

# PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

3rd Quarter 2022



## PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

Tremendous changes are underway at Canal Park! Last month the District finished our parking lot expansion project, converting the previously 15 car, gravel lot into a 36 car, paved lot that is now also handicap accessible. Along with this paving, the District completed an accessible apron around the shelter house and repairs to one of the corners of the shelter. The upgrade gives a new and welcoming face to the District's premier park. Shortly, after this project was completed, the District also opened phase one of the District's playground project, the boardwalk. This boardwalk will act both as a new engaging trailhead to the Towpath Trail, as well as a part of the launching area for the rest of the playground. Visitors to the boardwalk enjoy both an easy flat walking path and beautiful views of the river and the rest of the park.

As you may be aware, the District is funded through a 10-year property tax levy, passed by the voters of Pickaway County in 2018. The District is nearly halfway through these 10-years of funding and are reflecting on how we have served the community to date and are looking forward to what we want to accomplish in the future. The District received a grant through the Pickaway County Community Foundation to fund a strategic plan that will guide us through planning the next 3 - 5 years. The District has been hard at work setting up a committee and starting this planning process. We are eager to hear from the public about what you want your county park system to look like in the coming years! Keep your eye out for coming surveys and always feel free to give us your feedback by calling or emailing the office!

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

July 6th 9:30am @ Canal Park  
(Pickaway County)

### Big Darby Darby Creek

July 9th at 10:00am @ McClean  
Road

### Mothing

July 18th 9:00pm @ Canal Park

### Summer Reading - Octopuses!

July 26th 11:30am @ Canal Park

### Fungus Among Us

July 30th 10:00am @ Canal Park

### Group Walk

July 30th 9:30am @ Canal Park





## VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

We are into the busy season at the parks and our volunteers are hard at work, leading programs, assisting with events, clearing out invasive species, picking up trash and so much more! On their own and during twelve scheduled events, Park District Volunteers have contributed over 160 volunteer hours to bettering parks and recreation in the county to date. This is amazing! Way to go everyone!

We are also thrilled to share that to date over 1100 visitors have attended a park program or event! Our most attended programs to date have been the joint Library Programs out at the park, the group walks, and our spring geology program. If you missed these programs earlier this year, don't feel bad because you will have several more opportunities to attend events similar to these and many more fantastic new events in the coming months! We want to thank everyone who came to visit our booth at the County Fair a few weeks ago to learn about our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, as well as play in Soil and Water's virtual reality sandbox! Though it was hot we had a wonderful time sharing about parks and recreation!

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.



Above: Geology Program lead by ODNR  
Geological Survey

Below: Library Presentation at Canal Park



## OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

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

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 on WPA Dam after a trash removal day.





## NATURE FACTS:

by Arista Hartzler

Lichen is one of the most widely distributed entities in the world with approximately 3,600 species that we know of in North America. Lichen is complex and are actually two separate organisms that have joined together in a symbiotic partnership. The dominate partner is fungus, which is where the lichen gets most of its features and the other is alga. Either green alga, blue-green alga or sometimes both. These algae are also referred to as cyanobacteria. Fungi are a diverse group in their own kingdoms, that do not contain chlorophyll and so they rely on other organism for nutrients. The lichen partnership provides these nutrients for the fungi. The algae photosynthesize and provides the food. The algae are from their own kingdom, Protista, which is separate from the plant and fungi kingdoms. They are a part of the bacteria kingdom. Lichens are often confused with moss which are in fact plants and completely unrelated to the lichen. Although mosses are primitive, unlike lichen they have plant-like structures, have chloroplast, and have roots and stems. Though there are many benefits of lichens, one direct benefit to our planet is their ability to absorb toxins and pollutants from our atmosphere. Scientists can extract these toxins to determine levels of heavy metal, carbon, sulfur in our air. This provides helpful insights into the health of our planet.



Above: Photo of Bushy Beard Lichen from ODNR Lichen ID Booklet

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### July Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 26th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

### August Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 23rd

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

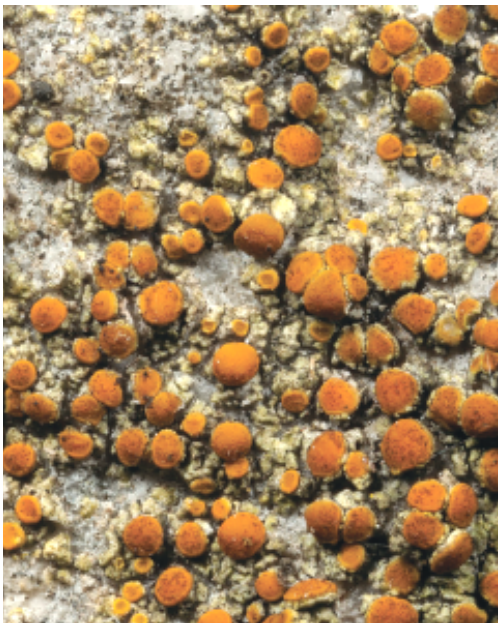
### September Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 27th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

Below (left to Right): A close up look at Sidewalk Firedot lichen, Lea's Shadow Lichen, and British Soldiers Lichen from ODNR Lichen ID Booklet





## FEATURED PARK: MARTHA HITLER PARK

by Arista Hartzler

Washington Township's Martha Hitler Park is a peaceful and serene location to enjoy nature. This park is a short 3 miles from downtown Circleville on Bolender Pontius Road and has a fully paved parking lot. This 22 acre park is believed to be the site of a prehistoric Native American Village and has expansive views of a large, well maintained, grassy area surrounded by woods. This park also features a 9-hole disc golf course with mostly open with rolling hills, great for a quick game. When you finish your game, you can enjoy a meal at the parks large, covered picnic shelter and have access to the parks newly installed restrooms. Learn more [here](#).



### QUICK FACTS:

Owner: Washington Township Trustees

Location: 23266 Bolender Pontious Rd,  
Circleville, OH 43113

Contact: (740) 474-2606

