



The Hancock Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that supports the Hancock Park District's programs, parks, and recreational facilities. To learn more and to make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.HancockParks.com or call (419) 425-7275.



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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.HancockParks.com

Zonta Landing Boat Rentals

Riverside Park Waterfront, Boat House

231 McManness Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840

Phone: (419) 423-1902

(during hours of operation only)

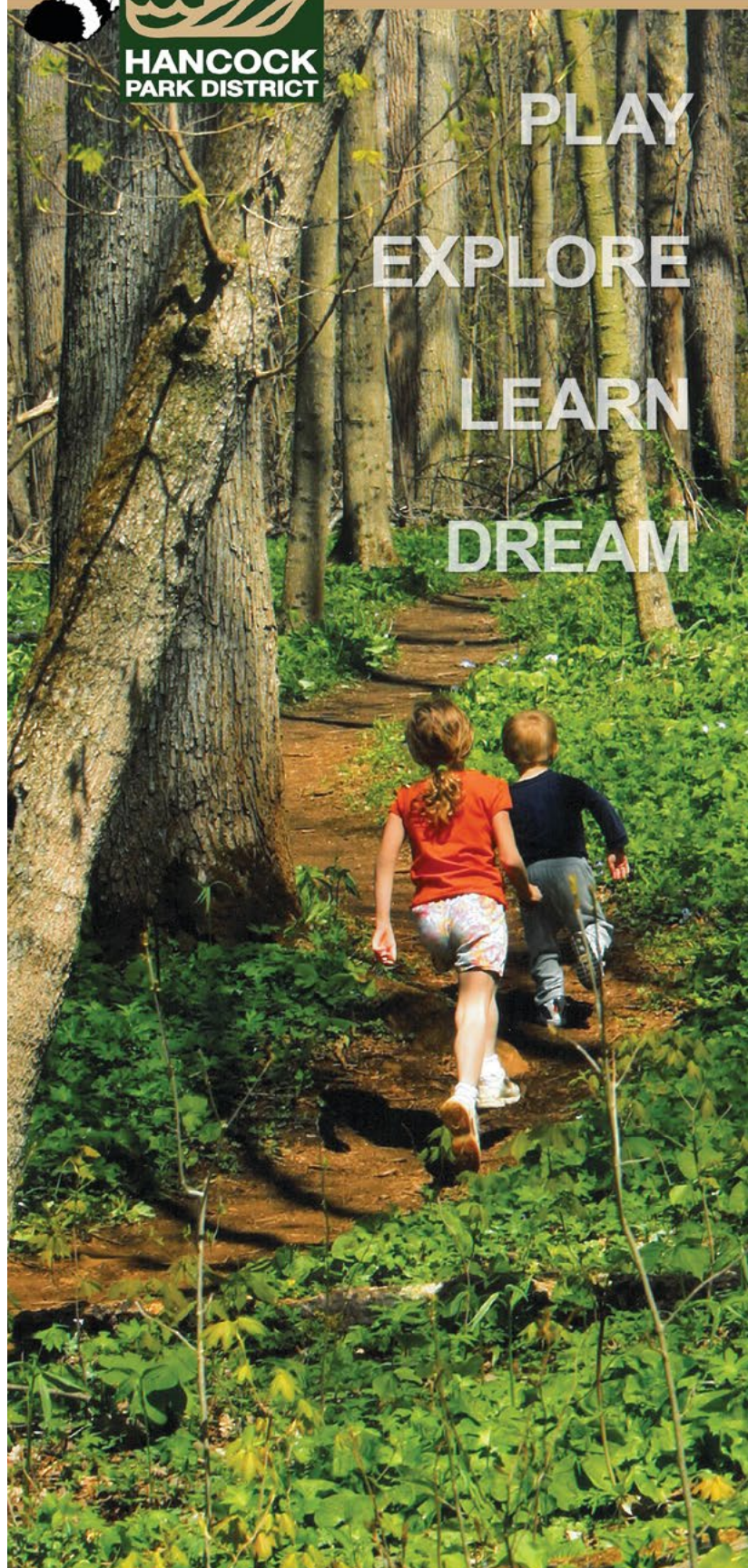


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Visitor Guide

PLAY
EXPLORE
LEARN
DREAM



Adventures Await

Educational Programming

Year-round public programming is provided by professional Hancock Park District (HPD) staff and trained volunteers and can also be requested by your group/organization. Check out the Seasonal Program & Event Guide and online calendar at www.HancockParks.com.

Seasonal Attractions

A variety of outdoor, seasonal attractions can make your adventures more enjoyable. Call the HPD Administrative Office for details or visit www.HancockParks.com.

- **Boat Rentals:** Canoe, kayak and pedal boat rentals are available at Zonta Landing located along Riverside Park Waterfront. Open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, weekends and holidays, 1 to 7 p.m.
 - **Fall Color Hayrides:** Tractor-drawn hayrides at Riverbend Recreation Area, for groups of 25 or less, are available mid-September through early November with advance reservation.
 - **Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing:** Enjoy the winter season with cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Equipment can be rented at Raccoon Run Winter Sports Center, located at Riverbend Recreation Area. The center operates during good weather and snow conditions, weekends and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Group outings can be arranged, for times other than public openings.
- ## Recreational Opportunities
- **Trails:** Hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing trails are located throughout the Hancock Park System.
 - **Bike Route:** Cycling routes in Findlay and Hancock County have been designated along roads throughout Hancock County.
 - **Camping:** A primitive campground area is located within Riverbend Recreation Area for tent camping only. The area is equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, pit-type latrines, trash containers and waste water drains. Permits, with fees, must be completed prior to arrival.
 - **Playgrounds:** Creative playground structures are located throughout the Hancock Park System for kids of all ages to enjoy.
 - **Fishing:** Loaner poles are available upon request through the HPD Administrative Office. State fishing rules and regulations apply to all users. Public fishing access is located at various Blanchard River access points, Riverbend Recreation Area and Oakwoods Nature Preserve.
 - **Disc Golf:** An 18-hole disc golf course is available at Riverbend Recreation Area. The trailhead begins near Shelter #3 in the Big Oaks Activity Area. Public programs on instruction and tournaments are held throughout the year for all levels of experience.



Hancock Park District Administrative Office

1424 East Main Cross Street, Findlay

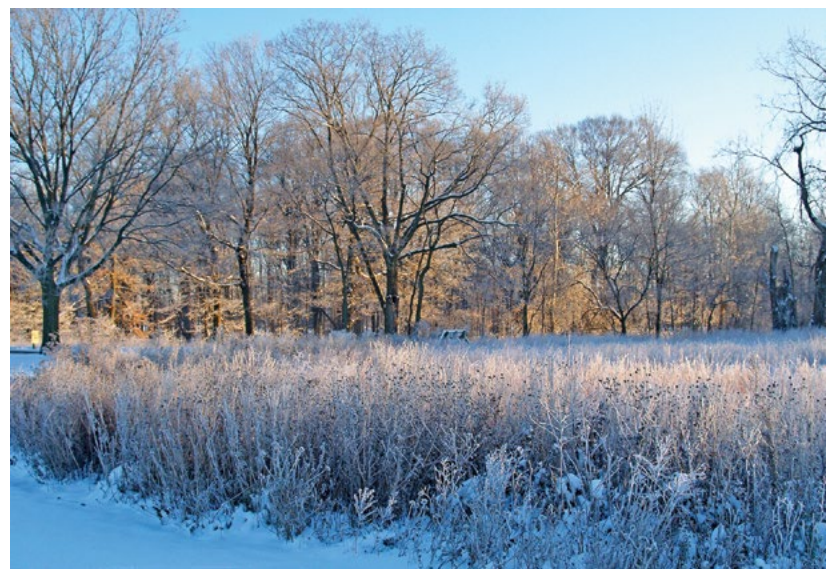
The Hancock Park District (HPD) Administrative Office serve as the headquarters for park district operations. The renovated farmhouse at the end of the lane is your destination for in-person facility reservations, program registrations, and meetings with staff.

The grounds are fronted by a meadow management demonstration area and bordered by the Blanchard River. Wildlife sightings are common.

Information about programs, parks, and services is available inside during business hours and on display 24/7 at the outdoor visitor center. The tranquil setting is ideal for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.



Trilliums and other native Ohio plants line the walkway at the HPD Administrative Office.





Aeraland Recreation Area

1141 T.R. 243, Fostoria

Aeraland Recreation Area is a rural county park in a quiet country setting. The scenic South Branch Portage River flows through the 74.8 acres. Visitors may picnic, hike and birdwatch in relative isolation and solitude.

The parkland was originally created in 1981 as a private recreational area for the employees, families and guests, and retirees of Fostoria's Atlas Crankshaft Corporation. After the Fostoria plant closed in 1999, the property was donated to the Washington Township trustees who oversaw maintenance until the area was given to the Hancock Park District in 2012.

Aeraland Recreation Area's passive nature is balanced by the Arcadia Soccer Club's use of several acres for youth soccer.



Aeraland Recreation Area's Highline Trail offers the perfect hike for spotting wildflowers, including *Erigeron bulbosa*—commonly known as 'Harbinger-of-Spring' or 'Pepper and Salt'.



The footbridge at Aeraland Recreation Area affords a bird's-eye view of the scenic South Branch Portage River.

Features:

- **Picnic shelter**
- **South Branch Portage River**
- **Highline Trail**
- **Upland Trail**
- **Goose Lake**
- **Restroom**
- **Parking**
- **Soccer fields**



Riverbend Recreation Area

16618 T.R. 208, Findlay

Riverbend Recreation Area was the Hancock Park District's first park, which opened in 1976 for America's Bicentennial celebration. Once a Native American camp along the "big bend" of the Blanchard, the 129-acre park remains a unique habitat for wildlife.

Visitors can birdwatch and take photographs as they enjoy a wide range of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences. Ample open space is available for yard games. A multi-use loop trail and nature trails weave through clearings and tree canopy—perfect for quiet dreaming and restful solitude for every season.

Fall Color Hayrides

Up to 25 people at a time can enjoy an autumn adventure on the back of our wagon. Tractor-drawn hayrides are available mid-September to early November, weather permitting, and are scheduled on a first come, first served basis with a \$60 advance registration and payment.



Riding in a tractor-drawn wagon through brilliant autumn colors is a unique way to experience Riverbend Recreation Area.

Features:

- **Riverbend Maintenance Facility**
- **Brugeman Lodge**
- **Gazebo**
- **Lakefront Activity Center**
- **Picnic shelters**
- **Raccoon Run Winter Sports Center**
- **Giertz Lake with two fishing piers**
- **Primitive campground**
- **K-9 Field of Dreams Dog Park**
- **Sand volleyball courts**
- **18-hole disc golf course**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Robert G. Payne Arboretum**
- **Multi-use loop trail**
- **Nature trails**
- **Bridle trail**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Water Trail**
- **Restrooms**
- **Parking**



Litzenberg Memorial Woods

6100 U.S. Route 224 West, Findlay

Litzenberg Memorial Woods contains 227.7 acres on the north side and south side of U.S. Route 224 West. Land is characterized by rolling countryside, wooded ravines, and a grand expanse of wetlands, prairie, and sky. It blends the area's rich agricultural heritage with conservation and wildlife, education and history, hiking and exploration, picnicking and play, and social gatherings and special events to create a unique destination.

The park area was originally settled by early Hancock County pioneers Charles and Mary McKinnis who arrived in 1822 from Chillicothe, Ohio. The 1847 McKinnis House, period garden, and nearby structures make up the Litzenberg Memorial Woods homestead area. Living history programs are conducted throughout the year, with costumed interpreters portraying McKinnis family members and neighbors.



Visitors to the McKinnis House at Litzenberg Memorial Woods can witness living history c. 1847, from woodstove cooking to the herb garden.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods South Unit

This section of Litzenberg Memorial Woods is located on the south side of U.S. Route 224 West. The area includes natural hiking and bridle trails in the midst of woods, wetlands, and prairie, and serves as the western terminus of the 20-mile Heritage Trail.



Fire pinks and other native blooms thrive along the Heritage Trail.

Features:

- **1847 McKinnis House**
- **19th century garden**
- **Activity Barn**
- **Picnic shelter**
- **Playground**
- **Multi-use trail**
- **Nature trails**
- **Bridle trail**
- **Heritage Trail**
- **Restrooms**
- **Parking**



Blanchard River Nature Preserve

22006 C.R. 17, Forest

With a strong emphasis on environmental preservation, visitation is limited to hiking, birdwatching, and landscape and wildlife photography along a quiet walkway to the river's edge, and boating and fishing via a primitive river access site.



Blanchard River Nature Preserve is managed to preserve its flora, fauna, and natural features.

Blanchard River Nature Preserve provides a quiet country setting and scenic start for the 37.6-mile Blanchard River Water Trail during rare times when there is enough water for canoes and kayaks to navigate the river.

Features:

- **Unimproved parking lot**
- **Seasonal restroom**
- **Quiet walkway**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Water Trail**



Blue Rock Nature Preserve

Edgar Street and Bank Street, Findlay

Blue Rock is not just a name, but a descriptive reflection of its history. In the early 1900s, heavy, bluish clay known as "blue rock" was stripped from the area to make clay targets by the Remington Arms Company.

The 11.3-acre Blue Rock Nature Preserve is now a showcase of natural succession serving as a neighborhood park and oasis and offering an escape from the hustle and bustle of life. Visitors enjoy the small wetland and woods and their inhabitants, hiking and birdwatching along the .3-mile Lady Bug Loop Trail, and perhaps a bench and a book.



The vernal pools at Blue Rock Nature Preserve are an important spawning ground for amphibians.

Features:

- **Lady Bug Loop Trail**
- **Multi-use Trail**
- **Bench**
- **Parking**



Oakwoods Nature Preserve

1400 Oakwoods Lane, Findlay

Oakwoods Nature Preserve is a 227.5-acre outdoor complex that contains diverse habitat, nature trails, and two lakes—all anchored by the Richard S. “Doc” Phillips Discovery Center. Wetlands, woodlands, and prairie create a place for discovery and form a natural attraction full of seasonal beauty that supports wildlife, environmental education, and nature-based outdoor recreation.

Features:

- **Richard S. “Doc” Phillips Discovery Center**
- **Picnic shelter and fireplace**
- **Boat launch, fishing pier, and observation area at Shank Lake**
- **Fishing pier and observation area at Dold Lake**
- **Picnicking areas**
- **Multi-use trail**
- **Nature trails**
- **Agricultural areas for lease**
- **Restrooms**
- **Parking**



The Richard S. “Doc” Phillips Discovery Center at Oakwoods Nature Preserve is active all year-round, with indoor and outdoor programs like this summer camp for young naturalists.



The Discovery Center's wildlife viewing area is a birdwatching destination.



Conservation Areas

Public input suggests that the majority of people in Hancock County value undeveloped conservation areas that provide habitat for songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife while beautifying the area. The Hancock Park District manages six conservation areas that were created to protect water quality, expand wildlife habitat, and provide natural beauty. Support facilities, such as trails, developed parking lots, and restrooms are not available.

Bright, Lehman and Riverbend Conservation Areas

Collectively, 29.4-acre Bright Conservation Area at 10184 Township Road 244, 7.1-acre Lehman Conservation Area at 16428 Township Road 208, and 54.2-acre Riverbend Conservation Area west of the intersection between Township Road 207 and Township Road 244 along with Riverbend Recreation Area form an impressive 220-acre outdoor complex along the banks of the Blanchard River.



Hancock Park District's conservation areas are home to prairie roses and other native pollinator plants.

Indian Green–Worden Family Conservation Area

U.S. Route 224 West, Findlay

In addition to preserving the natural area along the Blanchard River and expanding wildlife habitat, 27.3-acre Indian Green–Worden Family Conservation Area was created to afford access to a rare natural section of the Heritage Trail shared by the south unit of Litzenberg Memorial Woods.

Lawrence Conservation Area

Intersection of S.R. 568 and T.R. 236, Findlay

Linear in shape and tucked away at least in part along the Blanchard River, 16.1-acre Lawrence Conservation Area is extremely high profile given its location south of S.R. 568. It reminds the passerby about the value of natural areas with their calming effect, softening of the urban landscape, and support for local wildlife.

Vogelsong Conservation Area

West of T.R.236 and the S.R. 568 Bridge, Findlay

Located north of S.R. 568, 23.6-acre Vogelsong Conservation Area consists of woods and prairie and helps create a conservation corridor with its connection to Lawrence Conservation Area via the Blanchard River.



Riverside Park Waterfront

McManness Avenue, north of East Main Cross Street, Findlay

Riverside Park Waterfront is 7 acres in size and owned by the City of Findlay, but managed by the Hancock Park District. It is a historic and popular destination for walking and picnicking within an environment intermingled with the sounds of urban life and nature. Riverside Park Waterfront remains the crown jewel among parks located along the Blanchard River Greenway.

Features:

- **Waterfalls Pavilion**
- **Zonta Landing Boat Rentals**
- **Observation areas**
- **Picnicking areas**
- **Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Stone walking trail around the old reservoir**
- **Beach area with access to the river and a view of the dam and waterfalls**
- **Riverside Landing boat launch**
- **Parking**



Waterfalls Area

East Main Cross Street, east of McManness Avenue, Findlay

The .5-acre Waterfalls Area is located across the river from Riverside Park Waterfront. It provides a soothing respite among the waterfall and majestic sycamore trees.

Visitors may walk along the Blanchard River Greenway Trail, picnic, launch, land, and portage canoes and kayaks, and access the Blanchard River for fishing.



The Waterfalls Pavilion and Riverside Park Waterfront are a scenic view across from the Waterfalls Area.

Features:

- **Picnicking areas**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Water Trail**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Parking**



Eastpoint Area

East Main Cross Street and Bright Road, Findlay

The 1-acre Eastpoint Area affords the opportunity for fishing, canoeing and kayaking, and picnicking. It serves as a wayside destination for resting, relaxing, and enjoying the waterfront and as the eastern terminus for the Blanchard River Greenway Trail.

Features:

- **Picnicking areas**
- **Boat launch**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Water Trail**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Parking**



Civitan Park

Taylor Street, south of Clinton Court, Findlay

Civitan Park serves as a 3-acre neighborhood park with community-wide access to active play facilities, including playground, basketball court, multi-use trail, and an open play area.



A scenic pedestrian bridge crosses the Blanchard River at Civitan Park.

Features:

- **Picnicking areas**
- **Basketball court**
- **Playground**
- **Open play area**
- **Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Parking**



Centennial Park

Cross Avenue, east of Blanchard Street, Findlay

The 5-acre Centennial Park, while limited in its offering, integrates an outdoor fitness center with the adjacent Blanchard River Greenway Trail to create a complete exercise program.



The fitness center at Centennial Park is perfect for exercise in fresh, open air.

There's something for the cardiovascular system, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and even weight control when combined further with a proper diet. Exercising outdoors, especially when it's along the waterfront and immersed in the sights and sounds of nature can lead to clarity of thought, less stress, and a happier, healthier lifestyle.

Features:

- **Outdoor fitness center**
- **Picnicking areas**
- **Access to the Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Parking**

Great Karg Well Historical Site

Liberty Street and River Street, Findlay

The .5-acre Great Karg Well Historical Site features an historical monument honoring the Great Karg Well.

As a quiet wayside destination, the park provides access to the Blanchard River for fishing. From the canoeist and kayaker perspective, it serves as a portage that gives paddlers an opportunity to rest before continuing downstream.



Monument honoring the Great Karg Well

Features:

- **Monument honoring the Great Karg Well**
- **Access to the Blanchard River**
- **Parking**

River Access Sites

The Blanchard River Water Trail is 37.6 miles. It begins at Blanchard River Nature Preserve and ends at Blanchard Landing. River access sites exist along the way.

Jackson Landing

16894 T.R. 173, Findlay

Jackson Landing is an undeveloped, .9-acre natural area. It serves primarily as a landing option and rest area for canoeists and kayakers paddling the Blanchard River Water Trail from Blanchard River Nature Preserve to Riverbend Recreation Area and beyond.

Liberty Landing

T.R.89, west of C.R. 140, Findlay

Liberty Landing (2 acres) is a popular starting point for canoeists and kayakers paddling a 9.3-mile section of the Blanchard River Water Trail to Blanchard Landing. As a wayside destination with a quiet country feel, visitors can enjoy picnicking, fishing, and the sights and sounds of nature.

Blanchard Landing

S.R. 235, south of U.S. Route 224 West

Blanchard Landing marks the end of the 37.6-mile Blanchard River Water Trail. As a wayside destination, the 3-acre park offers relative isolation and solitude. Visitors can escape for a while and enjoy fishing, picnicking, and the sounds of silence.

Liberty Landing and Blanchard Landing features:

- **Picnicking areas**
- **Developed river access site**
- **Parking**
- **Seasonal restroom**



River Landings

700 Fox Street, Findlay

River Landings (10 acres) serves as a wayside destination for rest and relaxation and presents opportunities for play and picnicking. It also serves as the western terminus for the Blanchard River Greenway Trail.



Visitors to River Landings can enjoy wildlife sightings under the trees.

Features:

- **Picnicking areas**
- **River Landings Maintenance Facility**
- **Playground**
- **Blanchard River Greenway Trail**
- **Parking**





1. Blanchard Landing
2. Litzenberg Memorial Woods
3. Indian Green-Worden Family Conservation Area
4. Liberty Landing
5. Oakwoods Nature Preserve
6. Blue Rock Nature Preserve
7. River Landings
8. Great Karg Well Historical Site
9. Civitan Park
10. Centennial Park
11. Riverside Park Waterfront
12. Waterfalls Area
13. Hancock Park District Administrative Offices
14. Eastpoint Area
15. Vogelsong Conservation Area
16. Lawrence Conservation Area
17. Lehman Conservation Area
18. Riverbend Recreation Area
19. Riverbend Conservation Area
20. Bright Conservation Area
21. Jackson Landing
22. Blanchard River Nature Preserve
23. Aeraland Recreation Area

