this year during our summer program series! We hiked, made new friends, learned about dragonflies and dandelions, fox and birds and so much more! All this thanks to our wonderful volunteers, who made it possible. We had visitors from the Library, Ohio History Connection and from the Voinovich School in Athens, Ohio!

This past week we wrapped up on our annual partnership event, with Soil and Water and Solid Waste, Experience Earth Camp. We hosted 30 campers, incoming 3rd - 5th graders, at Canal Park for 3 days. Volunteers led outdoor education activities and crafts such as, string art, nature hikes, fossils and fishing. Now that our older camp is done we are prepping for our first ever Jr. Experience Earth Camp, which is at the end of this week for incoming first and second graders. We are so thankful for our talented volunteers who make these camps a reality.

Volunteers have also been hard at work removing invasives around our parks! Volunteers have been exterminating bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and many others at Canal Park, Metzger Preserve and the City's Mary Virginia Crites Hannan. 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.

Below: Volunteers at EE Camp presenting programs and at a Metzger Preserve clean up day.

## OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

- **Summer Program Assistants and Leaders Needed for 2022**

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

Below: Volunteers presenting programs at EE Camp and at summer programs as well as at invasive species removal events.





## NATURE FACTS:

by Madeline Parker

Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are not native to Ohio. Coyotes were introduced into Ohio in 1919, today they can be found in all 88 of Ohio's counties. Love or hate them, the coyote has an unique ability to survive and even thrive in bad situations. We usually associate the coyote with the open, deserted lands of the west but, as its presence in Ohio shows, this versatile animal can make a home most anywhere. The coyote can stand about one-half to two feet tall and is between 41 to 53 inches in length as well, its weight can vary from 20 to 50 pounds. Coyotes have a wide range of options when it comes to their diet. If left unchecked they have been know to eat livestock, such as chickens and sheep.

The name Coyote comes from the an Aztec root, *cóyotl*, or "trickster". When Spanish settlers began coming to North America the name followed, so when Anglo Americans showed up they encounter the Spanish settlers that called the animal Coyotes.

Though there are many issues and concerns with coyotes there are also positives to them. For example, when they are not over populated, they serve as regulators in an ecosystem. They help maintain a balance for the entire habitat and the other creatures that live there.



Above: Coyote from ODNR Website

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### August Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 24th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

### September Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 28th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

### October Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 26th

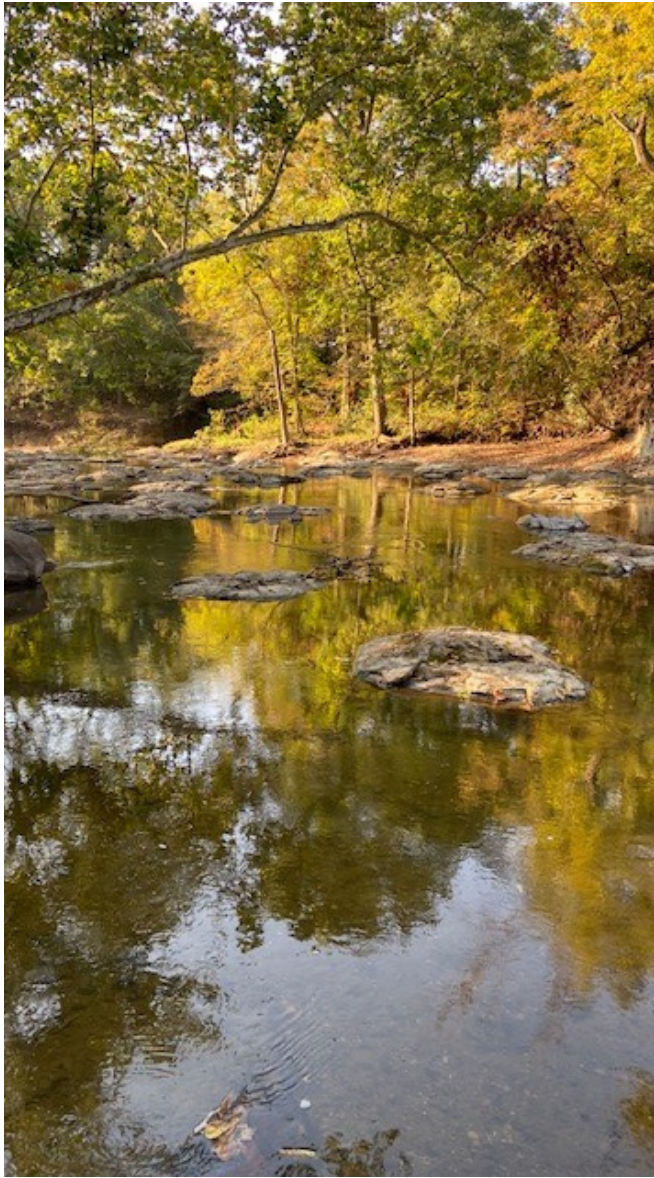
When: 12:00 pm

Where: Ankrom Building

Below: Coyote from ODNR Website







## FEATURED PARK: METZGER PRESERVE

by Arista Hartzler

This month's featured park is Metzger Preserve. This park is the Park District's newest park. Metzger Preserve has 52 acres of native prairie and woods adjacent to Deercreek. Part of what makes this park so distinct is that it is home to unique geological features, seen on the bottom right side of this page. These geological features are called concretions. Concretions are made of organic matter, carbonate rock and Ohio shale. Often you will hear these features referred to as Indian rocks.

All of the trails at Metzger Preserve are pet friendly and you will find that the site offers many locations for bird watching and fishing. The District also just recently completed a pollinator planting along the new trails cut through the prairie. We hope in the years to come that this site will become a haven for birds and insects alike. For paddlers, this site also offers easy access to the creek. Next door to this park you will find Ballard Park, owned by the Village of Williamsport, that offers picnic/shelter areas as well as a playground. So if you are looking for something new, visit Metzger Preserve in Williamsport!

### QUICK FACTS:

Owner: Pickaway County Park District

Location: 9 Ballard Ave, Williamsport, OH 43164

Contact: 7404205451



## Hiking Trails Metzger Preserve

