

History

Ashtabula County Metroparks was established in 1959 under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of conserving Ohio's natural resources and to provide public recreation. In 2014, county voters approved Metroparks first ever park levy which now provides core funding for Ashtabula County Metroparks.

Organization

Board of Park Commissioners
Ashtabula County Metroparks is governed by a board of five Park Commissioners appointed from the community by the Ashtabula County Probate Court Judge and serve without pay for three year terms. Monthly meetings of the Commissioners are open to the public and input is welcome.

Staff

A fulltime staff of three led by an Executive Director manages the day to day operations of Ashtabula County Metroparks. Staff guide and assist the Board of Park Commissioners, develop a countywide park system, oversee development of ongoing and new projects, and secure supplemental funding from federal, state and local sources for new initiatives.

Advisory Council

Ashtabula County Metroparks has an advisory council which provides suggestions, advice and ideas to both staff and the Board of Park Commissioners. There are also working groups organizing programming, developing trails and funding initiatives.

Mission

To preserve adequate open space, to provide park and (passive) recreational areas to meet our growing needs, to maintain examples of the natural beauty and rural character of our county, to enhance our natural resources, educate about our natural surroundings, promote a pleasant and health-giving environment for the people of Ashtabula County.



Parks for Future Development

Turkey Creek Metropark - 602 acres, Conneaut

This largely inaccessible by Ohio road protected property forms the easternmost section of Lake Erie shoreline. Turkey Creek is now a Metroparks preserve with 225 acres of wooded wetlands, rare species of plants and wildlife with 3 miles of Turkey Creek, an outstanding trout fishing stream.

Upper Grand River Metropark - 135 acres, 3199 Cork Cold Springs Rd., Austinburg Twp.

This former youth and religious camp will be transformed into a wildlife and river sanctuary in a bend in the Grand River between the Morgan Swamp Preserve and Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark. This conservation easement protected park encompasses 3/4 mile of Grand River frontage, soaring forests, wetlands, unusual wildflowers and wildlife habitat that will be replete with shelters and meeting space, boat launch, and future trails.

Battles Road Metropark - 5 acres, Plymouth Twp.

This small rural park contains a large fishing pond for future development.

Pymatuning Valley Greenway - 177 acres

This former rail line is slated for future rail to trail development that will eventually connect Jefferson with Pymatuning State Park in SE Ashtabula County. Metroparks will develop this Greenway multi-use trail in phases to facilitate project progress.

Grand Lakes Nature Preserve - 60 acres

This long term project protects Grand Lakes, a former private development, for wildlife habitat and future park consideration.

Ashtabula County Metroparks

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County
Metroparks**



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Parks currently open to the public

1 Western Reserve Greenway

This beautiful 27.5 mile long, 340 acre paved trail is the longest link in the proposed 110 mile Great Ohio Lake to River Greenway. The completely handicapped accessible Western Reserve Greenway is open for cycling, hiking, rollerblading, cross country, running, wildlife viewing, skiing, and snowmobiling. Phase II construction called the North Shore Trail will extend the trail 4.2 miles more to Ashtabula Harbor and Lake Erie. A map of the trail is available at www.ashtabulametroparks.com.

2 Harpersfield Covered Bridge Metropark 53 acres, 1101 Harpersfield Rd.

This beautiful park features the historic Harpersfield Covered Bridge, open to traffic and pedestrians. Steep bluffs, a waterfall, a streamside forest and picnic areas provide a spectacular backdrop for one of Ashtabula County's most popular parks. Access to the Grand River is available for boating and fishing. Amenities include covered bridge walks and overlooks, pavilions, restrooms, a play area and gift shop. This picturesque 53 acre park is located on Harpersfield Rd. south of SR 307 near SR 534.

3 Graham Road Benson Family Covered Bridge Metropark .29 acres, 4646 Graham Rd., Pierpont Twp.

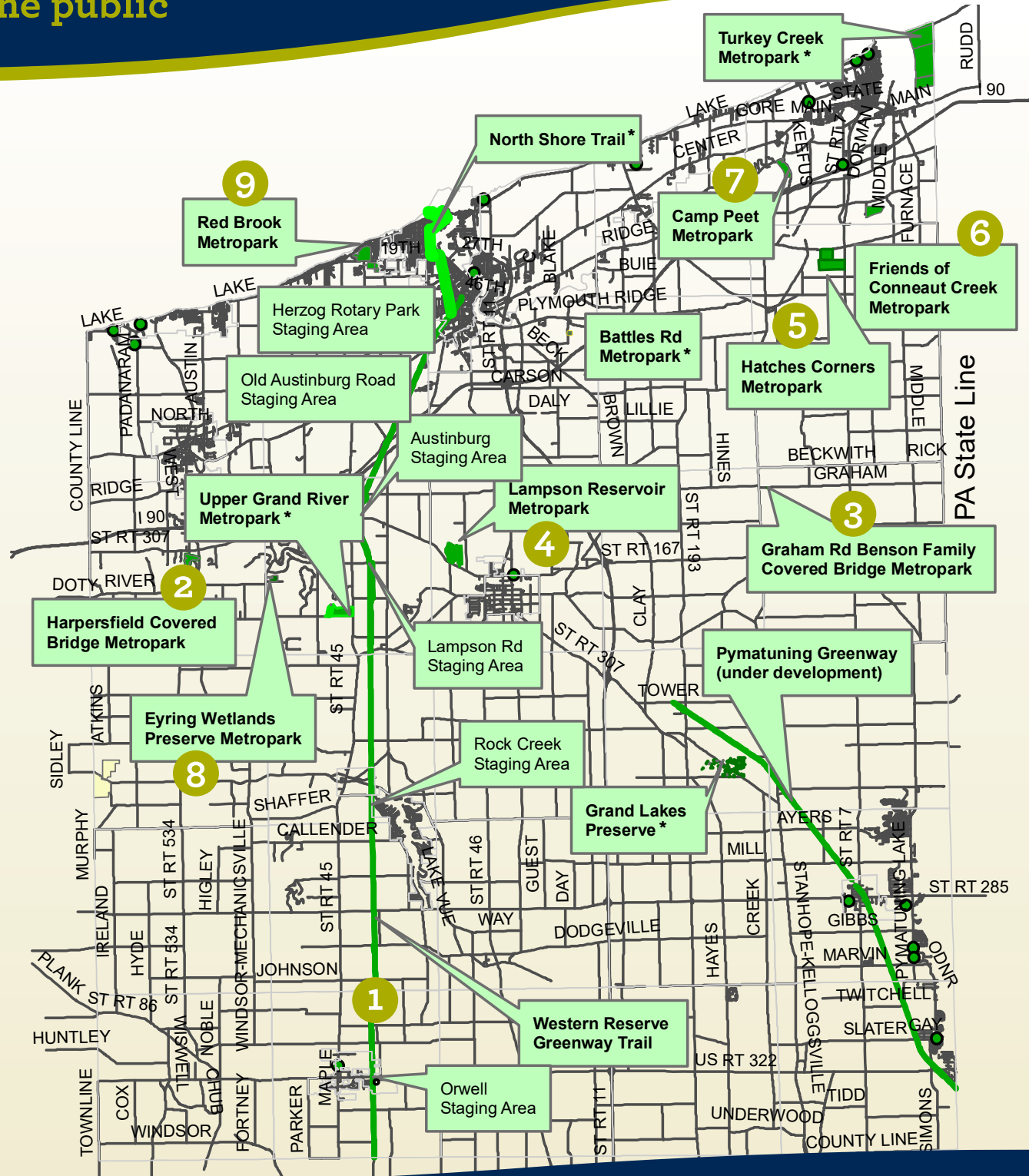
This bridge was a casualty of the 1913 flood, but it was reconstructed and now located on donated property in Pierpont Township. The bridge is open to pedestrian visitors and may be reserved for small picnics, weddings and family reunions.

4 Lampson Reservoir Metropark 162 acres, 1259 Rt. 307, Jefferson Twp.

This former municipal reservoir is now a wetland and woodland haven for waterfowl, birds and native plants along pristine Mill Creek. Enjoy fishing, birding, hiking and nature walks along 2 miles of primitive trails.

5 Hatches Corners Metropark 202 acres, 5467 Rt. 7, Monroe Twp.

This large and diverse park offers a tributary to Conneaut Creek, headwater streams, successional and wet forests, wetlands, meadows, recovering fields and 3 miles of primitive equine and hiking trails with a parking area that can accommodate horse trailers.



6 Friends of Conneaut Creek Metropark 79 acres, 27 Blakeslee Rd., Conneaut

3000' of frontage on a gorgeous stretch of Conneaut Creek just off South Ridge Rd. near Rte. 7 offers stunning views, upland meadows, butterfly garden and pristine forests with a primitive trail, and future fishing and stream access along the creek. The upper paved, accessible trail will be completed in fall of 2017.

7 Camp Peet Metropark 68 acres, 415 Creek Rd., Conneaut

The former youth group camp preserved by Clara D. Peet is now a Metropark with a mile of Conneaut Creek access, 1.5 miles of hiking trails, a pavilion and picnic area. Organized program groups can reserve overnight camping to enjoy spectacular bluffs, wildflowers, towering trees and pristine forests along with vernal pools, seeps and scenic views which include the adjacent Creek Road covered Bridge.

8 Eyring Wetlands Metropark - 55 acres, 906 Windsor Mechanicsville Rd., Austinburg Twp.

This newly expanded park features constructed wetlands and varied wetland habitats with wildflowers, plentiful bird and waterfowl species and hiking trails around and among the multiple shallow ponds and seeps. A new parking lot and signage will provide easier public access for opening this metropark to the general public in late 2017.

9 Red Brook Metropark 126 Acres, Lake Rd., Saybrook Twp.

This former country club and golf course is a work in progress now expected to be Ashtabula County Metroparks' newest park. This park has three miles of paved trails, beautiful forests, meadows and floodplain protecting two miles of Red Brook Creek. As a public park and nature preserve; just steps away from Lake Erie. Red Brook will have a sledding hill, a favorite running and walking route, and will be a haven for fishing, neighborhood picnics, and birding hikes. Winter sports will also include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snow biking. Opening late 2017.

*For future development

