

Leaflet

Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

June 4, 2022
Medina Gazette Edition

medinacountyparks.com
(330) 722-9364

Board of Commissioners
Kathleen E. Davis
Andrew J. de Luna
Dennis B. Neate

Nathan D. Eppink, Director
Jill M. Teubl, Editor

 Facebook
@MedinaCountyParkDistrict

 Twitter
@medinacoparks

 Instagram
@medinacountyparks

The Bobolink is One of the World's Most Impressive Songbird Migrants

By: Mark Ludwig, Naturalist

Bobolinks are one of Medina County's longest traveling songbird migrants. Every year, these birds can travel over 11,000 miles roundtrip from Medina County to as far south as Argentina. Distance wise, a bobolink may travel four or five times around the circumference of the earth during its lifetime.

The bobolink usually shows up in early May when the males begin to claim territory, attract females, and nest in overgrown fields in several park sites. In late June or July, they start to make their long journeys back south to South America.

Outside of the nesting season, bobolinks live socially in flocks, but when they arrive on their breeding grounds in Medina County, the males compete vigorously for territories by singing, displaying, fighting, and chasing each other.

Listen for a long, bubbly, metallic, rambling song. The male bobolink often sings this song while flying, moving slowly with his wings fluttering rapidly or while perched on the stems of plants.



Male bobolinks mate with several females during the breeding season. Females make nests out of coarse grasses and weed stems and line the nests with fine grasses. They can lay three to seven eggs, and the incubation period is about 11 days. Both parents will feed the young. There is usually just one brood.

When the young fledge the nest, they are unable to fly and hide in the vegetation until their flight feathers emerge, which can take several days. Families from several nests join together and form flocks. Within about a month, the immature birds learn to feed themselves, and the young flock of bobolinks leaves the breeding grounds in July to head back south.

During the breeding season, bobolinks eat seeds, insect larvae, adult insects, and spiders. During migration and winter, bobolinks eat wild and domesticated rice (known in the South as rice birds), oats, small grains, corn, and occasional insects.

Males have white back and black underneath (it looks like they are wearing tuxedos backwards) and yellowish-tan patches on their heads. Females and nonbreeding males are brown and are streaked with brown on the back, sides, and on the tops of their heads.

Bobolink numbers are declining because of the loss of open habitat, but Medina County Park District provides this much-needed habitat throughout the park system. The district manages habitats of all kinds including meadows for bobolinks, which are mixtures of grasses and broad-leaved plants, forests, ponds, and wetlands.

Make sure you get outside to one of the parks to, possibly, get a glimpse of these amazing creatures. Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary is a great park to view these birds. Hike on the inner loop trail to the center of the south meadow from May-July.



Holmesbrook Park Now Operated by Medina County Park District

Last month, Medina County Park District (MCPD) signed a 50-year lease agreement with the city of Wadsworth to operate Holmesbrook Park as a county park. Holmesbrook Park is located on College Street near the intersection of College and Leatherman roads. Although Friedt Park is in close proximity to Holmesbrook Park on Leatherman Road, it is not included in the lease agreement.

MCPD will be responsible for daily management and capital improvements at Holmesbrook. The 58.3-acre site is the largest park in Wadsworth and includes a pond, streams, and nature trails. Director Nate Eppink said, "It's a win-win. Medina County Park District now has a presence in the city limits, and Wadsworth can invest more of its resources in other parks and amenities. It's been a goal of mine to establish a presence in the city of Wadsworth, and our board has supported that effort." MCPD has similar lease agreements with Brunswick and Medina to manage Brunswick Lake and Lake Medina, respectively, as county parks.

MCPD staff will develop a master plan for Holmesbrook Park by year's end -- to include planned improvements and possible additions based on terrain, accessibility, and other factors consistent with the park district's mission and industry best-practices. The park district looks forward to directly serving the residents of Wadsworth via this mutually-beneficial agreement.

Mayor Robin Laubaugh commented, "We are thrilled that the Medina County Park District will now have a presence in Wadsworth. Holmesbrook Park is a bit of a hidden gem, and we are excited for the improvements that will take place over the years to enhance this area into an even greater asset to the community."

Chippewa Lake Master Plan Finalized

In 2021, Medina County Park District (MCPD) engaged OHM Advisors to help develop a master plan for the former Chippewa Lake Amusement Park, which was purchased in June 2020. The site is located on the shores of Chippewa Lake, Ohio's largest inland glacial lake.

With public input acquired through meetings and surveys, OHM and MCPD designed a master plan to transform the site into a future public nature area. Both short and long-term improvement projects are included in the master plan.

The Chippewa Lake Master Plan is located on the park district's website at www.medinacountyparks.com. Click on the "Parks" tab, then select "Chippewa Lake Master Plan," the last option in the menu.



Photo by: Jill Hurst

Summer Programs



June, July, and August programs are now online at www.medinacountyparks.com. Click on the *Programs* menu, then on *Public Programs & Events*. There are programs for all ages and interests: star gazing, mini-train rides, kids' programs, and so much more!

Donation Corner

Tree of Life
In Memory of Gordon Phillips III
Vernon and Beverly Luntsford
Dan and Lynn Mooney