



# Winter E– Newsletter

## December 2010—February 2011

[www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov)

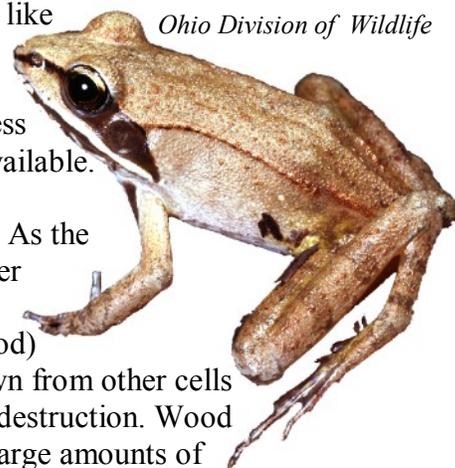
### Wood Frogs

#### Laura Hoople, Naturalist

As their name suggests, Wood frogs spend most of their time in the woods. Easily distinguished from other Ohio frogs by the black “robber mask” stretching across their face, they will return to water each spring for the breeding season. Females lay eggs in communal nests with each individual adding several hundred to over 1000 eggs to the mass. Algae growth covers the eggs, offering camouflage, insulation and, after hatching, a food source. Within a couple of weeks the eggs hatch and between June and July, tiny froglets begin emerging from the temporary pools where they transformed from tadpoles.

Though small tadpoles are herbivores feeding mainly on algae, adult Wood frogs are carnivorous with invertebrates making up the majority of the diet. Prey items include beetles, flies, earthworms, spiders, caterpillars, slugs, and snails.

Summers are spent in the forest, hunting and avoiding predation by animals like raccoons and fox. The unique life cycle of Wood frogs becomes quite evident in winter, a time of year they spend frozen, without breathing and with no heartbeat. This amazing feat follows a complicated biological process beginning in the fall, aiding in survival at a time when food is not readily available.



Through fall and into early winter, urea is accumulated in the frog’s tissues. As the weather grows colder, frogs will bury themselves into leaf litter or hide under rocks or stumps. When the temperature drops below freezing ice crystals begin to form and nucleating proteins (specialized proteins found in the blood) cause the water in the blood to freeze first. Freezing causes water to be drawn from other cells where it too freezes. In most cells, removing water means collapse and cell destruction. Wood frogs, however, have a special way of dealing with this; the liver produces large amounts of glucose which floods the body and holds up the cells shape after the water is removed. Glucose, along with the urea accumulated earlier in the season, act as cryoprotectants to limit the amount of freezing and to protect the cells from dying.

The frog’s heart continues to beat and move glucose throughout the body as freezing progresses. Eventually, the heart does stop beating. Ice remains within the frog’s body and the cells remain filled with the syrupy glucose. A frozen Wood frog does not breathe and has no brain function. It can survive temperatures below freezing for weeks at a time.

As the weather warms, water begins to move back into cells and the frog thaws. The heart begins beating before the ice within the body melts completely. It takes less than 24 hours for normal motor function to return. Spring rains in late February and early March send the now active Wood frogs to breeding areas, ready to start the cycle over again. These early breeding frogs can occasionally be heard at Crooked Run Nature Preserve. *Become a fan of the Clermont County Park District on Facebook and find a link to an amazing video of a wood frog thawing from its winter freeze.*

## Join us on Facebook

The Park District now has another way to stay up to date on what's happening in our parks. Become a fan of our facebook page and get updates on park programs and events, view park photos and other updates on all of our parks. Click the icon below to view our page.



## Attention Shutterbugs!

If you enjoy visiting the Clermont County parks, and you have a camera, then we're looking for you. The Park District has created a



group on Flickr.com. We are always searching for good photographs to use on our website, newsletter, and media releases. If you would like to join our group and share your favorite Clermont County Park District photos just visit



<http://www.flickr.com/groups/clermontcountyparks/> or you can e-mail your park photos to [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us)

## I.D. Challenge

Can you identify this oddly shaped specimen?



*Turkey tail fungus* get its name from its appearance, somewhat resembling the tail of a wild turkey. One of the most common types of fungi found in our woodlands, they are saprophytic, meaning they grow and feed on dead trees, usually hardwoods. Their color is usually some variation of brown with several colored bands running parallel to the edge. Several types of turkey tail fungi grow in Ohio, most belonging to the genus *Trametes*. Next time you are out enjoying a hike in one of our parks, keep your eyes out for the turkey tail fungus.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

The Park District is once again accepting Christmas Trees for recycling. Live trees can be dropped off at Pattison Park lakeside from December 27 to January 16. Trees will be chipped and mulched. All decorations must be removed from the trees.

For other drop off locations in Clermont County, contact the Office of Environmental Quality at 732-7894 or [www.oeq.net](http://www.oeq.net)





## **Park District News**

### **Chris Clingman, Director**

This past fall the Park District celebrated the opening of the walking trails at Shor Park in Union Township. Mrs. Sylvia Shor donated 56 acres to the Park District in 2003 and with help of the Union Township Trustees and the Clermont County Engineer's office the first phase of the park has opened to the public. The trails have a compacted gravel surface and are smooth enough to push a baby stroller across. With the surface now in place the trail should be accessible year round. Dogs are allowed on the trails provided they are on a leash and their companions clean up after them (Mutt mitts are available at the trail head).

At the opening ceremony the park was named in honor of S. David Shor, Sylvia's husband, who for many years, along with the Baker and Chrisman families, raised race horses on the property. Sylvia asked that we each take care of the property so that we all could enjoy its beauty.

The Union Township Trustees recognized that the park would be a great asset to their citizens and provided the needed funding to get the park infrastructure in place. As more funding is secured, restrooms, an all access playground, and picnic shelters will be added. The park is located within a half mile of 2000 homes in Union Township, many of which are connected to park via a new sidewalk on Schoolhouse Road.

Donations have always helped the Park District to carry out its mission. Over the last two years, volunteer Bev McClain has organized the Fall Back into Time fundraiser to benefit local museums and historical societies located in Clermont, Brown, and Adams counties in Ohio and Bracken and Mason counties in Kentucky ([www.fallbackintotime](http://www.fallbackintotime)). Each organization picks a historical character to represent them and people donate one dollar to vote for their favorite character. This year 13 organizations benefitted from the fundraiser. Thanks in large part to donations from the family of Ralph Lindsey, a diver at Chilo Lock and Dam #34, the Park District received over \$1100 in donations for their character, Ralph the Diver.

Volunteers are a big help to the Park District as well. This past November, 54 people came out to Sycamore Park to help remove the invasive bush honeysuckle from along the river. At Kelley Nature Preserve, Michael Adams, from the JF New Company, volunteered his time and expertise in using a foliar herbicide to knock back the bush honeysuckle in an area of the preserve. The non native honeysuckle out competes many of our native plants by leafing out earlier in the spring and hanging on to its leaves into late fall. Hopefully you will see more of our native wildflowers in the areas where the honeysuckle has been removed.



# Winter Naturalist Programs December—February



Program has a fee



Pre-registration  
is required

## Get Ready for Winter Walk Sunday December 5 10:00-11:30 am

### Kelley Nature Preserve

Join a Naturalist on a walk through the preserve in search of signs that the plants and animals are preparing for the long cold winter. Meet at the information kiosk.



## Winter Night Hike Tuesday December 21 6:00 pm

### Sycamore Park

Welcome winter with an early night hike by following a naturalist in search of park night life. Dress appropriately for the weather; program starts at the kiosk.



## Kids Craft: Birdfeeders Wednesday December 29 2:00 pm

### Pattison Park Lodge

Bring an old, clean plastic bottle and get help turning it into a simple birdfeeder that will keep your feathered friends around all winter. Come ready to share your own creative ideas on making feeders and get some tips from others!

## Nature at Night Friday January 7 Shor Park 6:00 pm

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Nature at night as we explore the newest park within the Clermont County Park District. We'll listen for owls, coyotes, and other nocturnal creatures as we explore the open fields in the dark.



## Winter Bird Count Saturday January 8 8:30-12:30 pm

*Chilo Lock 34 Park  
Crooked Run*

*Nature Preserve  
Kelley Nature Preserve  
Sycamore Park  
Shor Park*

Join Park District Naturalists for our annual winter inventory of which birds are inhabiting our parks. We'll spend the morning counting which species are in our parks, then join us for lunch at the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum as we warm up with hot chocolate and soup. No experience is necessary. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up and select which location you would like to participate in.



**Decoy Carving**  
**Saturdays January**  
**8,15,22,29**  
**1:30-4:30 pm**



**Chilo Lock 34 Park**

Decoy carving with Wayne McClain is returning for a third year. This year's decoy will be a Canada goose. Participants must have some woodworking or carving experience. A class fee of \$30.00 includes all tools and materials. Registration is required; spaces are limited and fill quickly for this popular program. Call 513-876-9013 to sign up.



**Winter Tracks**  
**Saturday January 15**  
**10:00 am**  
**Wilson Nature Preserve**

Snow, slush and mud make a great canvas for animal tracks. Be prepared for a challenging hike as we follow the trails in search of evidence of local animals still active in the cold winter months.



Program will start by the Sycamore Park bridge.

**Winter Hike**  
**Sunday January 16**  
**1:00 pm**  
**Sycamore Park**



Beat the winter blues by getting outside and enjoying a challenging, yet rewarding hike through Sycamore Park and the Wilson Nature Preserve. We'll



enjoy some wonderful winter time views of the East Fork River valley and look for signs of winter wildlife. Following the hike, warm up with some hot chocolate. The hike will last approximately 90 minutes and will include a steep incline. Call 513.876.9013 to sign up.

**Birds Of Prey**  
**Saturday January 22**  
**10:00 am**  
**Shor Park**

See taxidermy mounts of local hawks and owls before hiking the trails in search of these spectacular hunters. All ages are welcome; bring binoculars if you have them.





## Family Friendly Night Hike

Friday January 21

6:30 pm

### Sycamore Park

Bring the whole family along for a walk in the dark at Sycamore Park. We'll discover what animals use the park at night as we try to lure in an Eastern Screech Owl. The hike will take place on the paved blacktop trail, so strollers or wagons are welcome.



## Stargaze

Friday February 11

6:30 pm

### Chilo Lock 34 Park

Join amateur astronomer Steve Rismiller along with other members of the Midwest Astronomers group. They'll provide their telescopes and give you a glimpse into the night sky. If skies are clear we'll be looking at the moon as well as Jupiter and other deep sky objects. In between views of the night sky you'll be able to keep warm by the fire in one of our yurts while you sip hot chocolate.



## Basic Survival Skills

Saturday February 26

10:00 am

### Pattison Park

Outdoor activity is a rewarding, relaxing, healthy way to pass time.



Familiarity of basic survival skills should be a part of any outdoor enthusiast's life. Learn what to pack in a pocket emergency kit, how to build a simple shelter and some simple fire building techniques. Everyone should dress appropriately for the weather and all children must be accompanied by an adult. Program starts under the picnic shelter. Please call 513-876-9013 for more information.



# It's Maple Syrup Season

## Maple Syrup for Homeschoolers

Wednesday February 9

10:00 am

### Pattison Park

Get a hands-on look at how maple syrup is made right here at Pattison Park. We'll head to the sugarbush and you'll get the chance to tap trees, collect sap, and enjoy the end result—

delicious sweet maple Syrup. Fee is \$2.00 per child. Please Call 513.876.9013 to sign up.



## Save the Date

Pancakes in the Park

Saturday March 12

8:30-11:30 am

### Pattison Park

Join us for our annual pancake breakfast and maple syrup festival at Pattison Park. More details to come in the spring newsletter.

## Maple Syrup- for Preschoolers!

Tuesday February 15

1:30 pm

### Pattison Park

Preschoolers, parents and siblings are invited to a special afternoon in the sugarbush. Through hands-on activities and taste tests, preschoolers will learn how maple

syrup goes from tree to table. Program begins at the lodge. Pre registration is required. Please call 513.876.9013 to sign up. Program fee is \$1.00 per child.



## Sugar bush volunteers needed!

Do you enjoy working outdoors? If so, we may have the opportunity for you. The Park District is looking for several volunteers for the upcoming maple syrup season. If you are interested in volunteering, and learning how to make maple syrup at the same time, please call 513.876.9013 or e-mail [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us)



## Maple Syrup- For Everyone!

Saturday February 19

1:00 pm

### Pattison Park

Take a tour through the sugarbush to follow maple syrup from tree to table. All are welcome to take part in this hands-on program and tasting is encouraged! Meet at the Sugar Shack in the parking lot behind the lodge.



## Shor Park Becomes Park District's Newest Addition



On October 21, Shor Park became the newest park within the Clermont County Park District. The 56 acre park was donated in 2003 by Mrs. Sylvia Shor, and is named in honor of her late husband S. David Shor. The park features several old fields and a small wooded stream. The property was once used to raise race horses. The park is a cooperative project between the Park District and Union Township.



Mrs. Sylvia Shor cuts the ribbon officially dedicating Shor Park on October 21. The 56 acre park in Union Township is open to the public.

Three hiking trails are now open and future plans call for a playground, picnic shelter, and restrooms, as funds become available.

*(Pictured left to right; Park District Commissioner Bill Stearns, Mrs. Shor, Park District Commissioner Dave Anspach, Park District Commissioner Ken Stewart.)*



*Mrs. Sylvia Shor speaks to a gathering of about 50 people who attended the dedication ceremony.*

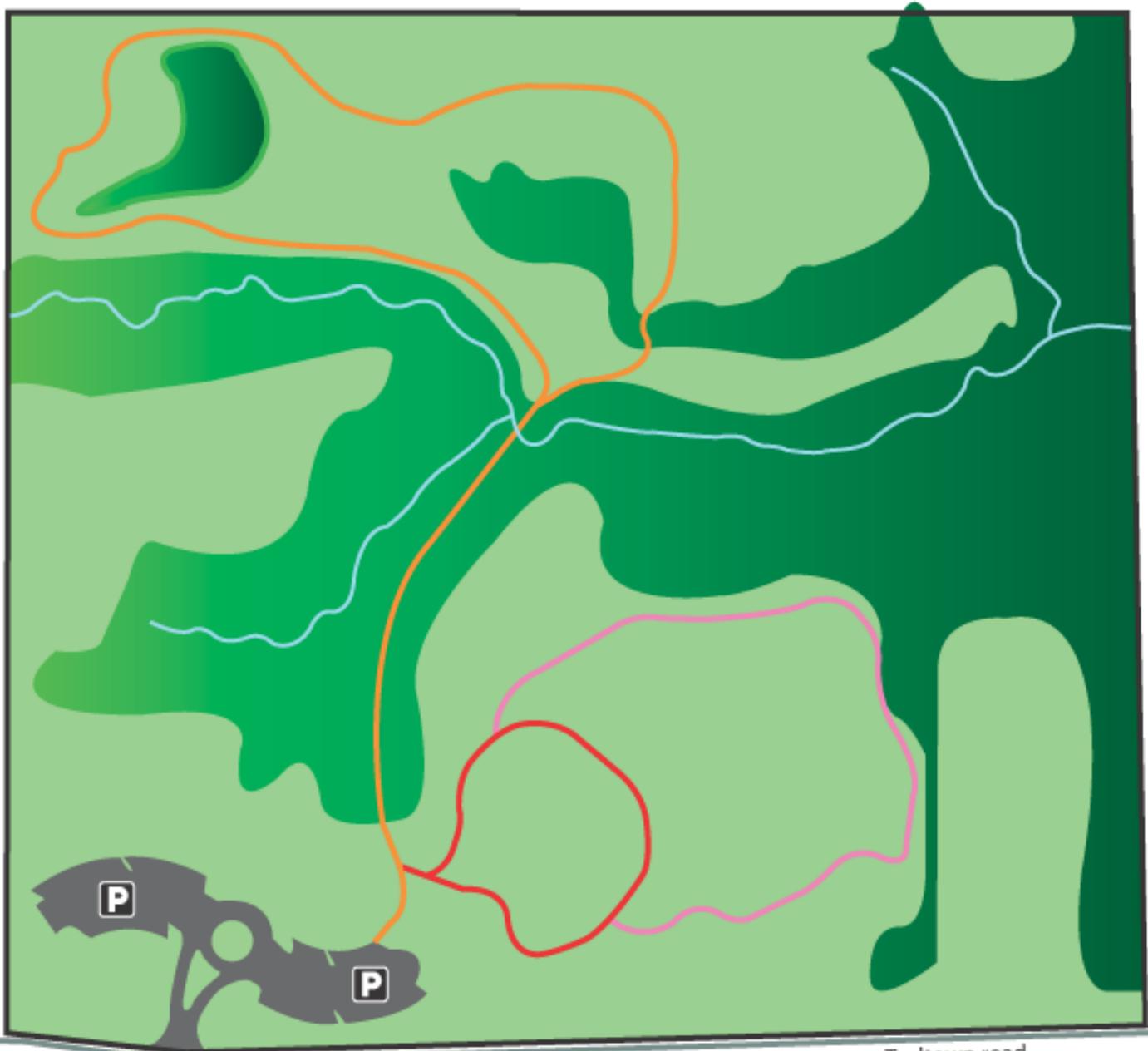


*Special thanks to Union Township Trustees who have provided funding and assisted in development of the parking lot and hiking trails.*

# Shor Park

## A Memorial to S. David Shor

56 Acres - 4659 Tealtown Road - Batavia, Oh 45103



Schoolhouse Road

Tealtown road



**Legend**

Sassafras Trail (0.8 miles)	Forest	Road
Meadow Trail (0.22 miles)	Meadow	Parking
Blackberry Trail (0.40 miles)	Stream	0 190' 380'



## Habitat Help Day a Success!

The Park District would like to thank the many volunteers that participated in the Habitat Help Day at Sycamore Park on Saturday November 13. Volunteers worked with Park District staff members to clear a large area of bush honeysuckle. Some volunteers returned for their second year in a row and were excited to see the progress that was made last year. [To view more photos of the event, click here.](#)



## Invasive Honeysuckle Removal at Kelley Nature Preserve

The Park District would like to thank Mike Adams from the J.F. New company for donating his time and treating a large area of Kelley Nature Preserve to control bush honeysuckle. This was the second year in a row that Mr. Adams treated an area of Kelley Nature Preserve.



Honeysuckle is an invasive plant in North America. It was introduced from Asia as a landscaping plant and has adapted very well to Ohio's climate. This fast growing shrub has a longer growing season than many of our native shrubs. It spreads rapidly and can completely cover areas of a forest, pushing out many of our native shrubs, saplings, and wildflowers. By treating this aggressive unwanted plant the Park District is allowing our native plant community to return.



## Fall Back Into Time Contest

The 2nd Annual Fall Back Into Time contest is officially in the books, and for the second year in a row, the Park District's entry—Ralph the Diver is the winner.

Ralph the Diver led all entries with 1135 votes, meaning the Park District will receive a \$1135 donation. Thanks to everyone who submitted their votes and donations to the Park District.

For final results for all of the characters visit [www.fallbackintotime.com](http://www.fallbackintotime.com)

The fundraiser helped to raise \$2939 for local historical societies and museums.



### Final Results

1st place  
2nd place  
3rd place

### Character

*Ralph the Diver*  
*Captain Fredrick Kautz*  
*Mike Fink*

### Agency

Clermont County Park District  
Ohio Tobacco Museum  
Friends of the Jennie Wade

*Ralph the Diver, winner for the second year in a row of the Fall Back into Time contest. The character is based on Ralph Lindsey a former diver and lockman at Chilo Lock & Dam and Meldahl Locks and Dam.*

Special Thanks to the [Friends of the Jennie Wade](#) for sponsoring and organizing the event once again.

## Winter Fun

Don't let the cold and snow keep you indoors this winter. Your Clermont County Parks are always open, so despite the weather, enjoy a brisk walk in the snow, build a snowman, or just enjoy the beautiful winter scenery in your nearest park.

*American Heritage Girls Troop enjoying a winter campout at Chilo Lock 34 Park.*



Photo courtesy of Milissa Marlar



## Eagle Scouts Help the Parks

Eagle Scout projects help the Park District to make improvements to the parks through donations of materials and labor. This past fall several Eagle Scouts were busy working hard to improve some of our parks.



Wyatt Kunzelman recently completed a renovation of the campfire circle at Chilo Lock 34 Park. The fire circle, used by scout groups camping in the yurts, now features a stone fire pit with benches surrounding it.

Ben Liming's project helped the Park District to complete a grant requirement. As part of an Ohio EPA grant to purchase land along the East Fork, the Park District needed to remove several small structures scattered throughout the property. To complete the

project, Ben organized 28 volunteers who put in 225 hours of work cleaning up the property. A special thank you goes to Master Craft Foundations, Round Bottom Recycling, and Paul Braasch with the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality for assisting with the project.

Mathew Matson and Troop 742 recently provided the Park District with bat boxes to install in the parks.

John Derek Hart and Troop 452 are working on a foot bridge to cross the creek at Shor Park along one of the hiking trails.

Matt Fraley and Troop 867 are constructing a new information kiosk for Shor Park.



*Footbridge at Shor Park*

If you are looking for an Eagle Scout project or have a volunteer group looking for a community service project contact Ron Shouse, Operations Supervisor at 513-732-8060. Thanks to all of the Eagle Scouts for their hard work and dedication to making the Clermont County Park District a better place to visit.

## A Special Thank You

The Park District would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous donations:

Grant Farm and Greenhouse for donating mums, pumpkins, and gourds for the Shor Park dedication ceremony.

Kim Crowley catering for providing lunch at the dedication of Shor Park.

Life Stream Christian Church for volunteering their time to clean up the landscaping at Sycamore Park.



*Lifestream Christian Church volunteers cleaning up Sycamore Park*

### Picnic Shelter Rentals

The Park District has picnic shelters for rent at Chilo Lock 34 Park, Sycamore Park, and Pattison Park for your summer picnic or family gathering.

Call the Park District administrative office at 513.732.2977 to make your reservation or check on availability.



For the first time in 20 years, the picnic shelter fees have increased. Check below for the new rates.

Effective January 1, 2011

<u>Park/Shelter</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Chilo Lock 34 Park	50	\$75
Pattison Park	150	\$100
Sycamore Woods	50	\$75
Sycamore #2	150	\$100

### Chilo Lock #34 Visitor Center and Museum Winter Hours

December — February  
Friday — Sunday  
12 pm to 5pm

Closed December 24, 25, 26, 31 & January 1 - 2



### Pattison Lodge and Gazebo & Hartman Log Cabin



#### Pattison Lodge and Gazebo Rental Rates

*In Season (May 15—October 15)*

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$475

Saturday \$550

*Out of Season (October 16—May 14)*

Monday through Thursday \$200

Friday and Sunday \$425

Saturday \$500



#### Hartman Log Cabin Rental Rates

*In Season Rates (May 15-October 15)*

Monday through Thursday \$100

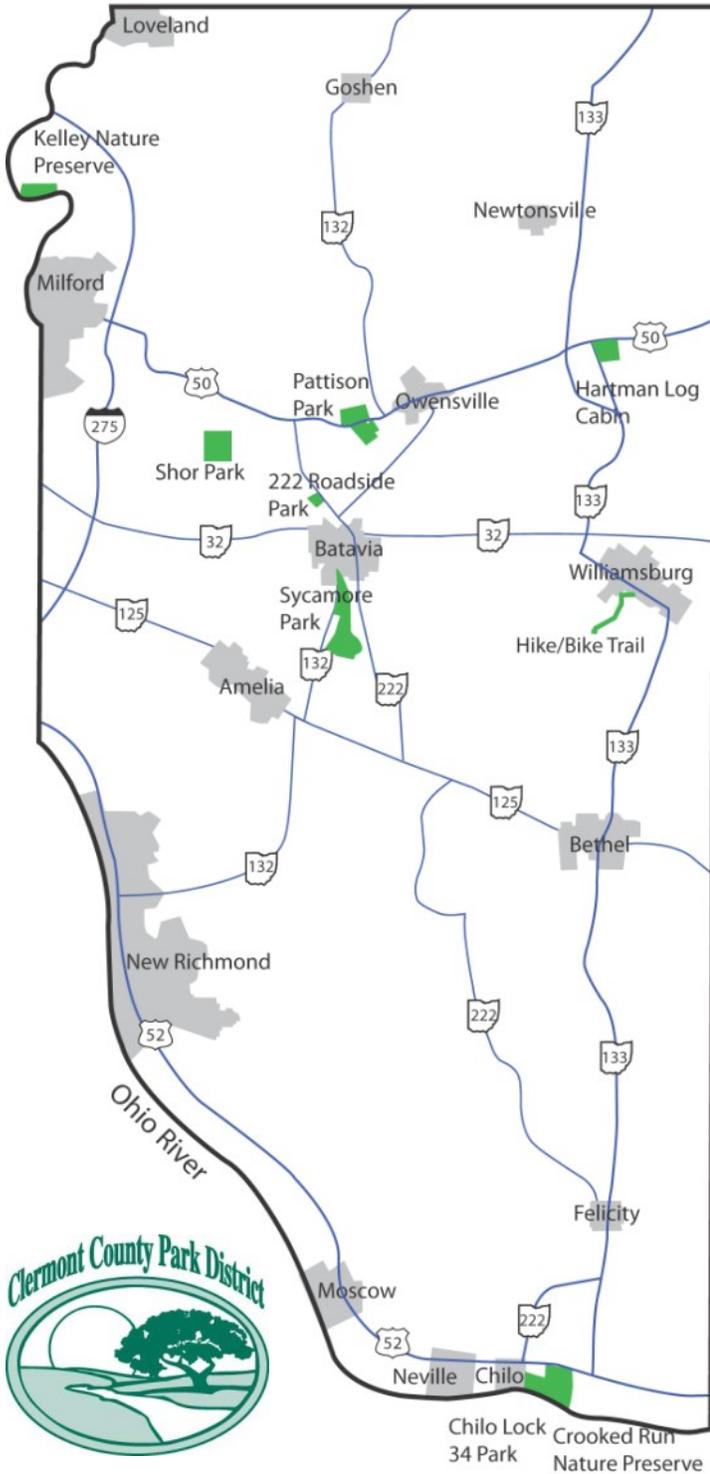
Friday through Sunday \$150

\*Includes the use of the picnic shelter

*Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)*

Monday through Sunday

\$100



### Mission Statement

To acquire, plan, develop, program, and maintain park property in the county for residents and nonresidents alike. To secure the preservation of open space and places of scenic or historical value.

Monthly board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm in Pattison Park Lodge. All meetings are open to the public. For more information call 513.732.2977.

#### [Chilo Lock 34 Park](#)

521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112  
513.876.9013  
39 acres

#### [Crooked Run Nature Preserve](#)

521 County Park Road Chilo, OH 45112  
77 acres

#### [Hartman Log Cabin](#)

5272 Aber Road Williamsburg, OH 45176  
5 acres

#### [Kelley Nature Preserve](#)

297 Center Street Loveland, OH 45140  
42 acres

#### [Pattison Park](#)

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103  
45 acres

#### [Sycamore Park](#)

4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103  
53 acres

#### [Wilson Nature Preserve](#)

4082 State Route 132 Batavia, OH 45103  
105 acres

#### [Williamsburg - Batavia Hike/Bike Trail](#)

Broadway Road Williamsburg, OH 45176  
2.5 miles long

### Contact Information

#### *Administrative Office*

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103  
513.732.2977  
parkdistrict@co.clermont.oh.us

#### *Naturalist Office*

PO Box 106 Chilo, OH 45112  
513.876.9013

[www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov](http://www.parks.clermontcountyohio.gov)

### Board of Park Commissioners

David Anspach Kenneth Stewart  
William Stearns, *Chairman*

Chris Clingman, *Director*