

Department Spotlight: Fairfield County Park District

This month the spotlight is on Fairfield County Park District. To align with its mission statement, the park district works to create publicly accessible opportunities for residents of Fairfield County to spend outdoors and engage in a variety of activities. They work to protect sensitive natural habitats and ecosystems and preserve locally significant historical features through land acquisition and community partnerships.

With the help of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio, the park district has been awarded a grant from the Martens Charitable Trust to develop educational exhibits at Mambourg Nature Center. The H2Ohio statewide water quality initiative grant program has allowed continued work on a major habitat restoration and wetland creation project at Two Glaciers Park.

Over the past few years, steps have been taken to protect and improve Rock Mill, a 200-year-old grist mill. An extensive project involved repairing and securing the foundation and sandstone the mill is perched on. In addition, trail expansions were completed on a newly acquired piece of property at Smeck Park and a connector trail including a play area was installed at Mambourg Park.

Despite all this great work, every project can present challenges. The rising costs of materials, labor, and real estate have a noticeable impact on what can be accomplished compared to the budget. With growth in both population and development, more people mean increased visitation and exposure to the County's parks, but land acquisition becomes more challenging.

To learn more about the Fairfield County Park District or to get involved, please visit <https://fairfieldcountyparks.org/>.



Mission Statement: "...to protect and conserve natural and historical features of Fairfield County and inspire outdoor exploration."