



Helping you to keep an eye on
programs, events and news
at Clermont County Park District.



January 2023

It's cold outside, but things are still happening at Clermont County! Check out this this issue of *In the Parks* for upcoming events, construction updates, and tips for spending more time outside in the winter!



Winter Hiking

Winter in Ohio often means cold temperatures, gray skies, and wind. While these may not be the most enticing conditions for going outside, winter hiking has many unique perks!

- Hiking in winter burns more calories! Not only are you exercising, but your body has to work harder to keep you warm. Double the benefits!
- Gray skies, while gloomy, make for great photography lighting! Grab your camera, head out on the trail and look for the little things to photograph! A twig encased in ice or snow-covered leaves can be a beautiful close up. You can even start a photo contest with your family or friends.
- If there's snow, grab a guide to animal tracks and see what you can find! Getting the whole family involved means more eyes for noticing evidence of wildlife. Just remember to listen carefully and watch where you step so that you don't cover animal tracks with your own!
- Winter is a great time to get into birdwatching. Without leaf cover, you can see farther into the treetops, and those cloudy skies make bird colors pop! Check out the [Merlin Bird ID app](#), created by Cornell University, for help with identification. Not only can it identify photos, it can listen to your surroundings and identify birds based on their calls!

If you're looking for ways to get outside this winter, check out our January events [here](#)!



Maple Season

In just a couple of months, maple season will be upon us! Toward the end of the winter, when temperatures drop below freezing overnight and rise to at least 40° during the day, tree sap starts flowing from the roots to the tops of the tree. This is part of trees' process of preparing for spring blooms- the energy contained in the sap helps buds begin forming and growing.

Tree sap is a sugary-water solution that, when boiled down, becomes the delicious syrup that we enjoy every year. It's a long process from tree to bottle, though! Every tree needs to be freshly tapped each year, and the sap must be collected daily to avoid waste. It must then be evaporated down to concentrate

the sugar within into syrup! In March, you can come taste the products of our maple trees at our Pancakes in the Park event! For more information, click [here](#).

JANUARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Business Office: 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday
River History Museum: Closed November through March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Administrative Office Closed for New Years					8:30 am Winter Bird Count at Multiple Parks 1 pm Forest Expedition at Kelley Nature Preserve
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3 pm Critter Feeding at Park District Headquarters		10 am Knee-High Naturalist at Park District Headquarters 4 pm Feathered Friends at Felicity Library	6:30 pm Coyotes in Our Community at Pattison Lodge	12 pm Park Board Meeting 4:30 pm Knee-High Naturalist at Park District Headquarters	1 pm Nature Play Days at Sycamore Park	2 pm Predators and Prey at Bethel Library
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Administrative Office Closed for MLK Day	10 am & 4:30 pm Knee-High Naturalist at Chilo Lock 34 Park 6:30 pm Feathered Friends at Owensville Library		1:30 pm Mysterious Mussels at Union Township Library		9:30 am Maple Season Kickoff and Volunteer Intro at Pattison Lodge
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		6:30 pm Predators and Prey at the Batavia Library				

Winter Bird Count

**Kelley Nature Preserve, Shor Park,
Sycamore Park, Chilo Lock 34 Park**

Saturday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m.

Enjoy fresh air and spend the morning in the field looking for birds, learning about their habitats, and join with others for some fun along the way. Best for adults and children ages 8 and up. Free, email rgreen@clermontcountyohio.gov to reserve your spot.

Forest Expedition

Kelley Nature Preserve

Saturday January 8 at 1 p.m.

Join our naturalists for an easy hike along the Little Miami River to see what's happening in nature! We will meet by the trailhead and head out from there. Make sure to dress for the weather and bring water! Best for adults and children ages 8 and up. Free, no registration required.

Critter Feeding

Park District Headquarters

Sunday January 8 at 3 p.m.

Nature Play Days

Sycamore Park

Friday January 13 from 1 – 3 p.m.

Drop in to these unstructured outdoor play sessions that help kids to make friends, explore, and learn about the world together. We will provide a take home craft and stay active on cold winter days by hiking, playing active games, and sports. Best for ages 3-14. Free, no registration required.

Predators and Prey

Bethel Library

Saturday January 14 at 2 p.m. at Bethel Library

Tuesday January 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Batavia Library

Meet live Ohio animals and learn how they survive. What makes a coyote or owl a good hunter? How do rabbits and mice avoiding being caught? Meet some live Ohio animals, examine animal artifacts, and learn about the feature that help them survive. Best for kids. Free, register at <https://clermontlibrary.libnet.info/event/7236516>.

Stop by to see our cold-blooded critters eat their lunch and learn what local wildlife of doing to survive the snow and cold. Learn the unique stories of our animals and maybe YOU can help feed one of them! Program will be held indoors. All ages. Free, no registration required.

Knee-High Naturalist – Animal Tracks

Park District Headquarters

Tuesday January 10 at 10 a.m.

Thursday January 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Listen to story, have a mini-adventure to look for tracks, and make your own track to take home. Program will be indoors with a short walk outside. Meet in the interpretive office. Designed for ages 3 to 5, all kids welcome. Free, no registration required.

Feathered Friends

Felicity Library

Tuesday January 10, at 4 p.m.

Get acquainted with many of Ohio's common backyard birds with a naturalist from the Clermont County Park District. Learn about the birds in your yard, understand their behaviors, get basic identification skills, learn how to attract them to your yard, and make a simple pine cone bird treat. Best for adults and teens. Free, register at <https://clermontlibrary.libnet.info/event/7250440>.

Coyotes in our Community

Pattison Park Lodge

Wednesday January 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Learn about one of Ohio's most misunderstood mammals, the eastern coyote, at our Evening Lecture Series. If you've never seen a coyote up close, you can check out a taxidermy coyote mount and pelt. Come mingle, share some refreshments and learn! All ages. Free, no registration required.

Knee-High Naturalist – Animal Tracks

Chilo Lock 34 Park

Tuesday January 17 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday January 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Listen to story, have a mini-adventure to look for tracks, and make your own track to take home. Program will be indoors with a short walk outside. Meet in the museum. Designed for ages 3 to 5, all kids welcome. Free, no registration required.

Feathered Friends

Owensville Library

Tuesday January 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Get acquainted with backyard birds. Ever wonder about the birds outside your window? This program will help you get acquainted with many of Ohio's common backyard birds and how to attract them to your yard. Join a Naturalist from the park district and learn basic identification skills, understand bird behaviors, and make a simple pine cone bird treat. All ages. Free, register at <https://clermontlibrary.libnet.info/event/7153474>.

Mysterious Mussels

Union Township Library

Thursday January 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Have you found shells in rivers and lakes of Ohio? Rather than the seashells you might find on the beach, these are mysterious freshwater mussels. Join us for some fun activities to explore these strange critters. Geared to homeschool children. Free, register at <https://clermontlibrary.libnet.info/event/7402415>



Winter Solstice Celebration

It was a festive, fun and chilly celebration at Sycamore Park for our new annual holiday event. The Winter Solstice marks what some have celebrated for centuries as the “rebirth of the sun”, when the days become incrementally longer each day, and the sun re-emerges for longer periods of time. Many view this day, when the sun travels the shortest path across the sky, as one of renewal and restoration. It also marks the official beginning of winter. We sure saw winter arrive in full force in days following the solstice!

At the event, visitors enjoyed hot dogs and s'mores, beer from High Grain Brewery and sweets and hot drinks from Eliza Jane's Bake Shop. They made their own candles, decorated cookies, made holiday swag, learned what happens in the sky during the solstice and enjoyed finding their way through our labyrinth. There was also a magical luminary walk, with a photo stop at one of our huge Sycamore trees and a historical presentation, fire and drinks with Grassy Run Historical Society along the trail. Thanks to all the staff, our amazing park volunteers and community partners from Grassy Run Historical Society, the Kiwanis Club of East Fork Region, Buzzing Enthusiasts 4-H, and the East Fork Full Moon Healing and Family Drum Circle. The event wouldn't be possible without the teamwork and talents of everyone involved. Be sure to hold the date for our next event – Pancakes in the Park on March 4 at Pattison Lodge!

Volunteer Opportunities



Plan a Group Volunteer Project for 2023

Are you interested in bringing your school, corporate or community group to give back at Clermont County Park in 2023? Projects include tree plantings, invasive removals, trail work or light construction projects – such as bridge, bench or picnic table upgrades. Group service projects are a great way to bond while making a difference!



Pattison Park Lodgeside Saturday
January 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Maple Season Kickoff and Volunteer Intro

Join us to kick off our Maple Season! Meet with the naturalists to learn about the basics of tapping and how to be involved as a volunteer while enjoying breakfast treats and maple

lattes. Afterwards we'll head out to the woods to prepare the sugar house and tap our maple trees for the season. Best for adults and children ages 8 and up. Free, email nmarengo@clermontcountyohio.gov to reserve your spot.



Ten Mile Creek Preserve Update

Trails are in place and the former parking lot has been removed at the Ten-Mile Preserve. Construction continues with a newly paved parking lot and a flat rock channel that serves as a pond overflow into Ten-Mile Creek. Clean up work along the trail is still needed, but if the weather cooperates, they will be ready to help you get those New Year's Resolutions off on the right foot!

Clermont County Parks

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