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# Lake Views



## Message From Craig Butler

Greetings everyone! The chill of fall is behind us and has been replaced with the sharp winds of winter. While I like all four seasons, I must admit, I LOVE winter.

Before I get too far ahead of myself talking about what we have planned for the colder months, let me share a few updates and accomplishments from fall 2021. First, we continue to complete projects such as the Tappan Lake Marina, the Atwood Cemetery Bay Connector Trail, and dredging at Seneca Lake. Additionally we are planning major projects to begin next year including a new welcome center at Tappan Lake Park, renovations at Seneca Lake Marina, and the Atwood Lake Park activity center. We continue to make significant investments for all to enjoy. Likewise, we are moving forward on planning amenities for the parks like splash pads, pickle ball courts, upgrading our beaches, and other activities. If you participated in our focus groups and surveys to help guide our decisions, thank you.

One very neat, new event we held this fall was Bounty on the Bridge. This wonderful collaboration with the Buckeye Career Center was an outdoor dining opportunity at Atwood Lake on the bridge near the Welcome Center. We are planning similar events in other parks throughout the year for our guests to enjoy.

I am excited to share news that MWCD recently received recognition including a Snazzy Award from the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce and three marketing RUBY awards from the Ohio Travel Association.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Our Parks and Lakes Continue To Improve

### ATWOOD LAKE PARK

**Atwood Cemetery Bay Connector Trail:** Comprised of a 7,100-foot-long, 8-foot-wide gravel trail, this project will wrap up in early winter 2021. This phase will provide a connection from the trailhead parking lot at SR 542 to the existing trails within Atwood Lake Park. Approximately 400 feet of boardwalks will be required to cross environmentally sensitive areas.

### Atwood West Marina Restroom/Showerhouse Renovation:

Construction of this project will continue through the winter and wrap up in spring of 2022. It entails renovation of the existing public restroom and separate restroom and shower areas for dockers at the West Marina. The renovation will give a major facelift to the building including new siding, a new roof structure, new heating and cooling systems, new tile and fixtures in the restrooms and the separate restroom and shower area for dockers. An ADA-compliant addition for a public restroom and separate restroom and shower for dockers will be newly constructed.

**Atwood Activity Center:** This project will renovate the existing building exterior and interior. The renovation will give a major facelift to the building including new siding, a new roof structure and an addition to give additional room to the central gathering area and a covered outdoor patio. It will include reorganization of the existing kitchen layout and retail area. The Nature Center will also be reorganized and renovated. The project is scheduled to be bid out for construction in winter 2022. Construction of the building will take place from spring 2022 to spring 2023. The existing building and operations will remain open throughout construction.



### CLENDENING

**Wastewater Treatment Plant:** This project will include a new wastewater treatment facility at Clendening Marina and serve as the basis of infrastructure needed to upgrade the marina building and campground facilities. It is scheduled to be bid out for construction in spring 2022. Construction will start on the project in summer 2022 and continue through spring 2023.

**Cabin Construction:** This project will add additional cabins to Clendening Marina adjacent to the existing cabins and motel. The existing motel will be demolished, and the area will be redeveloped into new cabins, a laundry building, and a new playground. Construction will start in summer 2022 and continue through spring 2023.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



### Message From Craig Butler (cont'd)

Now back to winter. The lakes have been lowered in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers to make room for spring rains and avoid flooding. While the shoreline is exposed (and hopefully frozen) we are continuing to improve and maintain several areas of shoreline minimizing erosion, improving water quality, and enhancing the aesthetics of our lakes.

Did I say that I LOVE winter? If the predictions based on the Farmer's Almanac and the wife's tale about the wooly bear caterpillar's stripe are right, we are in for cold temperatures and a lot of snow. Bring it on! We are planning activities to entice you to throw on another layer and join us outside. Everything from organized winter hikes to traditional activities like ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and sitting around a campfire sipping hot chocolate. I cannot wait to see you in the snow!

## Winter Adventures

As winter snows blanket our parks and marinas, gather up your family and friends and take an adventure! The extra snow creates the perfect opportunity for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, making snow angels and snowmen, or having a snowball fight. The lower temperatures also mean ice, which provides the chance to go ice fishing. Whatever draws you to enjoy winter's wonders, get outdoors and remember to be safe.

Here are just a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- 💧 Dress appropriately
- 💧 Stay hydrated
- 💧 Stay off ice 2" or less
- 💧 Be indoors before dark
- 💧 Be aware of reduced visibility
- 💧 Wear a PFD (life jacket) when on ice
- 💧 Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia
- 💧 Never go out alone and make sure someone knows where you are going

## MWCD Recognized For Marketing Excellence

This past October, MWCD received recognition for achievement in marketing and advertising at the Ohio Travel Association's RUBY Awards presentation held at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark, Ohio. MWCD received awards for Annual Report, Radio Advertisement, and Television Advertisement. Adria Bergeron, director of marketing and communications accepted the awards on behalf of MWCD.

The Ohio Travel Association's RUBY Awards recognize excellence in Ohio's hospitality and tourism industry for efforts in advertising, marketing, and public relations. During this year's competition, the Recognizing Uncommon Brilliance (RUBY) Awards had 177 entries in 17 categories. The awards, sponsored by Ohio Magazine, were presented during the Ohio Conference on Tourism, the state's largest conference for tourism industry professionals.

Nine marketing professionals representing academia, consulting firms and ad agencies judged each entry based on concept, results, and creativity.

"The competition this year was fierce," said Melinda Huntley, Ohio Travel Association executive director. "Despite the hardships created by the pandemic, these professionals produced some amazing campaigns and projects that resulted in increased sales for businesses in their communities."



"I am so proud to bring home these awards from the Ohio Conference on Tourism," said Adria Bergeron. "This conference draws entries from tourist attractions across the state of Ohio, so competition is tough and to be recognized is an honor. We have some wonderful attractions in our State, and I am proud to represent the MWCD."

The Ohio Travel Association is a nonprofit trade association representing travel- and tourism-related businesses throughout the state.

**Log Cabins  
at Pleasant Hill Lake**

The perfect winter getaway awaits with gas fireplace and outdoor hot tub! Reserve your stay today at [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org)



# Why Do We Perform Winter Drawdowns?

As part of the flood risk management operation of the reservoirs and dams in the Muskingum River Watershed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducts annual temporary drawdown of the normal pool elevation of lake levels. The drawdown allows for additional flood storage capacity needed during the winter thaw and spring rains. Drawdown began in early November and the return to normal pool elevation will initiate in February. Normal pool elevations will be obtained in time for summer recreation season.

Temporary 2021 – 2022 drawdown dates and lake levels are as follows:

Reservoir	Normal Pool	Winter Level	Total Drawdown (feet)	Begin 2021 Drawdown	Release Duration (days)	Intermediate Refill
Atwood	928.00	920.00	8.00	Nov. 8	42	926.00
Charles Mill	997.00	992.00	5.00	Nov. 1	35	995.00
Clendening	898.00	893.00	5.00	Nov. 15	35	896.00
Leesville	963.00	954.25	8.75	Nov. 15	42	961.00
Piedmont	913.00	908.00	5.00	Nov. 1	35	911.00
Pleasant Hill	1020.00	1014.00	6.00	Nov. 15	42	1018.00
Seneca	832.20	824.20	8.00	Nov. 1	42	830.20
Tappan	899.30	891.30	8.00	Nov. 15	42	897.30

Return to normal pool elevation is typically initiated on February 15, with a planned intermediate refill to within two feet of normal summer pool by March 15, 2022.

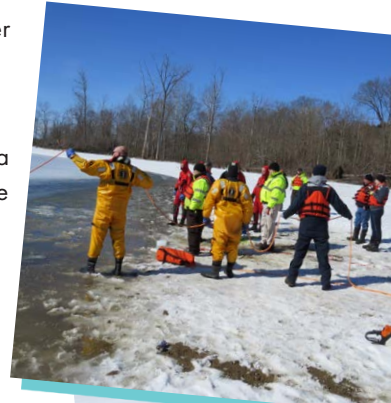
Not only does the temporary drawdown provide valuable increased flood storage capacity but drawdown also provides the opportunity to address needed maintenance of the reservoirs, debris removal, and safety trainings.

Shoreline projects planned for the winter of 2021 – 2022 include:

- Seneca Lake – 500-foot-long concrete block seawall at the Seneca Lake Marina. This work is being done in conjunction with the Master Plan's Marina deck replacement and ADA access project.
- Charles Mill Lake – 1,800-foot-long project at the Yacht Point Cottage Area, and a 550-foot-long project in the Sites Lake Cottage Area off Pike Drive.
- Atwood Lake – 450-foot-long project along Berwyn Drive in the Pines Cottage Area, 600-foot-long project along Menlo Drive in the Pines Cottage Area, and 400-foot-long project at the Park Camp Area 1 (which is right next to the Marina).

Each year, illegal dumping occurs at each of the MWCD lakes. Drawdown allows our staff to perform maintenance projects that include debris removal from the lakes, especially the removal of illegally dumped tires.

The ice and snow of winter provide an added level of winter activities at our lakes. Our Rangers as well as our team of first responders work hard to ensure visitors feel safe when recreating. Drawdown allows our team to hone their winter safety skills through trainings such as ice rescue.



## First Bounty On The Bridge Is A Hit

Our inaugural Bounty on the Bridge event took place at Atwood Lake Park on October 14. The evening was perfectly warm and calm for the nearly 100 guests who attended. The event was made possible by a partnership with the Buckeye Career Center to showcase their Culinary Arts, Floral Design, and Woodworking programs, as well as the beautiful bridge location overlooking Atwood Lake. Buckeye Career Center students and staff worked hard to provide decorative centerpieces for the tables and commemorative cutting boards, plus the Culinary Arts students prepared and served a four-course dinner. In addition, attendees enjoyed live entertainment by REN and a cash bar benefiting the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation.

If you missed this opportunity, be on the lookout for similar events in the future!



# MWCD Renovations Update (cont'd)

## LEESVILLE

**Wastewater Treatment Plant:** This project will include a new wastewater treatment facility at Leesville North Fork Marina and will serve as the basis of infrastructure needed to tie-in the existing buildings located at the marina and construction of a new restroom/shower building. It is scheduled to be bid out for construction in summer 2022. Construction will begin in fall 2022 and continue through spring 2023.

## PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK

**Boat Storage Lot:** This project, currently underway, will include a new boat storage lot at the northeast corner of SR 95 and Covert Road. This will enable boats that are currently stored in the park area to be moved to the newly constructed lot, freeing up area to develop future amenities near campground Area G. The boat storage lot will accommodate over 100 boats. Construction will continue through late fall 2021 with final completion in spring 2022.



## SENECA LAKE PARK & MARINA

**Marina Shoreline and Site Improvements Project:** This project includes the reconstruction of the existing deck and adds a new permanent pavilion structure for outdoor dining. A new concrete-sloped, accessible walking path to the lower-level marina will be constructed. The 500-foot shoreline/waterfront project includes a retaining wall, a lighted concrete sidewalk along the shoreline for access to the docks, and four new dock abutments. Construction began in late fall 2021 with final completion in spring 2022.

## TAPPAN LAKE PARK

**Welcome Center Project:** The construction of a new welcome center will provide an accessible and inviting entrance to the park. It will allow for improved flow of traffic to serve our guests more efficiently. Visitors will be able to reserve a campsite and shop for camping items and souvenirs. The building will house Tappan Lake Park administration and ranger staff. It is scheduled to be bid out for construction in winter 2021/2022. Construction will start on the project in spring 2022 and continue through spring 2023.



## TAPPAN LAKE MARINA

**Marina Parking Lot and Shoreline Improvements:** This project involves the construction of new asphalt driveways, paving of the parking lot, new concrete sidewalk along the shoreline, two sets of steps for dock access, three new dock abutments, 350 feet of shoreline improvements, and lighting of the parking lot and steps. It will also provide 126 parking spaces. Construction will start in winter 2021 and continue through spring 2022.

## OTHER PROJECT NEWS

**Park Amenity and Activity Update:** Staff has been busy developing conceptual amenity plans at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks. The proposed activities and amenities range from new splash pads, playgrounds, sports courts, trails, accessible paths, lawn games, upgraded beach changing/restrooms, shade zones and concession buildings. A follow-up survey was released in November to get feedback from the public to ensure we are on the right track. The feedback will be included in an overall Amenity and Activities Report that will be presented to the Board of Directors in December 2021. Implementation of the proposed plan will begin with the first projects starting in fall/winter 2022 and completion in spring 2023.







## Shoreline Stabilization Projects Completed

Data collected in 2010 identified shoreline erosion problems at ten MWCD reservoirs, covering 250 miles. As a result of this study, 9.5 miles of shoreline stabilization work has been completed over the past decade at a cost of approximately \$11.5 million.

Five shoreline stabilization projects were completed in 2021 at a cost of approximately \$440,000. The projects are:

### SENECA LAKE

A second phase of work at the Churchman Point Docking Association was completed in early 2021. The 460-foot-long project included riprap with live stake plantings, along with a coconut fiber coir log along the top of the rock to further protect against erosion. This final phase of the project was completed for approximately \$88,000.

### PLEASANT HILL LAKE

This project near the Loudonville Wildlife Club included nearly 800 feet of riprap to protect against erosion, with live stake plantings placed in approximately half of the project area. A coir log was also placed above the lower areas of riprap to further deter erosion. The project was completed for approximately \$145,000.

### ATWOOD NORTH SHORE COTTAGE AREA

Nearly 1,000 linear feet of shoreline was stabilized in the North Shore Cottage Area. The erosion protection consisted of both rock riprap and coir logs. This work was completed by the MWCD heavy equipment crew at a cost of \$105,000.

### ATWOOD LAKE PARK BEACH

This project addressed nearly 140 linear feet of eroding shoreline and beach. The erosion was addressed using riprap with coir log as well as engineered fill with beach sand to isolate poor soils in the beach area. The total project cost was approximately \$42,000.

### ATWOOD LAKE GLENS COTTAGE AREA

Two separate areas within the Atwood Glens Cottage Area were addressed; Anchor Lane which was approximately 75 linear feet at a cost of \$26,000 and Cherry Lane which was approximately 187 linear feet at a cost of \$43,000. Both projects received riprap and coir logs at the top of the rock for erosion protection.



## Long-Term Maintenance Dredging Continues

A long-term maintenance dredging program was developed in 2014 with inaugural work occurring at Tappan Lake between 2015 - 2017. The program then shifted its focus to Seneca Lake beginning in 2017. After the initial phase of dredging work was completed at Seneca in 2018, a large settling and dewatering basin was designed, permitted in 2019 and constructed in 2020. The second phase of hydraulic dredging resumed in the spring of 2021 and was completed in November. The project removed nearly 90,000 cubic yards of sediment at a total cost of approximately \$4.2 million.

In addition to dredging associated with the long-term maintenance program, a small excavation dredging project was also undertaken at Atwood Lake. Approximately 3,400 cubic yards of sediment was removed from a small bay in the North Shore Cottage Area to improve boating access. This excavation dredging work was completed during the winter drawdown by MWCD's heavy equipment crew at a cost of approximately \$51,000.





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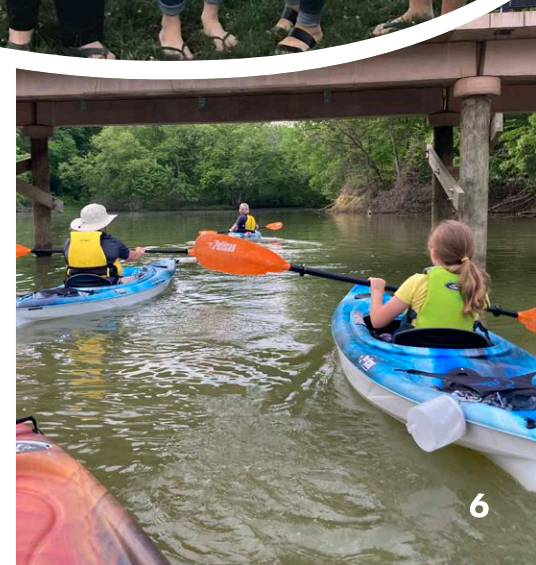
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## MWCD – We Like To Have Fun

After a year of fewer and smaller events in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, this summer and fall were filled with the happy smiles of visitors and staff at many events throughout the MWCD. We saw the return of the Alive Music Festival, Atwood Area Fall Festival, fireworks, Halloween events, Princess in the Park, and Hunter Education Courses, to name a few. In addition, new events were held including Halloween Weekend at Piedmont Lake, Bounty on the Bridge at Atwood Lake Park, an Adam Calvert concert at Seneca Lake Park, and First Responders' Day at Atwood, Tappan, Seneca, and Pleasant Hill Lake Parks.

More participants than ever before enjoyed guided kayaking tours, day camps for kids, Ladies' Night crafts, guided hikes, and Movies at the Lake. Plus, seven people won free kayaks at our Poker Paddles!

Event schedules for 2022 are currently being planned and will be shared as soon as possible. Be on the lookout for new and exciting events throughout the winter and into spring including pop-up snowshoe events when we have a wintery snowfall, themed hiking events, and trail openings! Follow our Facebook pages, sign up for our e-newsletters, or check our website's Calendar of Events for the latest event information.





## STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

On the evening of October 5, MWCD hosted Josh Horsfall at Tappan Lake Park for some rest and recuperation after a nearly 40-mile hike via the Buckeye Trail. Josh was aiming to set a new "Fastest Known Time (FKT)" for the 1,444-mile trail when he paused from his trek. By finishing his journey on November 4, he set a new FKT of 38 days, shattering the previous record of 55 days!

MWCD properties provide many miles of beautiful scenery along the 1,444-mile Buckeye Trail. The trail skirts Leesville Lake, passes through the town of Bowerston, and follows the shoreline of Tappan, Clendening, and Piedmont Lakes before connecting to Seneca Lake.



Photo: © Andrew Dolph  
Times-Reporter, 2021



MWCD is fortunate that it has partners that enhance the MWCD's work to fulfill its mission. On October 20, representatives of MWCD, The Ohio Environmental Council, North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, and the Buckeye Trail Association took advantage of the beautiful weather and hiked the southern edge of Clendening Lake along the Buckeye Trail.

The MWCD Parks and Lakes offer numerous self-contained loop trails and access to the Bowerston section of the Buckeye Trail.

## Are you ready for your next trails adventure?

Download the DETOUR app for MWCD trail information at your fingertips or visit [www.MWCD.org/trails](http://www.MWCD.org/trails) for printable trail maps. We can't wait to see you out on the trail!

An advertisement for the DETOUR Trails App. It features a checklist with three items: "Hiking Boots?", "Water Bottle?", and "DETOUR Trails App?". Below the checklist, it says "DETOUR is your go-to source for information on thousands of trail miles throughout Ohio." and "Search by region, difficulty, activity, type, and distance." It also says "Don't wait, start your next trail adventure now!" and "Visit the DETOUR web app at: DETOURtrails.ohiodnr.gov or download it to your mobile device from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store." There are logos for the Apple App Store and Google Play. At the bottom, it says "Take your DETOUR" and shows a laptop displaying the website and a smartphone displaying the app's interface.

## MWCD Names Chief of Conservation

Matt Thomas has been named Chief of Conservation for the MWCD. Appointed by the MWCD Board of Directors in September, Thomas previously served as the Water Quality Coordinator for MWCD since January 2019.

Prior to joining MWCD, Matt worked as the Farm Production Manager for the Route 9 Cooperative in Carroll County.

He brings with him over 20 years of experience working on a diverse array of environmental issues within the Great Lakes and throughout Ohio. His career includes serving as the

Laboratory Manager for The Ohio State University biological field station, F. T. Stone Laboratory, in Lake Erie.

Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology with an aquatic focus from The Ohio State University.

"Matt brings decades of experience of working to solve complex environmental and conservation challenges," said Executive Director, Craig Butler. "He knows how to build partnerships to be successful, which is something critical to this position. We are extremely fortunate to have Matt's knowledge and expertise and are excited to promote him to our executive team as Chief of Conservation."





New Philadelphia, OH 44663



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## *Lake Views*

### CATCH A LINE ON SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has a variety of seasonal employment opportunities for the 2022 season. Whether you are in high school, home from college, or looking for a summer job, we have opportunities for everyone.

Types of positions and duties include: marina staff, maintenance/grounds keeping, gate attendant, cleaning staff, and beach attendant.

For more information, please visit [www.MWCD.org](http://www.MWCD.org).