



# Spring E - Newsletter

## March - May 2011

### Victory Gardens

**Laura Hoople, Naturalist**

Food shortages, common during both World War I and World War II, made many food items scarce and difficult to obtain. With so many men overseas fighting, labor for food production and transportation was in short supply though demand was great. Rations were placed on commonly used items like coffee, butter, sugar and meat. What commercially canned goods were available needed to be saved for the troops who did not have access to other food sources.



Though first proposed and used in 1917 as a food shortage solution, Victory Gardens increased immensely in popularity during World War II. Across the country backyards, parks, baseball fields, empty lots and even the roofs of apartment buildings were turned into garden plots. No space was too small to be used. Women's magazines of the time often published articles on how to best grow plants. Even LIFE and the Saturday Evening Post had frequent features on Victory Gardens. Public service booklets were distributed nationwide to increase awareness of the efforts and encourage Americans to grow their own food. As patriotism flowed through the country during the years of World War II, posters promoting Victory Gardens fed into this feeling. Slogans encouraged gardeners to "Sow the Seeds of Victory" and proclaimed "Our food is fighting." Something as simple as growing vegetables gave citizens the feeling they were personally aiding in war efforts and helped boost morale during trying times.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that by the end of World War II nearly 20 million gardens were growing from coast to coast. Between 9 and 10 million tons of food was produced, equaling 40% of the nation's food supply. The Victory Garden campaign was a success.

A peek into life during the Victory Garden era is available right here in Clermont County at Chilo Lock #34 Park. The Visitor Center and Museum features displays on life while the Lock and Dam was operating, including during the years of World War II. Though families at Chilo were lucky to have their fathers and husbands working stateside, they still did their part for the war effort by growing gardens in the area where the playground equipment is now located.

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## Victory Gardens, continued

Today, Victory Gardens are making a resurgence. The reasons for growing gardens today vary considerably from the original idea behind Victory Gardens but often include the desire for food independence and having a smaller carbon footprint. Health and personal fulfillment are often cited as reasons as well. Home gardens are also a wonderful way to teach children where their food comes from.

A small demonstration Victory Garden is located next to the museum at Chilo Lock #34 Park. This space features a variety of heirloom vegetables and herbs, grown organically, that would have been available to gardeners in the 1940s. Interested gardeners are encouraged to help with spring garden planting in May (see program listing for details). Visitors are welcome to tour the small plot and see what the garden is producing. Tasting is allowed!



## Spotlight Species

Among the many spring rituals in nature, one that often goes unnoticed is the annual migration of salamanders. Spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) emerge from their underground wintering grounds in early spring to travel to their breeding pools. The first warm rains of March usually bring these large amphibians out of their burrows to begin looking for a mate. Large groups of spotted salamanders will congregate in small ponds or vernal (temporary) pools. They prefer vernal pools because they are only wet during the spring months, therefore they lack fish, a predator of salamander larvae. After courting for a few weeks and laying eggs, the adults leave the ponds to spend the rest of the year on land where they typically come out at night to feed on worms, insect larvae, and other invertebrates. Their secretive nature makes them difficult to encounter, and finding one is always a treat. These colorful salamanders can be found in Crooked Run Nature Preserve where they use the old farm pond as their breeding grounds.



## Park District by the Numbers Chris Clingman, Director

The Park District observed its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010 and by taking a look at the numbers we can see our parks are as popular as ever.

Sycamore Park opened in 1972 as the first park in the district and consisted of 23 acres along the East Fork of the Little Miami River. Today the Park District has 6 parks, 3 nature preserves, 2 green spaces, and 3 river reserves, totaling over 520 acres. The Park District also has 9 miles of trails plus 2.5 miles of the Williamsburg to Batavia hike/bike trail.



*Pattison Park Gazebo*

In 2010 the parks hosted 469 events in Park District rental facilities. These events included family reunions, weddings, church and company picnics, scout outings and more. Over 33,000 people attended those events. There were 190 picnic shelter rentals, 117 Pattison Lodge rentals, 73 Hartman Cabin rentals and 89 Chilo yurt rentals.



*Maple Syrup Program at Pattison Park*

The naturalist staff conducted 150 programs for 4639 people. Since the Park District naturalist program began in 1998 over 53,000 people have attended nature education programs.

Over 7500 people visited the Chilo Lock 34 Visitor Center and Museum during 2010. Since the grand opening in August of 2005, over 40,000 people have enjoyed the visitor center.

With the addition of improved boat ramps and docks in 2008, Chilo Lock 34 Park has become a destination for several local fishing clubs to host bass tournaments. In 2010, the boat ramp and docks at Chilo Lock 34 Park hosted 10 bass tournaments with up to 100 anglers competing in each tournament.

The 197<sup>th</sup> bird species was recently spotted at Crooked Run Nature Preserve. The Long Tailed Duck is normally found on the ocean, but occasionally one will show up in Ohio. Three long-tailed ducks decided to hang out in the Ohio River for several weeks during the middle of February. The birds brought quite a few visitors from the local birding community to enjoy the rare sighting. Other noteworthy birds to make the list of those sighted at Crooked Run Nature Preserve include: Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Barn Owl, Prothonotary Warbler, and a wandering pair of American Pelicans in 2003.

Occasionally we set up car counters to get some idea of how many people visit our parks. In a four week period in May and June we had over 6600 cars enter Sycamore Park. A similar number stopped in at Pattison Park Lakeside during the same time frame. October of 2010 saw 5300 cars enter Pattison Park. Using these and other numbers, we estimate the parks receive over 200,000 visits per year.

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*Sycamore Park*

## Park District by the Numbers, (continued)

In 2010 the Park District opened the nature trails in Shor Park, acquired 47 acres of land along the East Fork to help preserve water quality, replaced the Pattison lodge HVAC system, repaved the Pattison Lodge parking lot, and repaired and repaved the Kelley Nature Preserve entrance road. All of the projects were completed using donations, grants, and partnerships.

The Park District has an operating budget of approximately \$600,000 per year. Fees and donations comprise approximately \$110,000 of the annual budget. Over the last ten years the Park District has secured nearly \$7.5 million in grants, donations, outside revenue sources, and donated property for capital improvements and additions to the parks. The Park District is composed of a staff of 7 full time employees, 4 part time employees, and 4 caretakers, who provide programs, maintain the facilities, and administer the Park District.



*Sycamore Park*

### Are you following us?

Did you know that the Clermont County Park District has its own facebook page? Keep up to date on all the latest park programs and events, post your pictures of the parks and get all the information you need to stay up to date with the Park District.

[www.facebook.com/ClermontCountyParkDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/ClermontCountyParkDistrict)



You can also view our flickr page for recent photos, or join our flickr group and post your own pictures of your favorite Clermont County park.



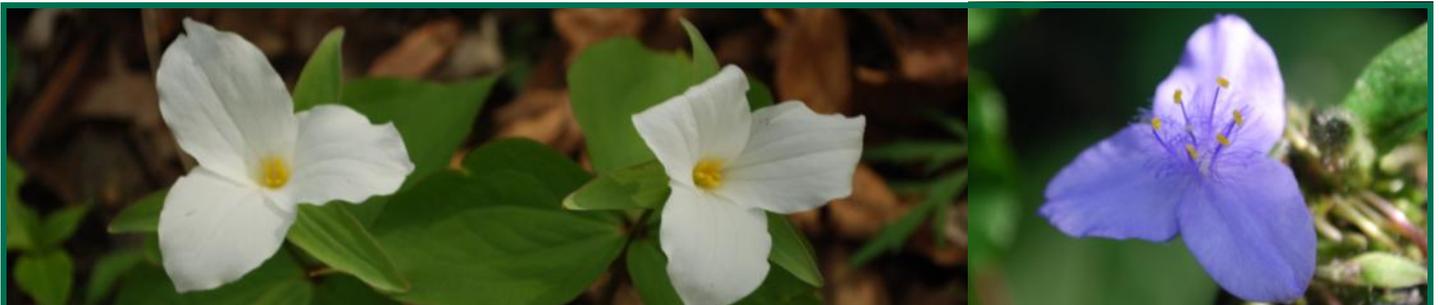
### Special Thank You.....

To Steve Rismiller, Sue Rismiller, John Ventre, Mark Stephenson and Carol Stephenson from the Midwestern Astronomers for bringing their telescopes down and sharing their knowledge at the stargazing program on February 11th at Chilo Lock 34 Park.



To Laura and Oakley Noe for allowing the Park District to tap several maple trees on their property, and for delivering their sap to Pattison Park.

*Over 80 people attended At Chilo Lock #34 Park For the stargazing program on February 11.*



## Naturalist



Pre registration  
required

## Programs



Program has a fee

### Pancakes in the Park

**Saturday March 12**  
**8:30-11:30 am**  
**Pattison Park  
Lodge**



Join us for our annual pancake breakfast and maple syrup festival. Top your delicious pancakes off with our 100% pure maple syrup. After breakfast, head outside to see how we make our own maple syrup. We'll have naturalist guided hikes through our sugar bush, primitive syrup making demonstrations, and we'll be boiling down syrup using a modern evaporator inside our *Sugar Shack*. See page 6 for more information.

#### Tickets

\$5.00	adults
\$4.00	seniors
\$2.00	children (6-12)
Free	children 0-5

### Basic Nature Photography

**Sunday March 27**  
**1:00 PM**



#### Hartman Log Cabin

Spring offers wonderful opportunities for shutterbugs of all ages. Discover a few basic tips and techniques to use to help improve your nature photographs.

Pre-registration is required. Please call 513.876.9013 or e-mail [krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:krobinson@co.clermont.oh.us) to sign up.



### Spring Peepers!

**Thursday April 7**

**7:30 pm**

**Shor Park**

Early spring evenings are often filled with the loud mating calls of Ohio's smallest frog—the spring peeper. We'll search the puddles and ditches for this tiny yet vocal amphibian. Bring a flashlight and net if you have one, and be prepared to get your feet wet.



### Marsh Madness

**Friday April 8**

**7:30 pm**

**Chilo Lock 34 Park**

Early spring is a busy time in the marshy wetland at Chilo Lock 34 Park. Grab your wading boots and join the naturalist as we search for the small but vocal chorus frogs and spring peepers that are busy singing the night away on warm spring evenings. Meet in the visitor center.



### Long Term Butterfly Monitoring

**Chilo Lock 34 Park &**

**Crooked Run Nature Preserve**

**Beginning weekly in April**

2011 Long Term Butterfly Monitoring begins the first week of April. Volunteers are needed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this citizen scientist project at Chilo Lock 34 Park & Crooked Run Nature Preserve. No

previous knowledge of butterflies is needed.

Contact Laura at 513.876.9013 or

[lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us](mailto:lhoople@co.clermont.oh.us) for more information and upcoming weekly monitoring dates.



## Volunteer Work Day: Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday April 9  
10:00-12:00



Chilo Lock 34 Park &  
Crooked Run  
Nature Preserve



Saturday April 16  
9:00-11:00

### Sycamore Park

Volunteers are needed for the annual Clermont County Park District Garlic Mustard Pull. Habitat improvements will continue in the same areas as previous years and expand into new areas. All ages are welcome; light refreshments will be served after. Please call 513.876.9013 for more information or to sign up.

## Spring Wildflowers

Sunday April 10, 1:00 pm

Saturday April 23, 1:00 pm

Thursday April 28, 6:30 pm

### Sycamore Park

A beautiful display of wildflowers carpets the forest floor every spring before the trees leaf out. Take a hike through Sycamore Park to enjoy the feeling of spring in the air and see what's blooming.



*Drooping Trillium*

All hikes will begin from the bridge.



## East Fork River Sweep

Saturday April 30th



Locations: East Fork State Park,  
Stonelick State Park, and other sites

- Free use of canoes
- Free lunch and refreshments
- Groups can adopt their own section of river

Participants must register prior to the event.

For more information call Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District at 513.732.7075.

To register at East Fork State Park or Stonelick State Park, call the East Fork State Park Office at 513.734.4323.



[www.clermontswcd.org](http://www.clermontswcd.org)

### Preschool Story Time

#### Wildflowers

Wednesday April 13th 1:30 pm  
Sycamore Park

#### Salamanders

Wednesday May 11th, 1:30 pm  
Sycamore Park

It's storytime at the park once again. Bring your preschooler to Sycamore Park for stories, crafts and the chance to explore nature. Every month is a new topic!



Spotted Salamander

### April Birds and Blooms

Saturday April 16

10:00 am

Kelley Nature Preserve

Spring is a busy time in Ohio's forests.

Migrating songbirds are returning and the forests are showing a colorful display of spring wildflowers. Follow a naturalist through the trails as you search for these colorful signs that spring has finally arrived.



Greek Valerian

Ruby-throated hummingbird



### Shiitake Mushroom Logs

Thursday April 14th

Hartman Log Cabin

6:30 pm

Fee: \$12.00/ log

Grow your own shiitake

mushrooms at

home! Studied for

their potential to

protect against some cancers and stimulate the

immune system, shiitakes are also noted for their

delicious taste. Each participant will set up a shiitake

log and receive care instructions with the program.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required.

Call 513.876.9013 to sign up. There is a program fee

of \$12.00 per log.



Photo: Mandie Rose

### Wildflowers on Wheels

Sunday May 1

1:00 pm

Little Miami River Trail Center

Nesbit Park— Loveland, OH

Operated by Little

Miami Incorporated the

Little Miami River Trail

Center is a small visitor

center that houses several

educational displays on

the importance of water

quality. We'll meet here

and take a leisurely bike ride along the scenic trail

in search of wildflowers that line the trail.



**Matt Maupin Memorial  
Kid's Fishing Tournament**  
**Saturday May 7**  
**11 am—1 pm**  
**Pattison Park**

Join the East Fork Bass Anglers for a day of free fishing fun. Children 15 and under are invited to drop a line and see what they can catch. Prizes will be awarded in each age group for biggest fish, smallest fish, and several other categories. A free hot dog lunch will be served to each of the child participants.

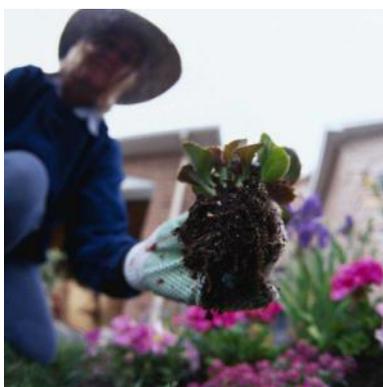


**Spring Garden Planting**  
**Saturday May 14**



**10:00 am**  
**Chilo Lock 34 Park**

Help fill the beds of the Victory Garden with a variety of heirloom vegetables. Please call 513.876.9013 to register.



**May Birds and Blooms**  
**Sunday May 15**

**10:00 am**  
**Kelley Nature Preserve**

Spring migration should be in full swing now as most summer residents will have returned to begin their nesting and breeding season. Follow a naturalist to catch a glimpse of some of our most colorful birds and blooms.



*Baltimore Oriole*

**Help Honor Clermont County's  
Most Famous Son**



**Celebrate the birthday of  
President Ulysses S. Grant.**  
**Saturday April 30**  
**US Grant Birthplace**  
**Point Pleasant, OH**

10:30 am - Opening Ceremonies  
1:00 pm - Commemorative Program  
Guest speakers & Live Music  
3:00 pm - Entertainment  
music, and performances of the civil war era

*Tours of Grant Birthplace National Historic Site!*

*Sponsored by Historic New Richmond and the Ohio Historical Society.*

*For more information call 1.800.283.8932 or visit*  
[Historic New Richmond's Website](#)



# 6th Annual Pancakes in the Park & Maple Syrup Festival

Saturday March 12th 8:30—11:30 am

Pattison Park Lodge

2228 US Highway 50 Batavia, OH 45103

Hands on activities continue until 12:30 pm



Enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast with 100% pure maple syrup.  
Visit our sugar bush and sugar shack to see how maple syrup is made.



Sample our award winning syrup!  
Blue Ribbon Winner  
2010 Clermont County Fair

## ***Tickets***

Adults	\$5.00
Seniors	\$4.00
Children (6-12)	\$2.00
Children (0-5)	Free

Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling 513.732.2977.



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

# Sponsor a Bucket

Help the Park District improve the sugar bush by sponsoring a sap bucket for the 2011 Pancakes in the Park. For \$25.00 each sponsor will have their name placed on a sap bucket along the sugar bush trail during the Pancakes in the Park. Each sponsor will also receive two complimentary tickets to the pancake breakfast and a 250 mL bottle of our blue ribbon winning pure maple syrup in a decorative maple leaf shaped glass bottle.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



Sign description limit 4 lines,  
20 characters per line (please print).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Make checks payable to:  
Clermont County Park District  
2228 US Highway 50  
Batavia, OH 45103

Please return application along with  
\$25.00 check by Thursday March 10th.



Chilo Lock 34 Park  
521 County Park Road  
Chilo, OH 45112  
513.876.9013

Located in southeast Clermont County along the beautiful Ohio River, Chilo Lock #34 Park is one of the hidden jewels of the Park District. Located on the site of a former lock and dam, the park has seen major renovations in recent years. The highlight of the park is the three story interpretive visitor center and museum focusing on “Living and Working with the Ohio River”. The museum features several hands on exhibits and displays that are sure to entertain and educate visitors of all ages. Visitor center hours vary by season, call 513.876.9013 for more information.



The park offers a playground, two picnic shelters, boat ramp and dock, and a replica of an 1800's era steamboat, the *Jennie Wade*. Two yurts can also be reserved by youth groups for overnight camping in the park.



Crooked Run Nature Preserve  
Adjacent to Chilo Lock 34 Park  
Chilo, OH 45112

Located adjacent to Chilo Lock #34 Park, this beautiful nature preserve offers scenic views of the Ohio River and a diversity of wildlife. Over 190 species of birds have been observed in the preserve. Bald eagles, osprey, and great blue herons can occasionally be observed as well as orioles, warblers, vireos and many other species of song birds.



Hartman Log Cabin  
5272 Aber Road  
Williamsburg, OH 45176

The Hartman Log Cabin sits on 5 acres of land in Jackson Township. Originally constructed in 1838 the log house was restored and donated to the Park District in 1991. Today the log cabin is used as a rental facility, hosting many small weddings, birthday parties, and family reunions each year. For rental information call 513.732.2977.



Kelley Nature Preserve  
297 Center Street  
Loveland, OH 45140

This beautiful nature preserve is located along the scenic Little Miami River. Highlights include two miles of hiking trails and canoe access to the river. The trails wind through wooded areas and a large meadow with a wonderful display of summer blooming wildflowers.



Pattison Park  
2228 US Highway 50  
Batavia, OH 45103

Donated by the late Aletheia Pattison, the park is home to the Park District's main office. The park features a fishing pond, playground, picnic shelter and walking trails.



A reserveable lodge and gazebo are also located in the park and have become a very popular site for outdoor weddings and receptions. To reserve the lodge and gazebo for your event call 513.732.2977.



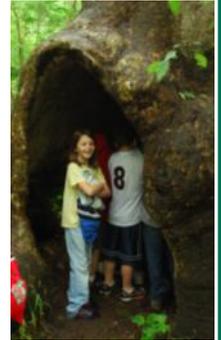
Williamsburg to Batavia Hike-Bike Trail  
Broadway Road  
Williamsburg, Ohio 45176

Phase one of the Williamsburg to Batavia Hike-Bike trail follows a 2.5 mile route from the village of Williamsburg to an overlook of Harsha Lake. When completed, the trail will connect to the village of Batavia for a total length of 13 miles. The trail begins at the end of Broadway Road in Williamsburg.



Sycamore Park and Wilson Nature Preserve  
4082 State Route 132  
Batavia, OH 45103

Sycamore Park is the oldest within the Clermont County Park District. Located in the center of the county, Sycamore Park is also the most popular. The park features two reserveable picnic shelters, two playgrounds, tennis courts, a paved walking path, and a short 1/2 mile hiking trail.



Wilson Nature Preserve is adjacent to Sycamore Park and borders the East Fork of the Little Miami River. Nearly three miles of hiking trails traverse wooded hillsides and offer wonderful scenery.



Shor Park  
4659 Tealtown Road  
Batavia, OH 45103

The newest park within the Park District is a joint project between the Clermont County Park District and Union Township. Donated by Sylvia Shor and named in honor of her late husband, S. David Shor, the park opened in October 2010. Three hiking trails wind visitors through the property.





## CHILO *Living and Working with the Ohio River*

### *Chilo Lock 34 Park Visitor Center and Museum Spring Hours*

March 1st - 13th Friday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

March 14th - April 30th Thursday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm

May - Wednesday - Sunday 12 pm to 5 pm



### **Attention Scout and Youth Group Leaders!**

Did you know the Clermont County Park District offers overnight camping in our Yurts?

We have two yurts available at Chilo Lock 34 Park for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, American Heritage Girls, church youth camps, or any other organized civic minded youth group. Yurts are \$50 per night and will comfortably sleep 20-25. The yurts come furnished with a wood burning stove.

To rent the yurts for your youth group please call Pattison Park at 513.732.2977.



### 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.



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

### 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*

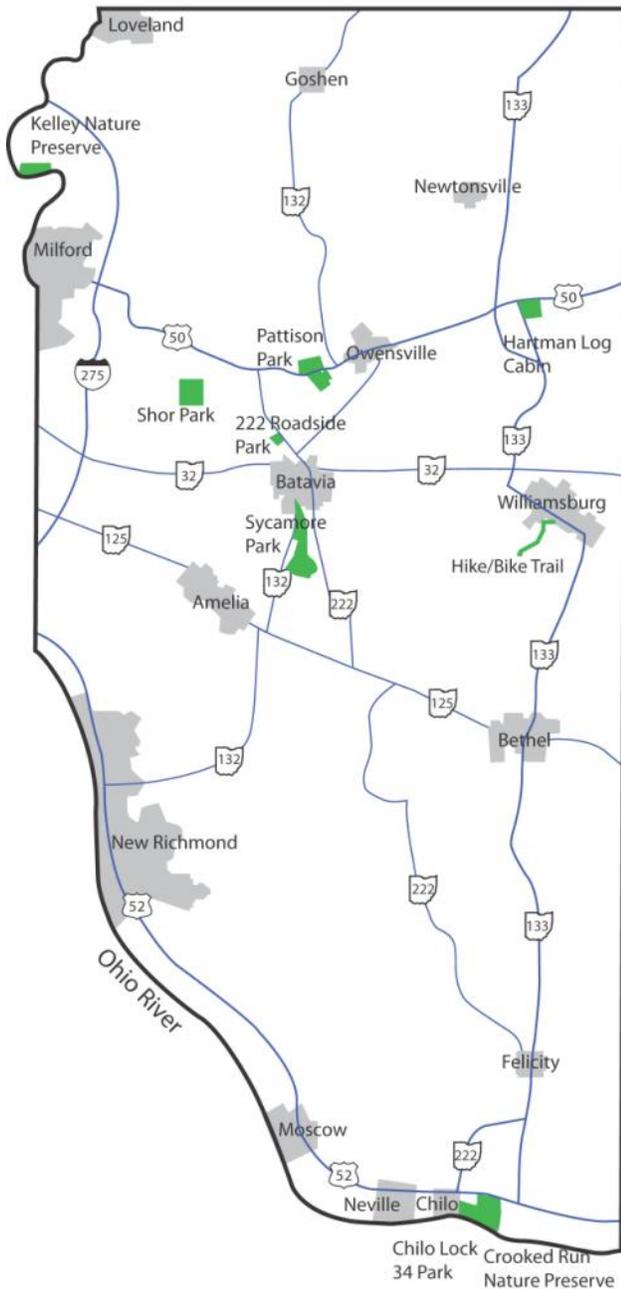
*Out of Season Rates (October 16—May 14)*

Monday through Sunday

\$100



The Clermont County Park District operates six parks, three green spaces, three nature preserves totaling 449 acres.



**[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

**[Shor Park](#)**

4659 Tealtown Road Batavia, OH 45103  
56 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**

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