

ELDON RUSSELL PARK is a 132-acre parcel located in Troy Township along the Upper Cuyahoga River, a state-designated Scenic River. It is Geauga Park District's intent to protect this natural area in perpetuity.

HISTORY

Onion Wars: With plans to establish large-scale onion farming, Pace Latham of Burton attempted to deepen and straighten the Cuyahoga River in 1901 to drain the rich muck soil of the surrounding wetlands. Well into the dredging project, it was realized that a natural rock dam downstream at Hiram Rapids would still impede the flow of water. Hired ruffians twice attempted to dynamite the dam but were greeted by local townspeople with shotgun blasts of rocksalt. The onion farming scheme was abandoned and the incident has since become known as the Onion Wars. Eldon Russell Park marks the location where the dredging stopped. Spoil banks along the river remain as a reminder of this boondoggle.



Chagrin Falls-Hiram-Garrettsville Car Interurban Railroad

Interurban Railroad: In 1902, trolley cars on an extension of the Eastern Traction Company Railroad began running from Chagrin Falls to Garrettsville. However, due to inadequate power and the advent of the automobile, this section of trolley line was abandoned in 1914. Within the park, the exit drive and bridge abutments on the river are among the few remnants of this fondly remembered mode of travel.

Park: In 1969, Mrs. Marie Horwath sold 51 acres of riverfront property to Geauga Park District. This provided the first public access to the Upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County.

First known as River Park, the name was later changed to Eldon Russell Park, honoring the park commissioner who was instrumental in furthering the expansion of Geauga Park District in its earlier years. In 1976, 81 additional acres were leased from the City of Akron.

NATURAL HABITATS

In Geauga County the Cuyahoga River flows through an ancient valley filled with glacial deposits. Flat expanses along the river define an old Ice Age lake bed that once occupied the valley. The park's landscape is also characterized by kames -- knolls of sand and gravel formed by melting glaciers -- and kettles -- wet depressions left by the melting of buried blocks of glacial ice.

Forest: Kames support an upland forest of beech, maple, oak, and a majestic stand of native white pine. Deer, turkey, and other woodland wildlife abound here.

Wetlands: Soggy kettle holes harbor a number of rare wetland plants. Swamp forests of elm, ash, silver maple, and swamp white oak thrive on poorly-drained flats along the river.


Cuyahoga River: Many kinds of wetland wildlife may be observed along the river including beaver, muskrat, mink, herons, wood duck, and the rare prothonotary warbler. Beautiful blooms of pickerelweed, cardinal-flower, water-lily, spatterdock, and buttonbush grace the river's edge in summer.

Meadow: A large field at the western edge of the park is managed as grassland. Wildlife that benefit are eastern bluebird, swallows, eastern meadowlark, bobolink, and a wide variety of mammals and insects.



Pickerelweed


FACILITIES

 Horwath's Landing is available to launch a canoe or small boat to enjoy the scenic wilds of the Cuyahoga River beyond the boundaries of the park. A shelter, grills, and restroom provide for pleasant riverside picnicking.





Wood Duck

FISHING

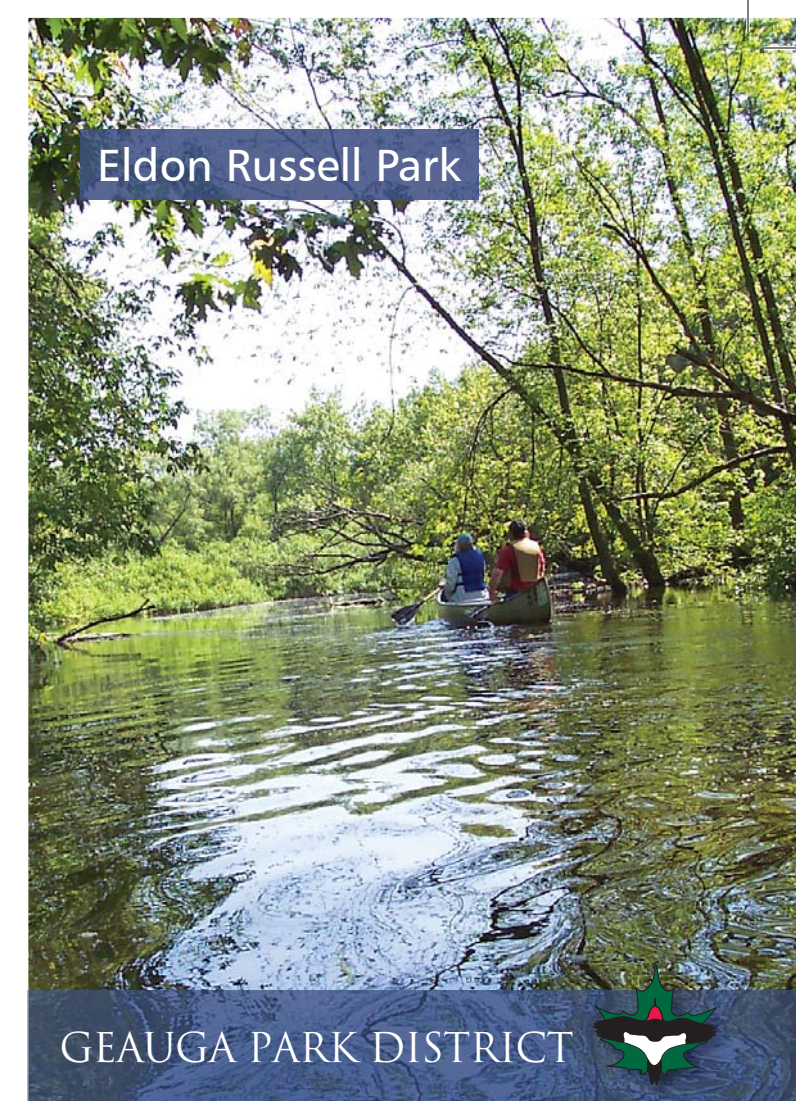
 The Cuyahoga River attracts anglers who come to catch a variety of gamefish including northern pike, bass, and sunfish. Fish may be taken only with rod and reel or cane pole; a current Ohio fishing license is required in accordance with state regulations. Collection of live bait within the park is prohibited. Geauga Park District encourages catch and release.

TRAILS

 Eldon Russell Nature Trail reaches many of the park's natural habitats along its 3/4-mile course. During times of high water, the section along the river may be inaccessible.

 The state-wide Buckeye Trail makes its pass through the county along the roadway bordering Eldon Russell Park.

Eldon Russell Park



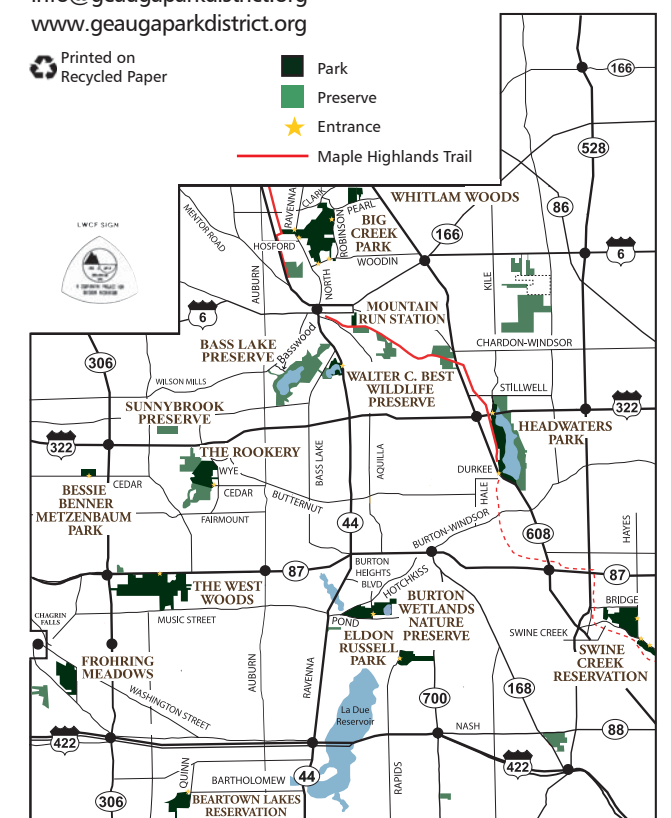
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT



GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

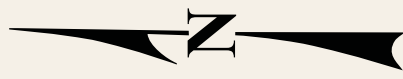
9160 Robinson Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024-9148
(440) 286-9516 or (800) 536-4006 (Gauga toll free)
info@geaugaparkdistrict.org
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Printed on Recycled Paper



Eldon Russell Park - Lat: N 41 25.4775 Long: W 081 9.8450

5M1107



MAP KEY

- ★ Park Entrance
- Meadow/Shrub
- Wetlands
- Woodland

PICNIC AREA

- Horwath's Landing *
 - Reservable

TRAILS

- Eldon Russell Nature Trail
- Buckeye Trail

MILES

- 0.76