

# PARKS AND TRAILS

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The West Harbor Preserve became the first park area owned by the Park District of Ottawa County.

The parcel, acquired in 2023 and located in Catawba Island Township, will be the future site of a kayak launch, walking trails, a parking area, and habitat restoration projects.



Located in Catawba Island Township on a body of water known locally as "the inner harbor," West Harbor Preserve features 12 acres and includes a broad marsh and shoreline.



Islander Woods and Trailhead was acquired in 2024.

Islander Woods and Trailhead is a 7.6-parcel of land in Catawba Island Township containing an undeveloped wooded tract and a scenic pond. Plans call for trails, habitat restoration, a nature play area, and more. A master plan is being drafted for the area, which is currently closed to the public.

## PROGRAMMING

A variety of seasonal programming is offered! Visit our website and follow us on Facebook to learn more about the latest events!

## CONTACT US

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The Park District of Ottawa County Board of Park Commissioners meets 1-2 times per month at rotating locations throughout the county. For a complete meeting schedule, visit the 'Meetings & Policies' section of our website.

[www.ottawacountyparksoh.org](http://www.ottawacountyparksoh.org)

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# MISSION

The mission of the Park District of Ottawa County is to connect, enhance and protect the natural, scenic, environmental and cultural resources of Ottawa County for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

# HISTORY

The Park District of Ottawa County was created by the Ottawa County Probate Court on September 1, 1992.

In 2017, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners received grant funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the development of an Ottawa County Active Transportation Plan to plan safe facilities for non-motorized modes of transportation throughout the entire county.

The inception of the Active Transportation Plan in 2018 spurred the Park District to take fundamental steps toward its development.

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The Board of Park Commissioners began meeting regularly and planning for the future. During this time the Board grew from a three-person to five-person board.

In 2020 the Park District of Ottawa County passed a county-wide levy providing funding to plan and execute outdoor recreation projects throughout Ottawa County.



*The annual Bike Safety Camp provides Ottawa County children with valuable lessons in bicycle maintenance and repair, maneuverability, nutrition and exercise.*

# GRANTS

The annual Parks and Trails Improvement Grant Program is open to political subdivisions, and public schools and libraries throughout Ottawa County. The grant application, including eligibility and requirements, can be found on our website.

# PARKS AND TRAILS

The Portage River Water Trail provides opportunity to enjoy more than 36 miles of shoreline. This state-designated water trail is facilitated by the Park District of Ottawa County and has access points throughout four counties.



*Harry Witty Memorial Park in Elmore is one of several locations throughout Ottawa County that provides river access to paddlers.*



The North Coast Inland Trail is a 75-mile multi-use trail route. In Ottawa County, the NCIT stretches from the Sandusky County line northwest through Elmore to Genoa.