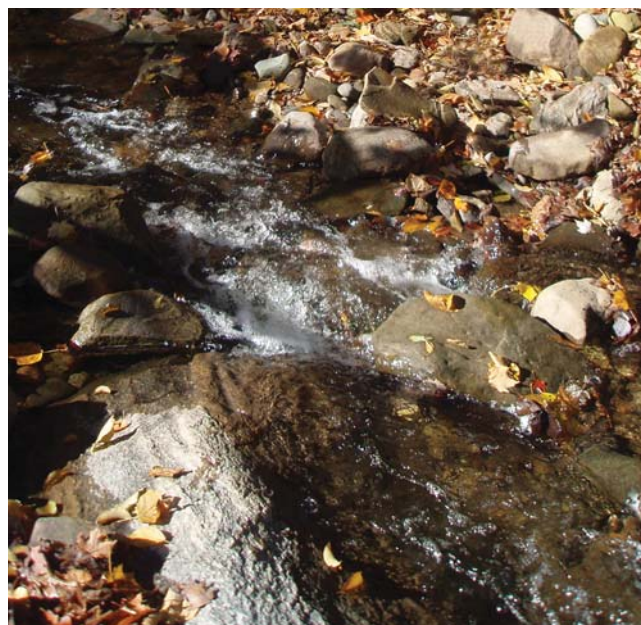


ORCHARD HILLS PARK in Chester Township is a 237-acre park located within the Chagrin River Watershed. It is Geauga Park District's intent to protect this natural area in perpetuity.



NATURAL HABITATS

Habitat restoration is the primary focus of the natural resource management plan for Orchard Hills Park. Funded in part by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency through its Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP), the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund and other public funds, goals for this park are to restore its habitats to conditions as they were prior to being operated as a golf course.

Tributaries to the Chagrin River running through the property have been returned to a natural course, and valuable wetland habitat has been restored.

Forest restoration is taking place by progressive tree plantings on approximately 50 acres.

Already Orchard Hills Park provides habitat for five bird species listed as rare in Ohio: Dark-eyed Junco, Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, Brown Creeper and Canada Warbler.

Other species found here are the rare pale sedge and the Great Lakes Crayfish, which is an indicator of excellent stream water quality.



HISTORY

The property known as Orchard Hills has long been enjoyed by the community because of the commitment of one family. The Pattersons managed the orchard and farm for five generations, and built Orchard Hills Golf Course in 1962.

When Orchard Hills Golf Course ceased operations in January 2007, it was the intent of the family to permanently preserve that portion of their family's land for the public to enjoy. Working with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Geauga Park District, the Pattersons accomplished that goal.

A conservation easement upon the property specifies the land be used as a "passive use public park." The two conservation agencies worked together to fund the purchase of the land, and Geauga Park District took over management.

Visitors can still reap the harvest of the Patterson family farms at the neighboring fruit farm market.

AMENITIES

Orchard Hills Park provides many opportunities for outdoor fun and recreation. The indoor/outdoor lodge, located near the Patterson orchard, provides an excellent venue for group gatherings.

Additional open-air shelters with fireplaces are situated at the base of the sledding hill and near the fishing pond.



Fishing piers around the pond provide ideal spots for anglers to cast their lines.

And in the winter months, an ever-popular sled hill is active when conditions allow, and trails in the park are groomed for cross-country skiing.



TRAILS

The trails in Orchard Hills Park are designed so people of varying abilities can travel long or short distances.

The Sedge and Cricket trails, closest to the lodge, and the Harvest Trail are paved for easy access.

Through the woods, the McIntosh Trail loops the perimeter of the trail network, with connecting links that make it possible for hikers, riders and cross-country skiers to reduce or extend their treks.

The trails total 3.6 miles. Please note the apple orchard is maintained by the Pattersons for their fruit farm, so please do not pick the apples.

Orchard Hills Park



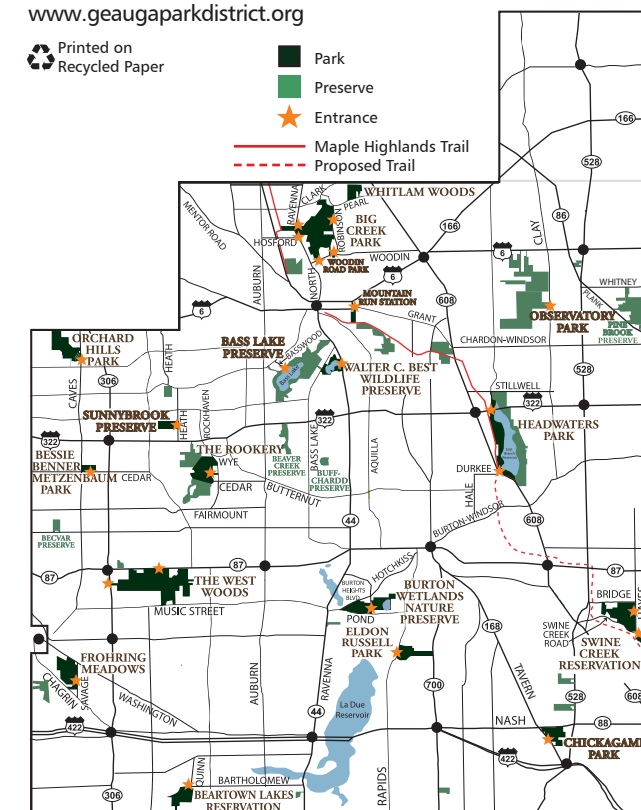
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT












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MAP KEY

-  Park Entrance
-  Woodland
-  Mowed Areas
-  Wetlands
-  Conifer Forest (evergreens)
-  Shrub/Meadow
-  Fishing Platform
-  Sledding Hill
-  Restroom Location



AMENITIES

Orchard Hills Lodge			
Sledding Shelter			
Pond Shelter			

TRAILS						MILES
	Sedge Trail					0.15
	Cricket Trail					0.60
	Harvest Trail					0.75
	White Pine Trail					0.30
	Pine Warbler Trail					0.20
	McIntosh Trail					1.60
	Buckeye Trail					