



October 2022



Naturalist Notes

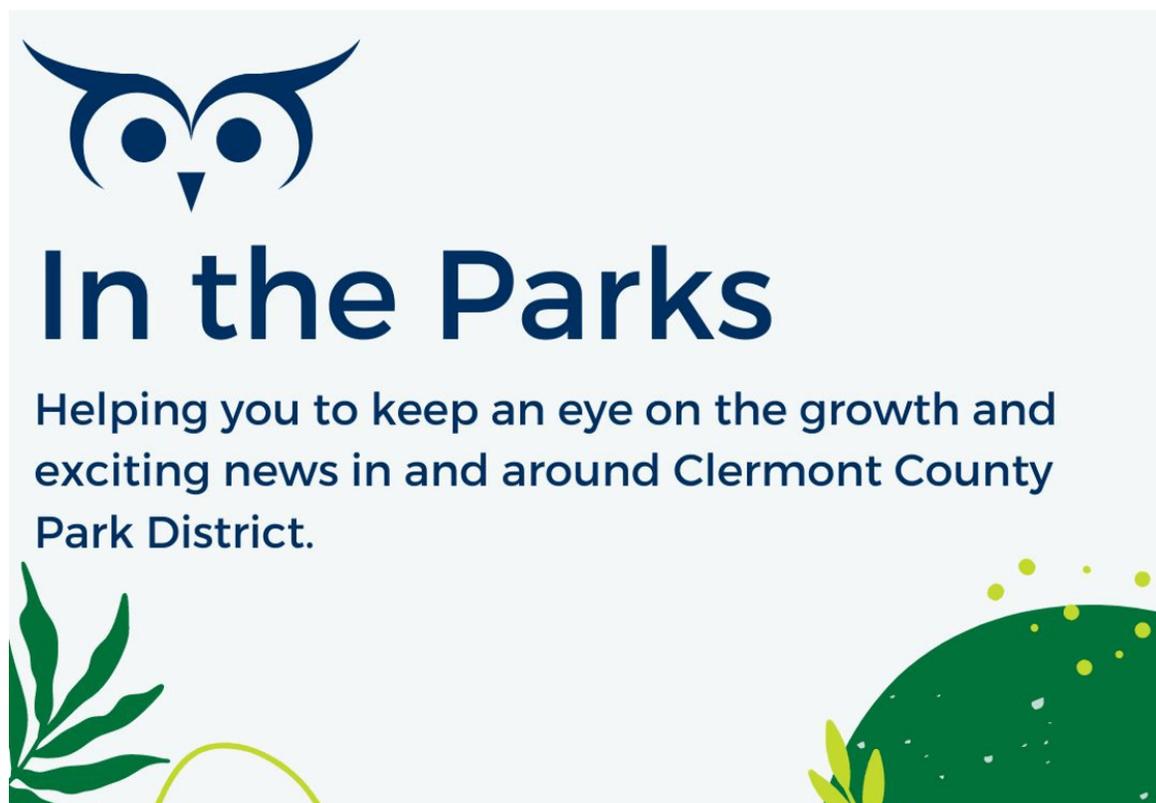
Spooky, Scary, Spotted Lantern-Fly

A truly terrifying specter may be headed our way- the Spotted Lantern-Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*). This insect is native to Southeast Asia, and was accidentally brought to the United States in the early 2010s. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014, and has continued to spread since. Spotted Lantern-Fly does not naturally fly long distances, but it has proved to be a master hitchhiker. Insects will land on clothes and cars and take a free trip to a new place.

What makes Spotted Lantern-Fly a threat? While the insect is not an outright killer of trees, it reproduces in great numbers and can become a nuisance, competing with native insects for resources. It also exposes the host tree to diseases and causes dieback. The adult fly secretes a sugary substance called honeydew, which can encourage the growth of sooty black

mold on the tree. While the mold is harmless to humans, it can cause great damage to plants. The tree that Spotted Lantern-Fly has been seen laying eggs on most often is Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which is another invasive species from the same native region. However, the nymphs have been found feeding on grapevines and hops plants as well.

So how close is it to Clermont County? Spotted Lantern-Fly was seen in Northeast Ohio in 2020, and recently has been seen in Switzerland County in Indiana (just on the other side of Northern Kentucky from us!) and a few counties in Northern and Eastern Ohio. To prevent further spread, scientists recommend thoroughly washing your car and clothes if you have been visiting or hiking in areas that the spotted lanternfly has been seen. If you find a spotted lantern-fly or see an egg mass, take a photo, note the location (coordinates are great!), collect the specimen if possible using a plastic bag and hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol, and report it to Ohio Department of Agriculture by emailing plantpest@agri.ohio.org.



Master Plan Update – Josh Torbeck, Executive Director

Did you know that Clermont County Parks are in the midst of a master planning process? A Master Plan is a guiding document that is based on the input of Clermont County residents and our community stakeholders. This is the first time that we've done a deep dive into a guiding document, and so we're really excited about it! The master plan helps us get funding and grants for projects, creates partnerships and helps us to get targeted feedback from you – our park users! The Master Plan kicked off this year, and we are now in the phase of analyzing the data collected this summer from online, mailed and in-person surveys. Stay up-to-date each month in this newsletter or at clermontparks.org, where you can also submit your ideas by clicking the link on the home page.



Get Involved at Clermont Parks!

Check out ways that you can be a part of the fun at Clermont Park District. Go to clermontparks.org, check the calendar, or email naturalist@clermontcountyohio.gov for more information about the events and programs below! Due to popular demand, we've added one Saturday a month to Nature Play Days this Fall. Join the fun!

Naturalist Programs

Knee-High Naturalist: Bats!

Tuesday Oct. 4 at Sycamore Park

Tuesday Oct. 11 at Shor Park

Get outside and explore nature with your 3-5 year old at our parks. This month's theme is bats! Read a book, make a craft, and have a mini adventure. Dress for the weather! Free, no registration required.

Walk and Talk: Fall Colors

Williamsburg to Batavia Hike Bike Trail

Tuesday October 14, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Regular walking is fun and supports an active outdoor lifestyle, which is great for physical, mental, and emotional health. Join us for a leisurely group walk on a paved trail. You'll connect with nature, meet new friends, and enjoy the outdoors. All ages and fitness levels are encouraged to attend. Free, no registration required.

Nature Play Days

Sycamore Park

October 7, 15, and 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Drop in to these unstructured outdoor play sessions that help kids to make friends, explore, and learn about the world together. Play days are intended to encourage meaningful experiences in nature, which is great for children's health and learning! Ages 3-14. Free, no registration required.

OCTOBER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS						
Business Office: 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday						
River History Museum: 11 am to 4:30 pm Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 10 am Knee-High Naturalist at Sycamore Park	5	6	7 1 pm Nature Play Days at Sycamore Park	8
9	10	11 9:30 am Walk and Talk at the Hike-Bike Trail 10 am Knee-High Naturalist at Shor Park	12	13 12 pm Park Board meeting at Pattison Headquarters	14	15 1 pm Nature Play Days at Sycamore Park
16	17	18	19	20 8:30 am Tree Planting at Kelley Nature Preserve 5:30 pm Volunteer Open House at Hartman Cabin	21 1 pm Nature Play Days at Sycamore Park	22 9 am Make a Difference Day at Shor Park
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 10 am Knee-High Naturalist at Sycamore Park	2	3	4	5

Volunteer at Clermont County!

Give back at Clermont Parks! Join our team as an individual or bring your church, scout, school or corporate group to Clermont Parks for a day of team-building and service. Pre-registration is required for volunteer opportunities. To learn more, visit the Give Back page at clermontparks.org.

October Volunteer Opportunities

Walk and Talk Leader

Sycamore Park
October 11, 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Lead or co-lead walks on paved trails as part of our Walk and Talks at Sycamore Park. As a walk leader, you will be the point person, getting everyone started, counting guests and encouraging conversation. Some hike volunteers may be able to lead themed hikes based on areas of expertise.

Natural Resources Work Day

Pattison Park
October 12, 9 a.m. – noon

Meet staff at Pattison Park Lakeside parking lot and help us to improve Aletheia Trail. We'll be working as a team to cut back branches and remove invasive plants. Wear protective clothing, and be sure to bring your reusable water bottle. Ages 14 and up. Tools provided.

Chilo Lock #34 River Museum Docent

Chilo Lock #34 Park
October 15 and 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

Do you have a passion for history and education? Stationed on the southern end of our parks, this position will help to greet guests, share information about the River Museum, and assist with exhibit development. Volunteers will receive training during initial sessions at the museum.

Kelley Nature Preserve Tree Planting + Trail Day

Kelley Nature Preserve
October 20, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We're planting trees and so much more! In order to replace habitat where a recently demolished home once stood, we will be planting around 30 trees, as well as helping to improve a trail to help reach the area. Work will include trail clearing, invasive removal, and tree planting. Ages 16 and up. Wear protective clothing and bring your reusable water bottle. Tools provided.

Volunteer Open House

Hartman Cabin
October 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Whether you are a Clermont Parks volunteer or are interested in learning more about being involved in the program, join us at the historic Hartman Cabin for a complimentary catered dinner and program. Staff will talk about 2022 accomplishments, and Executive Director Josh Torbeck will give an update on the master plan. Optional historical hike and tour for those wishing to come at 5 p.m. Registration is limited. Must be registered as a park applicant by going to the [Get Involved](#) page at clermontparks.org.

Nature Play Days Volunteer

Sycamore Park
October 21, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Guide children to freely play outdoors like

many of their parents and grandparents did as kids. Volunteers will set-up and plan activities, guide nature exploration, encourage play, and assist with crafts. Training will be provided.

Volunteers will be paired with a staff member.

Natural Resources Work Day

Sycamore Park

October 29, 9 a.m. – noon

Join Clermont Parks and UC Clermont for an invasive knock-out day at Wilson Nature Preserve, adjacent to Sycamore Park. Be sure to wear protective clothing and bring a reusable water bottle. Ages 14 and up. Tools provided.



Parks in the Community

- We joined Gracious Farm at their Botanicals and Herbs Fest and brought some edible natural products for tasting, including pawpaws and beverages sweetened with our own maple syrup. People loved trying out the products of Clermont County!
- Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a pond management clinic at Pattison Park, where one of our naturalists joined Jones Fish Hatcheries to offer informational sessions. Participants learned about pond vegetation and macroinvertebrates, and were able to try out sampling our pond for macroinvertebrates.