

PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

Volume 3 Issue 2 - 2023



PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

Spring has sprung! The arrival of spring has brought with it an array of new activity. Spring birdwatchers, wildflower hunters, walkers, and picnickers are back in the parks enjoying the ever warming weather and so are we! With the change of the weather has come an increase of activity for the District with projects underway and education programs returning to full swing.

You may have noticed that there is a lot of activity out at Canal Park. The first is that contractors have broken ground on our Ohio-Erie Canal bridge project. This bridge will connect the existing 1.5 miles of paved Pickaway Trail with Canal Park and its 5+ miles of trail. This project is also phase one of our effort to extend the Pickaway Trail over the Scioto River and into Circleville. The trail will remain closed at the junction of the Towpath Trail and the Pickaway Trail until the bridge is installed. The estimated date for this is July. The second is the continued work happening on the natural playground. Contractors have finished the supports/platforms for the ziplines and are currently installing the embankment slides. Next, they will begin work on installing climbing nets and the other climbing equipment. We are expecting to have a ribbon cutting for the new playground around the end of May.

With the closing of our purchase of Cooks Creek completed, the District has been working hard to clean up the club house to make way for our move to the site. We are waiting for internet to be installed and then expect to move our offices to the site this summer. We will then be diligently working to prepare the preserve so that we can open the trails to the public.

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

Group Walk Alongs

April 5th at 5pm @ Ashville
Community Park

Fairy Tale Night Hike

April 15th 8:00pm @ Canal
Park

Exploring Butterfly Gardens

April 22nd 10am @ Metzger
Preserve

Spring Bird Walk

April 29th 9am @ Canal
Park

Group Walk Alongs

May 3rd 9:30 am @ Canal
Park (south end parking lot)

Rain Barrel Workshop

May 3rd 5:30pm @ Canal
Park

Native Americans - History of Pickaway County

May 20th 1:00pm @ Logan
Elm State Memorial



VOLUNTEERS AND EVENTS:

by Arista Hartzler

The average American family uses about 300 gallons of water a day with about 30% of that water being used outdoors. That is approximately 32,400 gallons of water we use per year outdoors. Fortunately, Ohio receives about 37 inches of rain a year. Using a rain barrel and collecting this rainfall is not only environmental friendly, it can also save you money on your water bill and can remove chemicals, such as fluorine and chlorine, from your soil, improving the health of the microbials in your soil. This year the District is partnering with Pickaway Soil and Water to host a Rain Barrel Workshop to help you create a rain barrel system of your own. You can learn more [here](#), we hope to see you there!

Park District Volunteers have been hard at work already logging nearly 100 hours at our parks so far this year and we have 24 more events planned and 31 more education programs, like the rain barrel workshop, to go. Keep an eye out for future volunteer opportunities going on at the park by signing up to be a volunteer on our website. Click [here](#) for our calendar of events to find upcoming park programs.

Looking for other ways to get involved? The District is looking for help with our annual Experience Earth Camps which is to be hosted at Cooks Creek Nature Preserve July 18th - 21st, as well as help manning our booth at the County Fair June 19th - 23rd. Contact Arista Hartzler at ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov for more information.

Below: Volunteers removing invasive bush honeysuckle on the south end of the Towpath Trail



Above: Volunteers and Participants of our March Group Walk

OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

RSVP to jwebb@pickawaycountyohio.gov

• April Events (By RSVP Only)

- 11th 9:00 am -11:00 pm @ Calamus Swamp
- 19th 1:00-3:00 pm @ Canal Park Shelter House Cleaning
- 30th 1:00 - 3:00 pm @ TBD

• May Events (By RSVP Only)

- 9th 1:00-2:00 pm @ Metzger Preserve Sign Planting and Trash Pickup
- 10th 5:00 - 7:00 pm @ Cooks Creek for Landscaping
- 25th 5:00 - 7:00 pm @ Cooks Creek for Landscaping
- 28th 9:00 - 11:00 am @ Canal Park For Pollinator Patch Care
- 31st 10:00 - 12:00 pm @ TBD

• June Events (By RSVP Only)

- 11th 10:00 - 1:00 pm @ MVCH for Invasive Removal
- 29th 9:00 - 11:00 am @ Cooks Creek for TBD
- 25th 1:00 - 3:00 pm @TBD



NATURE FACTS:

by Marilyn Clifton

One harbinger of spring is the high-pitched sounds of spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*). These tree frogs can sound like hundreds of small jingle bells and can be heard up to two miles away. Peepers are one of the loudest animals, registering at 90 decibels, about the same as a lawn mower!

Only males create sound, calling to females. The faster and louder a male sings, the greater his chances of attracting a mate. Males sing near water, with the deepest-voiced frog starting the call. The peeping sound can be repeated about twenty times a minute. Breeding begins in March or early April, with males calling on warm, spring nights and rainy, cloudy days.

To make the sound, peepers close their nostrils and mouths while squeezing their lungs. This causes the vocal sac to inflate like a balloon. The peeping sound happens as air leaves the lungs, passing over the vocal cords into the vocal sac. Many frogs "puff up" their throats like this, but the "bubble" or vocal sac beneath the spring peeper's mouth is more easily seen because these amphibians are so numerous.

Hearing these chorus frogs is easier than seeing them because they are small, only about an inch long and weighing 3 to 5 grams. Their smooth skin in shades of tan, brown, green, or gray looks like tree bark. Lines on their backs form a dark X-shaped pattern. They are excellent climbers but spend their days on the ground, hidden under leaf litter.

Spring peepers are common and widespread, living in moist, wooded areas, fields, and grassy lowlands near ponds and wetlands. Loss of these habitats is causing populations to decrease in some areas. These tiny frogs with the big sound play an important role in controlling insect populations.



Above: Up-close view of a Spring Peeper

IMPORTANT DATES:

April Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 25th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

May Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 23rd

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

June Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 27th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

Below: Up-close view of spring peepers



FEATURED PARK: ASHVILLE COMMUNITY PARK

By. Arista Hartzler

This 10 acre park is located in the heart of the village's community, directly adjacent to Ashville Elementary School. This park is a hub for many community events throughout the year such as the annual Viking Festival, Fun in the Sun and 4th of July Festival. At this family friendly park you can enjoy a picnic at the reservable shelter house, take a walk on the paved quarter mile loop, enjoy a baseball game or even play at the playground.

Ashville has received over \$35,000 from the District through our Park and Trail Improvement Grant Program. Ashville has used these funds to improve their park's walking track, shelter house, purchase picnic tables/ benches and replace their baseball backstop. Since 2015 we have awarded over \$415,000 to support 61 local park and trail projects here in Pickaway County.

Learn more [here](#).



QUICK FACTS:

Owned by Village of Ashville
 Contact: (740) 983-7132
 Location: 165 Walnut St,
 Ashville, OH 43103

