

PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

Volume 3 Issue 3 - 2023



PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of our brand new playground at Canal Park! Developed in collaboration with Toni Tootles' 4th-grade class from Washington Elementary School, this one-of-a-kind playground promises endless fun for kids and families. The playground features an array of engaging activities, including climbing equipment, a large climbing net, two thrilling ziplines, and three embankment slides. Designed to cater to the interests and preferences of our youth, the play equipment offers unique and exciting experiences for children of all ages. This project was a result of problem-based learning, where the 4th-grade class delved into the history of the Ohio-Erie Canal system and conducted surveys within the school to gather input. Thanks, in part, to the generous support from the Dunlap Foundation, the dreams of the students have turned into a reality. Children can now explore, climb, slide, and soar through the air, fostering their physical, social, and cognitive development.

The playground provides opportunities for families to bond and create lasting memories together. So, come on down to Canal Park and let the fun begin! We invite you to bring your family and enjoy this exceptional play space. We are grateful to the students, Park District Staff, Pine Valley Construction, and the Dunlap Foundation for their collaboration and dedication in making this playground a reality. Don't miss out on the excitement and joy that awaits at the Canal Park playground. Join us today and discover the wonders of play and community!

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

August 2nd 5pm @
Roundtown trail (YMCA)

Getting to Know Landfills

August 15th at 1pm @ Canal
Park

Stories of Ohio-Erie Canal

August 19th 1pm @ Canal
Park

Group Walk Along

September 6th 9:30am @
Marvin Webster Park

Ancient Wooden Architecture

September 9th 1:00pm @
Logan Elm Park

Hellbenders'

September 16th 11:00am @
Metzger Preserve

Fall Bird Hike

September 23rd 9:00am @
Cooks Creek

VOLUNTEERS AND EVENTS:

by Arista Hartzler

The Park District, in collaboration with Pickaway Soil and Water and RPHF Recycling, hosted another year of Experience Earth Camp and Jr. Experience Earth Camp at the end of July. These two extraordinary children's camps are designed to ignite curiosity and foster a love for nature, wildlife, and the environment. EE Camp welcomed 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to embark on a captivating journey of exploration. Led by experienced experts, campers engaged in hands-on activities, workshops, and immersive educational sessions. Through interactive games and educational adventures, they forged a lasting connections to the natural world and developed a sense of responsibility towards its preservation. Jr. EE Camp is specially tailored for 1st and 2nd graders, providing a fun and age-appropriate introduction to the wonders of nature. Young campers enjoyed exciting activities, including nature walks, arts and crafts, and interactive games that nurture their curiosity and appreciation for the environment. Knowledgeable instructors guided them in discovering various animals, plants, and the importance of recycling. It was an amazing opportunity for them to cultivate a lifelong passion for nature and environmental stewardship. Both camps offered an immersive experience, encouraging hands-on learning and personal connections with nature. We hope that all our campers created cherished memories that will follow them into adulthood and are so thankful for all of the volunteers and adults that made this camp a reality!

Looking for ways to get involved in park activities? Visit our website or contact Arista Hartzler at ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov for more information.



Above: Campers and Volunteers from EE Camp

OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

RSVP to jwebb@pickawaycountyohio.gov

• August Events (By RSVP Only)

- Tuesday 8th 9:00 am -12:00 pm @ Cooks Creek Nature Preserve TBD
- Sunday 20th 9:00 am -12:00 pm @ TBD Rain Date

• September Events (By RSVP Only)

- Wednesday 13th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Woods Invasive removal (Meet at Starkey Pavilion)
- Tuesday 19th 10:00 am -12:00 pm @ Canal Park for Wetland Trail invasives removal (Meet at shelter house)
- Thursday 28th 4:00-7:00 pm @ Cooks Creek Nature Preserve for TBD

Below: Volunteers and Campers at EE and Jr. EE Camp participating in programs on archery, birds of prey, touch-a-truck, bees and a presentation by Cool Critter's Outreach.



NATURE FACTS:

by Marilyn Clifton

While thousands of species of ladybugs (Coccinellidae) are found around the world, the most familiar in North America is the seven-spotted ladybug (*Coccinella septempunctata*) with two bright red wing cases adorned with seven black spots arranged in a symmetrical pattern of three black spots on each side and one in the middle. Their heads are also black with white patches on either side of the eyes. They have six short legs, and their bodies measure less than a half inch long.

Ladybugs belong to the beetle order so, technically, are not bugs. These "lady beetles" may not look aerodynamic but are excellent fliers. Their colorful domed backs are modified wings that are basically hardened armor. When the ladybug takes off, it lifts these protective covers. Underneath is another pair of hidden wings, perfect for flight when unfolded.

The colorful markings serve as a warning to predators: "Don't eat me. I taste terrible." The brighter the ladybug, the stronger its toxins. When threatened, they secrete an oily, foul-tasting fluid from their leg joints. They can also play dead to their predators, including birds, frogs, wasps, spiders, and dragonflies.

These omnivores provide natural pest control by feeding on insect eggs, small worms, aphids, scale bugs, mealy bugs, and other plant-eating pests. One ladybug can eat up to 5000 insects in its lifetime.

These quintessential insects of summer are most active on sunny days from spring until fall. Remember the Old Farmers' Almanac adage, "When ladybugs swarm, expect a day that's warm." When the weather turns cold, they look for warm places, such as rotting logs and leaves, under rocks, or inside houses. Hibernating colonies can contain thousands of these universally beloved insects that many cultures regard as symbols of good luck.



Above: Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

IMPORTANT DATES:

July Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 25th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

August Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 22nd

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

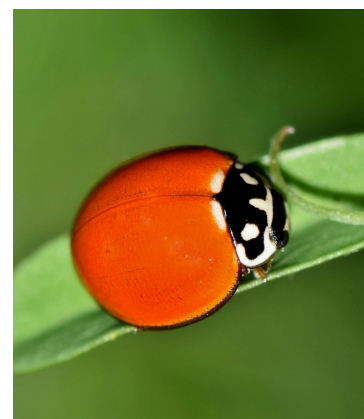
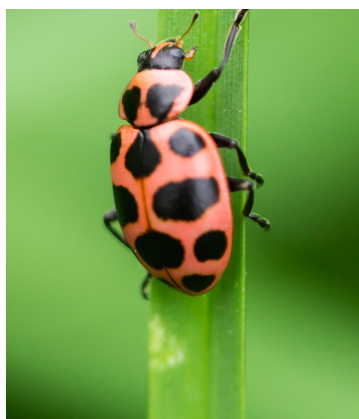
September Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 26th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

Below: Native Lady-Beetles to Ohio from left to right. Convergent Lady Beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*), Spotted (or Pink) Lady Beetle (*Coleomegilla maculata*), Parenthesis Lady Beetle (*Hippodamia parenthesis*), Polished Lady Beetle (*Cycloneda munda*)



FEATURED PARK: BALLARD AVENUE PARK - WILLIAMSPORT

By: Arista Hartzler

Ballard Avenue Park is one of our county's beloved community parks. Though this park is only 10 acres it is a valuable part of the community as the hub for sporting events in the Village. The park features three ballfields, a playground and a shelter house. The park is also adjacent to The Park District's Metzger Preserve. Between these two public places is access to over 2,800 linear feet of Deer Creek. This gives visitors access to fishing, kayaking/canoeing as well as scenic views.

The Village of Williamsport and their Non-Profit group, Wil-Deer Recreation, has received over \$45,000 worth of community grants from the Park District's Park and Trail Improvement Grant Fund since its creation in 2015. This includes the community's most recent grant award that involves the Village creating a Master Plan for Ballard Park. The District is eager to see this master plan developed as it will help the village plan for future development of the park property.

Learn more [here](#).



QUICK FACTS:

Owned by Village of Williamsport
 Contact: (740) 986-9901
 Location: 9 Ballard Ave,
 Williamsport, OH 43164

