

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Eaton County consists of over 371,000 acres and was settled in 1829. The County was organized in 1837 and named after President Andrew Jackson's Secretary of War, John J. Eaton. Roughly 300 acres of the County are preserved in nine County park sites.

These sites are managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, which was established in 1970 under Act 261 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan. This ten member Commission is comprised of a member from the Road, Drain, and County Planning Commissions, two County Commissioners, and five at large citizen positions as appointed by the County Board of Commissioners.

The purpose of the Commission is to provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities through protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources, environmental education and interpretive programming, and preservation of green space.

TODAY

The Parks Department manages a variety of historic, recreation, and wildlife areas. From a 19th century kiln to forested river frontage and upland timber; places to fish, hike, bird watch, or feel close to nature are provided. Some areas are developed for picnicking and play; others are merely access and wildlife areas for you and future generations to enjoy. Designated areas of the Park system are now "smoke-free" under a 2012 policy.

FEES, RENTALS, RESERVATIONS

Motor vehicle entry fees are in effect year around at Fitzgerald, Fox, and Lincoln Brick Parks. Fees collected from the sale of vehicle permits are used to help offset operational costs and to provide for future improvement of the park system. The Park system operates on an October 1st to September 30th fiscal year.

All park facilities are available on a first come, first serve basis unless reserved in advance. There is a fee to reserve picnic areas and pavilions.

For your pleasure and convenience, Fitzgerald Park offers canoes, cross-country skis, and snowshoes for rent seasonally.

For additional information or to make a reservation, please call the Eaton County Parks office at 517-627-7351.

NATURALIST PROGRAM

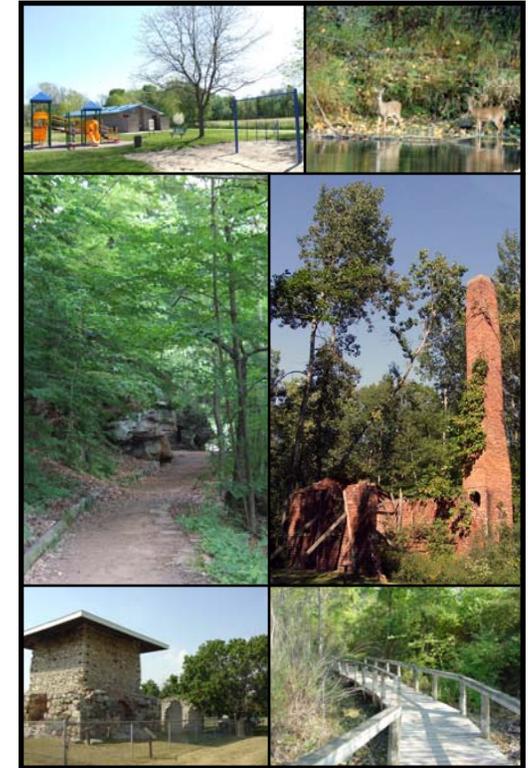
The Department employs a full time Naturalist to provide interpretive programming, environmental education, and special event programs.

The Naturalist is available, by appointment, to do programs on a wide variety of topics for school and civic groups either at your site or at one of the parks.

Some programs may require a nominal fee. For more information, please contact the Naturalist at 517-627-7351 ext. 23 or e-mail parksdept@eatoncounty.org.

GREAT GETAWAYS

A GUIDE TO EATON COUNTY PARKS



Member of the Capital Area Health Alliance



Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>

Scan this code with your smartphone to access the Eaton County Parks website.



EATON COUNTY PARKS
133 FITZGERALD PARK DR.
GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837-9766
PHONE: 517-627-7351

www.eatoncountyparks.org



A MEMORABLE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

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FITZGERALD PARK

133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837

A 78-acre park, located on West Jefferson St., just off M-43 in Grand Ledge, Fitzgerald Park is best known as the home of the Ledges - ancient sedimentary rock outcroppings lining the shores of the Grand River. This wooded riverside property is the administrative and maintenance headquarters for the Eaton County Parks system. This year around site provides three miles of nature and hiking trails, picnic accommodations, two softball diamonds, a volleyball court, basketball court, two horseshoe pits, playground, disc golf course, nature center, two miles of cross-country ski trails, and a sled-ding hill. Motor vehicle entry fee required.

LINCOLN BRICK PARK

13991 Tallman Rd., Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Historically named after the decade of brick production that once took place on site, Lincoln Brick Park is located just north of Grand Ledge on Tallman Road one mile west of M-100 off of State Road. Located across the river from Fitzgerald Park, this 90-acre park is composed of a variety of habitats from an open prairie to up land and low land forested areas with over 6,000 feet of scenic river frontage. This park provides two picnic pavilions, interpretive center featuring a meeting room and museum, playgrounds, swim beach, two miles of nature and cross-country ski trails, fishing, and diversified wildlife habitat. Development of this park was made possible through private donations and matching fund grants. Motor vehicle entry fee required.

FOX MEMORIAL PARK

3981 E. Gresham Hwy., Potterville, MI 48876

Fox Memorial Park was donated to Eaton County in memory of Paul Fox, by his family, in the late 1970's. The park is located near Potterville off of M-100 on Gresham Hwy. This 100-acre facility, featuring a small kidney shaped lake, is known for its excellent swim beach, ADA accessible fishing pier, and dark sky public observatory. Other amenities include two picnic pavilions, playgrounds, horseshoe pit, and nature and cross-country ski trails. Motor vehicle entry fee required. Pets and alcohol are prohibited.

PAUL HENRY-THORNAPPLE TRAIL

Mason Road Trail Head, Vermontville, MI 49096

The 1.8 mile Eaton County Parks section of the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail opened to public use the Summer of 2011 with the completion of the trestle bridge over the Thornapple River. Trail access parking is available at the Maple Valley High School's overflow visitor's parking lot on Mason Rd. Follow M-79 to Mason Rd. and turn north. Free access.

OPTIMIST YOUTH CAMP

1264 W. Kinsel Hwy., Charlotte, MI 48813

The Charlotte Optimist Youth Camp is located north of Charlotte on Kinsel Hwy. off of M-50. This 20-acre primitive campground is operated and maintained by the Charlotte Optimist Club in conjunction with the Eaton County Parks Commission. The camp is available for use by local youth groups. Nature trails and a large game area are also provided. For further information and reservations, visit www.charlottelibrary.org or contact Optimist members Russ Reist 517-543-7339 or Don Jones 517-543-1098.

DUANE TIRRELL MEMORIAL PARK

2321 Battle Creek Rd., Charlotte, MI 48813

This half acre roadside park, renamed in 2010 in memory of Duane Tirrell, offers picnicking and a free flowing artesian well. This park is located four miles south of the Charlotte High School on Battle Creek Rd. (old M-78). Free access.

KEEHNE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

245 S. Williams St., Bellevue, MI 49021

Built on the site of abandoned limestone quarries, Edward Keehne Environmental Area is located on South Williams Street in Bellevue just off M-78. This 17-acre nature study area contains two ponds, several nature trails, fishing pier/dock, and an extensive boardwalk system. This park offers fishing, picnicking, aquatic habitat exploration, and hiking and cross-country ski trails. Free access.

BUTLER PARK

151 Madison St., Bellevue, MI 49021

This public boating access to the Battle Creek River is a half-acre park located in Bellevue on Battle Creek Road (old M-78). Butler Park has picnic tables, parking, and a concrete boat ramp. Free access.

DYER KILN HISTORIC SITE

8610 Sand Road., Bellevue MI 49021

This kiln, one of the first limestone kilns in the County, was used for burning limestone in the preparation of cement in the late 19th century. This quaint half acre historic site provides a roadside picnic area and is located just south of M-78 on Sand Rd. Dyer Kiln was purchased in 1975 by the Parks Commission and developed by the Bellevue community as a bi-centennial project. Free access.



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