

Mill Creek Park Overview

Mill Creek Park, the largest area of the MetroParks, encompasses 2882 acres. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities and sites throughout these diverse lands. Take a leisurely walk through a magnificent formal gardens and visitor center, tour a historic grist mill, participate in classes and special events, view natural habitats with abundant wildlife, or just enjoy the many scenic vistas parkwide. Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, boating, fishing, golfing, tennis, volleyball, picnicking, cross country skiing, sledding, and much more.

The source of Mill Creek, the creek which flows through the Park in a northerly direction supplying water to three lakes, is about 20 miles south of Youngstown in Columbiana County. The Park extends along the Mill Creek Valley from Western Reserve Road to the confluence of Mill Creek and the Mahoning River.

The northern section of the Park includes Lanterman's Falls and the Mill Creek Gorge. This area offers breathtaking views with its cascading waters; steep hillsides, beautifully covered with deciduous and evergreen trees; bold sandstone outcroppings; and numerous grass-covered meadows. South of the gorge the land is rolling and partly wooded.

Hitchcock Woods, south of Route 224, includes dense woods and extensive wetlands, undeveloped except for primitive trails. The Mill Creek Preserve, acquired with grant monies in 2006-07, extends the Park to Western Reserve Road and features a 102-acre Category 3 wetlands.

Trails

Mill Creek Park offers 20 miles of drives and 15 miles of foot trails. Trail guides are available at kiosk locations and facilities.

EAST GOLF HIKE/BIKE TRAIL

The 1 1/2-mile East Golf Hike/Bike Trail runs from Route 224 to Shields Road and provides an asphalt surface for joggers, walkers, bikers, skaters, and in the snowy season—cross country skiers. Parking lots are located at each end of the trail and a pedestrian bridge across Mill Creek connects the trail with Golf Course amenities and additional parking. Restrooms, a drinking fountain, and an information kiosk are located on the trail.

EAST COHASSET HIKE/BIKE TRAIL

This 1 1/2-mile asphalt surface drive is closed to motorized traffic and provides joggers, walkers, and bikers a scenic route above Lake Cohasset.

ALBERT E. DAVIES WETLAND TRAIL

This barrier-free, 1/4-mile boardwalk leads visitors through the Newport Wetlands to an observation deck overlooking several deep water pools.

VIRGINIA J. AXTMANN NATURE TRAIL FOR ALL PEOPLE

Located adjacent to the Ford Nature Center, this barrier-free, 1/4-mile paved trail winds through a forested area.

Water Features

LILY POND

Migrating waterfowl and resident goldfish have made this four-acre pond a popular site since 1896. The Lily Pond Circle Trail loops around the pond.

LAKE COHASSET

This 28-acre lake is known for its stately hemlocks and offers visitors a secluded area to view wildlife. Access to West and East Cohasset Trails.

LAKE GLACIER

Boating and fishing are permitted in season on this 44-acre lake. Kayaks, pedal boats, and rowboats are available to rent at the Boathouse. A passenger boat is available for individual rides and group reservations. A barrier-free fishing dock is located along West Glacier Drive. Access to Old Tree Trail and East Glacier Trail.

LAKE NEWPORT & WETLANDS

Lake Newport offers 60 acres of open water and 40 acres of wetlands. Boating and fishing are permitted in season. A boat launch is located on East Newport Drive. Kayaks and pedal boats are available to rent at the Boathouse on West Newport Drive. Access to West and East Channel and Islands Trails and West Newport Trail. Located at the southern end of the lake, the Newport Wetlands provide habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Access to the Albert E. Davies Wetland Trail.

Facilities

FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

First planted in 1963, Fellows Riverside Gardens is a public display garden, open daily, that attracts over 400,000 visitors each year. Featuring a landscape of remarkable beauty, Fellows Riverside Gardens both entertains and enlightens through labeled plant displays and educational, cultural, and social activities.

D.D. AND VELMA DAVIS EDUCATION & VISITOR CENTER

This magnificent facility is located in Fellows Riverside Gardens and is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Davis Education & Visitor Center includes meeting and exhibit spaces, classrooms, a gallery, an auditorium/banquet hall available for rental, a horticultural library, a museum, an observation tower, the Garden Café, and Shop in the Gardens. Classes and tours are available by reservation. Arrangements may be made for weddings in the Gazebo or Kidston Pavilion and for receptions, meetings, and events in the Davis Center.

FORD NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

This lovely old stone home, donated in 1968 by the children of the late Judge John W. Ford, was opened to the public in 1972 as the headquarters for the Park's nature education programs. It houses exhibit rooms, a classroom, offices for naturalists, the Vickers Memorial Library, the Teachers' Resource Center, and a gift shop. The grounds include wildlife gardens and walking trails. Arrangements for group tours and guided nature walks may be made by calling this facility. Access to the Virginia J. Axtmann Nature Trail For All People.

MILL CREEK GOLF COURSE

Designed by renowned golf course architect Donald Ross, Mill Creek Golf Course opened in 1928. The two beautiful 18-hole courses offer four sets of tees and test the skills of golfers at all levels. The Fieldhouse, built in 1929, houses a pro shop and snack bar. The Golf Course is used for cross country skiing in the winter.

JAMES L. WICK, JR. RECREATION AREA

Facilities in this 65-acre tract include a children's playground with spray pool, picnic areas, the 18-hole Par-3 Golf Course, softball and baseball diamonds, sports fields, tennis and sand volleyball courts, batting cages, a sledding hill with warming house and snack bar, and a picnic pavilion available seasonally to rent. Also located in this area is the Judge Morley Performing Arts Pavilion, home to MetroParks' summer concert series.

VOLNEY ROGERS FIELD

Mill Creek Park's first recreational facility offers a playground, tennis and basketball courts, softball and baseball diamonds, football fields, and a shelter house within an 18-acre area.

WALTER H. SCHOLL RECREATION AREA

This 18-acre facility offers a children's playground with spray pool, tennis and basketball courts, softball diamonds, picnic areas, and a picnic pavilion available seasonally to rent. Access to Cascade Ravine Trail.

Historic Sites

LANTERMAN'S MILL AND COVERED BRIDGE

One of Mahoning County's most recognized historic landmarks, Lanterman's Mill was built in 1845-46 by German Lanterman and Samuel Kimberly. Restored in 1982-85 through a gift from the Ward and Florence Beecher Foundations, this community treasure represents one of the many pioneer industries developed along Mill Creek and operates today as it did in the 1800s, grinding corn, wheat, buckwheat, and oats. Facilities include an observation deck, covered bridge, and gift shop. The Mill is open May through October, closed Mondays, and April and November, weekends only. Call the Mill to arrange barrier-free access. Designed after an earlier bridge from the 19th century, the Covered Bridge crosses Mill Creek just south of the Mill. The nearby East Gorge Boardwalk and West Gorge Trail offer a dramatic peek into the area's geologic history.

OLD LOG CABIN

Originally located in the Bears Den area, the Old Log Cabin was built by Cambden Cleveland around 1816. Moved to its present site around 1863, the cabin was remodeled for party use in 1934 and is available for rental.

PIONEER PAVILION AND MILL CREEK FURNACE

Pioneer Pavilion, one of the early nineteenth-century industry, is a rare surviving example of early nineteenth-century industry. Constructed in 1821, this sandstone building served as a mill for carding and fulling wool. The building was later used as a storeroom for the nearby Mill Creek Furnace, then remodeled for party use in 1893. Pioneer Pavilion is available for rental year-round. The Mill Creek Furnace, constructed in the late 1820s or early 1830s, was the first blast furnace in Youngstown. The furnace went out of blast in the late 1840s. An archaeological dig was conducted through Youngstown State University in 2003 to reveal this historic structure.

VOLNEY ROGERS MONUMENT

Dedicated in 1920 to the memory of Park founder Volney Rogers, this bronze statue was created by nationally renowned sculptor Frederick Hibbard. Construction of the monument was partially funded by contributions from the children of Youngstown.

Preservation Areas

HITCHCOCK WOODS

Hitchcock Woods includes dense woods and extensive wetlands providing habitats for wildlife amidst a suburban area. This 982-acre woodland area is undeveloped except for primitive trails.

MILL CREEK PRESERVE

The 303-acre Mill Creek Preserve, acquired with grant monies in 2006-07, extends the Park to Western Reserve Road and features a 102-acre Category 3 wetlands.

MILL CREEK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Acquired in 2005 with grant monies, this 264-acre tract contains forests, meadowlands, floodplains, and 157 acres of wetlands and ponds. Over 240 species of birds, ten of them endangered, have been observed at the Sanctuary. Access to this vulnerable habitat is limited to MetroParks educational programs.

Other Points of Interest

SUSPENSION BRIDGE • PARAPET BRIDGE
WALL GARDEN • DAFFODIL MEADOW



Judge Morley Performing Arts Pavilion



Fellows Riverside Gardens



Winter at the Lily Pond



East Golf Hike/Bike Trail



Kayaking on Lake Newport



Lake Glacier



Weller Gallery in the Davis Education & Visitor Center



Kidston Pavilion in Fellows Riverside Gardens



Mill Creek Golf Course



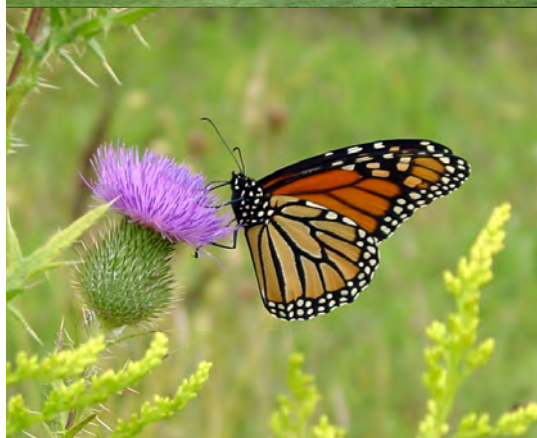
Children's Program at Ford Nature Center



Lanterman's Mill



Pioneer Pavilion



Mill Creek Preserve



Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary

