

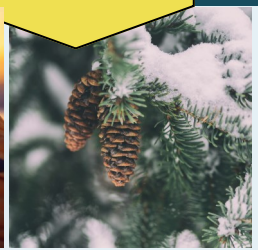
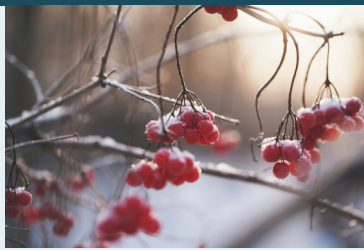


# Licking Park District

Newsletter & Program Guide



February  
2024



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## New All-Terrain Wheelchairs Coming for those with Physical Challenges

At its Jan. 17, 2024 meeting, the Licking Park District's Board of Park Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of two (2) all-terrain wheelchairs (valued at approx. \$10,000). Persons with lower body challenges will soon be able to reserve (at no-cost) hiking chairs at the Licking Park District Office and then head out to some trails. **The Licking Park District will be the first public parks and recreation agency in Ohio to have the all-terrain chairs available to the public.**

The GRIT Freedom Chair (Spartan) is an off-road wheelchair designed for teens & adults. It was originally built for competitive obstacle course racing and is ready for just about anything. The chair is equipped with levers that make the chair easier to push. The chair has a tubular steel frame, wide tires, a responsive drivetrain, a reinforced seatpan and fork, adjustable trail handles with mountain bike grips for comfortable push assist, quick-release rear wheels, seat back and footrest, and a thick foam cushion for optimal support and comfort. The chair also has an easy pull-back brake system and adjustable parking brakes. The unit disassembles and can fit into just about any vehicle. The chair can accommodate persons up to 250 lbs.

The GRIT Junior is the world's first all-terrain kids wheelchair. Kids (up to 200 lbs.) will also be able to go off-road on hikes with their friends and family members. Riders will be able to self-propel when using the lever driven drivetrain. Riders can also get a push when needed as the chair has push bars.



GRIT Junior

Over time, the Licking Park District would like to have a fleet of hiking chairs so more persons with disabilities can be served and better experience the outdoors and nature. **If you (or your business) would like to donate funds to the Licking Park District for this life changing initiative in Licking County, OH, please contact Kyle Lund (Director) at 740-753-5538.**

We encourage you to visit [www.gogrit.us](http://www.gogrit.us) to learn more about the GRIT Freedom Chair. Be sure to check out some of the goose bump-enhancing testimonials. Stay tuned for more info.



## How do I register for a program?

Some of our programs do require pre-registration. To register, visit [www.LickingParkDistrict.com](http://www.LickingParkDistrict.com). Click on the CALENDAR page. Locate the program you are interested in and click on it. "CLICK HERE TO REGISTER" will appear under the program's description. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call 740-587-2535.

## LPD Assists with Paving Projects at Wildwood & Raccoon Valley Parks

The Granville Recreation District, on behalf of the Village of Granville, Granville Twp. & Union Twp., recently submitted a Government Partnership Funding Grant Application to the Licking Park District for consideration. The Granville Park District identified both parks as needing paved parking and driving areas. The LPD Board approved the request totaling \$10,834.14.

## Mark Your Calendar Now!

Spring begins on Tuesday, March 19, 2024

## Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

The Licking Park District has plenty of ways that you can be a part of improving our parks, trails, programs & special events. To learn more, please visit [www.LickingParkDistrict.com/volunteer](http://www.LickingParkDistrict.com/volunteer) or contact Karen Jennings (Trail & Volunteer Program Manager) at 740-587-2535.

**"Act as if what you do makes a difference... IT DOES!" - William James**

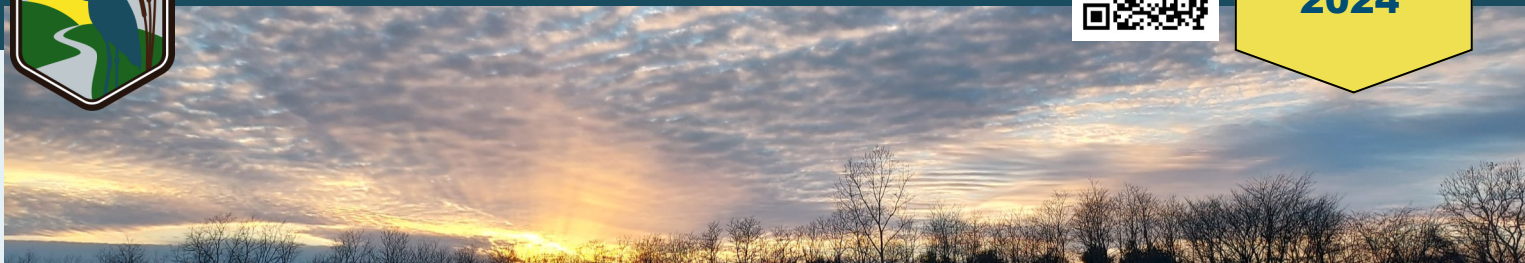




# Licking Park District



**February  
2024**



## Yoga at the Park

**When: Wednesdays, Feb 7 & 28 @ 6:00 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Cost: Free. This yoga class will be accessible to all people, regardless of age or yoga experience. This class is good for beginners and seasoned yoga practitioners alike for an overall body stretch. You will build strength, flexibility, awareness & confidence. Bring your own yoga mat or a towel for class. All ages welcome. Please check before class in case of cancellation.



## Wild Storytime

**When: Thursday, Feb 1 @ 10:00 AM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

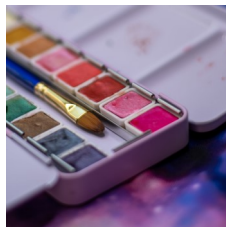
Cost: Free. Join us for a story, snack, and activities. The program lasts about an hour. Dress for the weather as we will take a short walk. For ages 3 - 6.

## Art in the Parks - Winter Watercolor Part 2

**When: Thursday, Feb 1 @ 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Fee: \$20. Whether you've never touched paint before or have some experience with watercolors, in this workshop you will learn a range of brush strokes that will have you painting beautiful winter scenes in no time. We will cover some foundational techniques and by the end of class you will have two watercolor notecards! No experience needed. All supplies provided. If you already have supplies on hand you can bring your own. Ages 15+. Register by Jan 26.



## Paint the Parks - Couples Date Night

**When: Thursday, Feb 15 @ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Fee: \$45. Come explore your creative side and try something new with your significant other this Valentine's Day! The instructor will lead you step by step through the painting. Supplies and light hors d'oeuvres provided. BYOB/W. Register by Feb 10.

## Basic Physical Defense for Women

**Coming in mid to late February. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more details.**

The Licking Park District has teamed up with the Newark Police Dept. to teach women realistic self-defense tactics. The acronym R.A.D. is short for Rape Aggression Defense. This is a women only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction & avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. R.A.D. is not a martial arts program. The Newark Police Dept.'s course is taught by nationally certified instructors. The R.A.D. system is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts & techniques against various types of assault by utilizing easy, effective & proven self-defense tactics. Please dress for comfort & exercise. This is a hands-on class. Please bring lunch & water bottle. Ladies must be a minimum of 18 years old to take the class, or 16 years of age if accompanied by a parent. Class is limited to first 15 registrants.



## East Central Ohio Beekeepers Assn. 2023 Beekeeping School

**When: Choose From Three Dates in February**

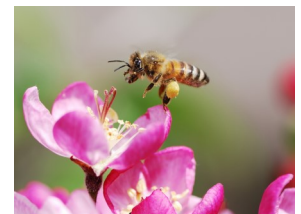
**Saturday, February 3**

**Sunday, February 4**

**Saturday, February 10**

**Where: TR-S**

Learn to get started with bees, practical beekeeping, pest management, wintering your bees and so much more! Instructors are experienced beekeepers with a passion for teaching. For information on price, class details and to register, visit <https://e-coba.org>



### Location Key:

**IMP** - Infirmary Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd, Granville  
**James Bradley Center** is first building on left @ IMP

**TR-S** - 10383 Fairview Rd, Heath, Ohio





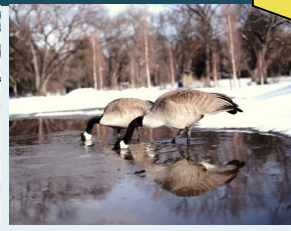
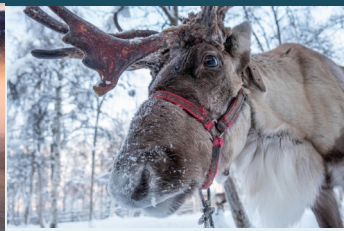


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## Nature Playscape... rolling into Phase 4

Just when you thought the Nature Playscape at Infirmity Mound Park was done, we've made plans for even more. Tentative plans are to add an elevated treehouse (large enough to hold a small class), a wooden footbridge at the stream and an adventure course in the woods. Other amenities are also being considered, but we have to leave something for a surprise. Urban Wild hopes to start construction in February. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the project will be completed by mid-May.

The Nature Playscape currently consists of a hill-side play area for younger children, a giant sand box with shade panels, a Willow Hut, 2 non-traditional fast slides, a build-area and a climb-area. Not seen it yet? Come out to Infirmity Mound Park on a sunny day and take it all in. Your kids may even thank you for it.

## Ohio Canal Greenway Trail Paving

Another little teaser... the Licking Park District just signed a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for trail improvements. If all goes as planned, the trail will be paved in the summer of 2024.

## New Board Member

Judge Deborah Lang (Licking County Probate Court) recently appointed Jeremy King to the Licking Park District Board of Park Commissioners. Mr. King is the Director of Sustainability & Campus Improvement at Denison University. He is an alumni of Denison graduating with Biology & Education degrees in 1997. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources from the Ohio State University. He also serves on the boards of both the Licking Land Trust and the Newark Canal Market District and is the Granville School District's representative on the Granville Planning Commission.



Jeremy is a native of Granville and he returned to his hometown in 2009 where he lives with his wife Susan and their son J.B.

The next meeting of the Licking Park District Board of Park Commissioners is Wed., Feb. 21 (6:00 PM) at the James Bradley Center.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on Dr. Stephen Parsons. Dr. Stephen has been an active volunteer for Licking Park District since 2019, logging over 250 volunteer service hours. We wanted to recognize Dr. Stephen's amazing service as he is retiring out of state. Dr. Stephen volunteered for almost everything we've got, including trail monitoring and maintenance, events, programs, and conservation projects. I've had the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Parsons many times over the years. His clever wit, unwavering physical energy that just doesn't quit, authentic insight, and kind consideration of others made him irresistibly likable from day one. We are so grateful to Dr. Stephen and wish him the very best in everything that lies ahead. - Karen Jennings, *Trail & Volunteer Program Manager*

Q: What motivated you to become a Licking Park District volunteer?

A: I volunteered to give back!

Q: What do you like most about volunteering with the LPD?

A: I liked the sweaty, dirty, poison-ivy-infested trail clearing! I'd love to see new trails created anywhere they could be made.

Q: What is your favorite LPD park or trail?

A: My favorite park is Lobdell Reserve.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone considering volunteering?

A: *Do it! You won't regret it.*



**Parks & Recreation...  
THE BENEFITS ARE ENDLESS!**

