

Bat Nest Park

History of the Park

The Knox County Park District acquired this area comprised of Kokosing River floodplain, cropland and wetlands in June of 2007. The first phase of acquisition included 103 acres. Approximately 1000 sycamore seedlings were planted on the site to begin restoring riparian habitat along the river. Approximately 2.7 acres of wetland habitat, in conjunction with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was restored in late 2007.

With this acquisition, the Park District and its conservation partners protected more than a mile of the Kokosing State Scenic River. The Ramser Arboretum, Ohio Division of Wildlife and Ohio Public Works Commission assisted the Park District with the acquisition of this land, located in Knox and Coshocton counties along State Route 715 and near Bat Nest Road.

In mid-December 2008, nearly 30 acres of Kokosing River floodplain habitat was acquired by the Park District along Riley Chapel Rd. This acquisition was a high priority for the Park District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, since the site included the last privately-held canoe access on the popular Kokosing River Water Trail. With the acquisition, the canoe access is now open to the public. The area lies adjacent to the 103-acre Bat Nest Park, thereby expanding this park to a total of 133 acres. Nearly a quarter-mile of Kokosing River riparian habitat was protected with the acquisition. The Park District was able to acquire the site through funds from the ODNR Divisions of Wildlife and Natural Areas and Preserves and Richard & Arline Landers.

Highlights of the Park

In 2015-2016 a large style bat house was constructed with funds from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park District. This particular project demonstrates the tremendous level of collaborative partnerships and spirit of cooperation the Knox County Park District is extremely fortunate to have. The construction of the bat house was accomplished by Zane State College Students and their instructor who contributed hundreds of hours. Assistance with bat house construction was also provided by Knox County Career Center ROTC students and Knox County's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists.

When occupied by bats (it can take up to 3-5 years for bats to inhabit the structure) the large-style bat house can house thousands of bats.



The site also lies adjacent to Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands and Bald Eagles frequent this stretch of the Kokosing River, as they hunt for food and food for their offspring. The nearest Bald Eagle nest is less than three miles away.

The park is one of (6) that features a geocache on our newly established GeoTrail. Check out our website for details. To access the park, a small gravel parking lot is located at 30500 Walhonding Rd. Danville 43014. The paddle sports access parking lot is located at 10300 Riley Chapel Road.

The Benefits of Bats

Many people have serious misconceptions about bats. Myths that they are carriers of rabies and pests are abundant. The fact is that bats are actually quite harmless and are important indicators of a healthy environment.

With the increased media coverage of deaths caused by the West Nile Virus, many people are looking for effective ways to prevent the spread of the disease. As most of us are aware, the West Nile Virus is primarily spread through mosquitoes. Mosquitoes make up a significant portion of a bat's diet. A small bat can capture more than 1,200 mosquitoes in a single hour! Bats cannot contract the West Nile Virus by eating infected mosquitoes. Besides mosquitoes, bats can help control the populations of beetles, moths, and leafhoppers. Many insects can hear bats up to 100 feet away and will avoid those areas occupied by bats.

An environmentally friendly way to reduce the mosquito population is to install a bat house. Bat house sizes range from holding a dozen or so bats to having enough space for a colony of 500 bats. Most North American bats prefer to live in large groups, called colonies, so a mid-sized house (100-300 bats) is typically recommended. A bat house may be mounted on a tree, pole, or building; however, houses mounted on poles or buildings tend to have a slightly higher occupancy than those mounted on trees. For mounting on buildings, wood or stone buildings are best, and your bat house should be mounted under the eaves with some sun exposure. You should mount your house 15-20 feet above the ground where it will not be exposed to bright lights. Temperature is also a consideration. You should place your bat house where it will receive at least six hours of sunlight.

Park Courtesy

In order to maintain our trails and park systems that reside within the Knox County Park District we must have courtesy of the parks, river accesses, and trails.

- Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are restricted to designated parking areas.
- Littering is prohibited. Trash cans are located at some of our properties for proper disposal, otherwise pack it in, pack it out.
- Removal of plants, animals, minerals, artifacts or other natural features is prohibited.
- Help preserve the solitude of the park by being considerate and quiet.
- Dogs need to be on a leash. Visit our “Bark Park” at Wolf Run Park for your dogs to run off their leash.
- Camping is not permitted.

Improvements to our park systems are made possible, in part, by the passage of the Knox County Park District levies. We thank you for your support to our systems and hope you enjoy all that the Knox County Parks and Trails have to offer outdoor enthusiasts.

For a complete list of events the Park District offers please visit our website at www.knoxcountyparks.org or follow us on Facebook at Knox County Park District or Instagram at [explore_knoxcountyparkdistrict](https://www.instagram.com/explore_knoxcountyparkdistrict). Our mailing address is 117 E. High Street, Suite 224, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050. You may also reach us at 740-392-PARKS (7275).

Explore Our Parks;

***Hellbender Preserve**

23316 Coshocton Road, Howard 43028

***Honey Run Highlands**

10865 Hazel Dell Road, Howard (Lot) 43028
10816 Millersburg Road Howard (#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 River Accesses;

***Big Run Road Access (Kokosing River)**

8921 Big Run Road, Gambier 43022

***Greer Landing Access (Mohican River)**

20389 Brinkhaven Road, Glenmont 44628

***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

Explore Our 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)

Bridge of Dreams 16606 Hunter Road Brinkhaven 43006



Bat Nest Park



Located at
30500 Walhonding Rd.
Danville, OH

Established in 2007