

PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

4th Quarter 2022



PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

The weather is changing and the District's park program season is drawing to a close. We hope that you were able to take advantage of the over 30 education programs hosted by the District! The staff and volunteers are proud to have been able to offer excellent programming for children and adults alike. As we prepare for 2023 we want to hear from you! Whether you attended a park program this year or if you couldn't make it to a single one we want your feedback. We want to know more about your experience and what you want to see next year! You can find the survey on our website or by clicking [Here](#).

The District is also eager to share our newest park venture. Back in the Spring of 2022 Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) purchased the 326 acre Cooks Creek Golf Course. AOA is selling 25 acres of this property, including the club house, to the Park District. Along with this purchase the District is also working on an agreement with AOA to manage the entire 326 acres as a public park! Though, the park is not yet open to visitors, future plans for this park include utilizing the cart path for trails, moving the District offices to the current club house and converting the remaining club house space into a nature center. This location is such a fantastic addition to the county and will provide beautiful views of the river/ wetlands, and excellent birding opportunities with easy access from US 23. The District expects to finalize this purchase at the early December, move our offices to this location in early 2023, and open the trails for visitors in the 2024.

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

EVENTS IN THE PARK:

UPCOMING PARK EVENTS

**Park and Trail Grant
Applications Due**
December 15th 4:00pm

2023 Park Program Schedule

Stay Tuned! the 2023 program listing will be release early in 2023

2023 Volunteer Schedule

Stay Tuned! the 2023 Volunteer events listing will be release early in 2023



VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

Activities at the park have slowed down as the holiday season and colder weather has set in. We have been reflecting on the 2022 season and want to hear from our volunteers! If you have joined us for any volunteering opportunities (whether that be an education program or a park project) in the 2022 season or even if you have just wanted to join but were not free, please take a moment and fill out a short feedback survey. We will use this survey to help plan our 2023 season and so your responses are very important to us! For survey visit our website or click [Here](#).

Back at the end of July the District partnered with Pickaway SWCD and RPHF Solid Waste to host our single largest volunteer event of the year, Experience Earth Camp. This 3 day 3rd- 5th grader camp and 1 day 1st and 2nd grader camp provided a unique and exciting opportunity to 54 kids. This camp would not be possible without our many volunteers! The District along with SWCD and Solid Waste want to express our unending gratitude to everyone who made this camp happen.

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: Louise Adkins leading a bee program at Camp.



Above: Melanie Self leading a blue bird box project at EE Camp. Below: Lorrie Huysman Helping a camper ID insects at a program at Camp



OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

- **Looking to Give Back?**

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



NATURE FACTS:

by Arista Hartzler

We all enjoy the beauty of the change of season when the trees give us a magnificent color show. But, do we all know why the leaves on some trees change colors and some trees stay green all year long? The main difference is that between deciduous and evergreen, or coniferous, trees. Evergreen trees are those with needles, which stay green all year round and continue to photosynthesize through the winter. Deciduous trees are those trees with flat leaves that change color in the fall. These trees are sensitive to the temperature change and the cold damages their leaves. Most of the year, these leaves are green because of the chlorophyll they use to absorb energy from sunlight during photosynthesis. The leaves convert the sun's energy into sugars to feed the tree. As the season changes, temperatures drop and days get shorter. Trees get less direct sunlight, and the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down. The lack of chlorophyll reveals yellow and orange pigments that were already in the leaves but masked during the warmer months by the green in the chlorophyll. Darker red leaves are the result of a chemical change: Sugars that get trapped in the leaves produce new pigments (called anthocyanins) that weren't part of the leaf in the growing season. Some trees, like oaks and dogwoods, are the most likely to produce red leaves because of this. The best colors are produced when the weather is dry, sunny and cool. Places that are cloudy, damp or warm won't see the same degree of changing color. As the weather turns trees start building a protective seal between leaves and their branches. They take in as many nutrients as possible from the leaves and then, when the leaves are cut off from the fluid in the branches, they separate and drop to the ground.



Above: Fall Color

IMPORTANT DATES:

November Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 29th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

December Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 20th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

January Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 24th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

Below (left to Right): Different fall color leaf examples



FEATURED PARK: JACKSON TOWNSHIP PARK

by Arista Hartzler

Jackson Township is home to a beautiful 9 acre park. This quaint park is home to a playground, open greenspace and a short gravel trail. Two shelter houses are available for picnics. This park features a paved parking lot and community center building on site. Since the creation of the Pickaway County Park District's Park and Trail Improvement Grant, Jackson Township Park has been awarded 6 grants and over \$20,000 for various projects. This includes funds for a new playground, pictured below, a new trail, pictured on the left, mulch and new swings. You can learn more about the District's Park and Trail Improvement Grant on our website [here](#). This grant program is open to Cities, villages, and townships within Pickaway County. You can contact the Jackson Township Trustees for more information about Jackson Township Park and for reservation details.



QUICK FACTS:

Owner: Jackson Township Trustees
Location: 20010 Fox Road
Circleville, OH 43113
Contact: (740) 412-4456

