

KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

PURPOSE

The purpose of Knox County Park District is to: acquire, conserve and manage Knox County natural resources in a manner that preserves the rural character of the county, while protecting the county's unique historical and natural resources.

VISION

Knox County is a highly desirable place for people to live and work. It provides opportunities for development while protecting prime areas of natural and cultural significance. The Knox County Park District seeks to be a leader in efforts to protect and manage Knox County's natural resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Built staircase and two bridges (one with Leadership Knox) at Honey Run Waterfall; Siemens Purchasing Department recently stained the structures.
- Paved Heart of Ohio Trail connector (C.A.&C. Depot to Columbus Rd. with an Ariel Foundation grant), Mohican Valley Trail (Bridge of Dreams to Danville with ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund, & Heart of Ohio Trail (Centerburg to Huffman Rd. with an ODOT Transportation Alternative Grant). Grant match provided by Park District.
- Upgraded, enlarged and built several Park and Bike Trail parking areas at Honey Run Highlands, Thayer Ridge, Wolf Run and most recently, the Kokosing Gap Trail. The Kokosing Gap Trail is a handicap accessible lot that utilized the Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, Knox Parks Fund to build.
- Increased volunteerism within the Parks by partnering with OSU Extension to offer the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program in Knox County. Eight Eagle Scout projects were completed at various Parks and Bike Trails.
- Rotary of Mount Vernon and Rotary International funded a shelter at the Wolf Run Bark Park and a private benefactor roofed the shelter; a small dog area fence was added in 2017.
- Acquired Zuck Riparian Preserve property with a Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District grant and funds from the Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County and the Richard and Arline Landers Foundation.
- Presented dozens of educational programs and hikes and special events including the extremely popular Fire and Ice luminary walk at Honey Run Waterfall.
- Placed 24 bluebird boxes at various Parks and began a butterfly transect trail at Honey Run Highlands; boxes and butterfly trail are monitored by volunteers.
- Obtained funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Zane State College students built a 10' x 10' bat house with help from Knox County Career Center ROTC students and OSU Extension Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists.
- Added cosmetic upgrades and visitor amenities to Parks and River Access areas including: fences, foot bridges, new trash systems; pergola shade structures, benches and picnic tables.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Knox County Park District was created in 1995 by action of the Knox County Probate Court in accordance with provisions of Section 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Knox County Park District currently manages over 955 acres which includes: eight (8) Parks; ten (10) River Access points on the Kokosing and Mohican State Scenic Rivers and fourteen (14) Bike Trail parking areas.

The future looks bright for Knox County Park District as we maintain our Parks, Bike Trails and River Accesses. In future we plan to continue paving and connecting Knox County's 35 miles of Bike Trails on the Ohio To Erie Trail with surrounding communities; put in trail systems at some of the newer Parks; install new Bike Trail access points; continue to add more educational and recreational opportunities for Knox County residents.

Our partnering agencies include; USFWS; ODNR; Knox County of OSU Extension, SWCD, Pheasants Forever, Fish & Game Association, Litter Prevention and Recycling, Health Department and the Brown Family Environmental Center; Heart of Ohio and Kokosing Gap Trails.



EXPLORE OUR PARKS;

Hellbender Preserve

- ◆ 23316 Coshocton Road, Howard 43028

Honey Run Highlands

- ◆ 10865 Hazel Dell Road, Howard (Lot) 43028
- ◆ 10816 Millersburg Road Howard (US 62 Lot) 43028

Honey Run Waterfall

- ◆ 10855 Hazel Dell Road, Howard 43028

Indianfield Bluffs Park

- ◆ 10855 Sapp Road, Howard 43028

Thayer Ridge Park

- ◆ 7077 Thayer Road, Mount Vernon 43050

Wolf Run Regional Park & Bark Park

- ◆ 17621 Yauger Road, Mount Vernon 43050

Bat Nest Park

- ◆ 30500 Walhonding Road, Danville 43014

EXPLORE OUR BIKE TRAIL SYSTEMS;

Heart of Ohio Trail– (see other accesses on website)

- ◆ 2750 Huffman Road Centerburg 43011

Kokosing Gap Trail (see other accesses on website)

- ◆ 500 Mt Vernon Ave Mt. Vernon 43050

Mohican Valley Trail – (see other accesses on website)

EXPLORE OUR RIVER ACCESSSES;

Big Run Road Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 8921 Big Run Road, Gambier 43022

Greer Landing Access (Mohican River)

- ◆ 20389 Brinkhaven Road, Glenmont 44628

Hope Fishing Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 11675 Pipesville Road, Howard 43028

Kokosing Gap Canoe Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 17812 Lower Gambier Road, Mount Vernon 43050

Kokosing Water Trail Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ Brown Family Environmental Center, 10115 Laymon Road, Gambier 43022

Millwood Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 11640 Bridge Street, Howard 43028

Mohican Water Trail Access (Mohican River)

- ◆ 16606 Hunter Road, Brinkhaven 43006

Pipesville Road Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 12059 Pipesville Road, Howard 43028

Riley Chapel Road Access (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 10300 Riley Chapel Road, Walhonding 43843

Zuck Riparian Preserve (Kokosing River)

- ◆ 28300 Zuck Road, Howard 43028

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

The Knox County Park District is on Facebook. Please visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com> and search for the Knox County Park District. Our page is updated with upcoming events.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our website has a lot of information regarding our park system as well as upcoming events. Please visit www.knoxcountyparks.org or scan the QR code below on your smartphone to access the site..



For additional information requests, contact us at 740-392-7275 or email info@knoxcountyparks.org

