

Lake Views

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New Leadership Strengthens MWCD

MWCD is pleased to welcome two accomplished leaders whose experience and dedication to public service will help guide the organization's future and strengthen its mission across the region.

Elizabeth Stephenson, Esq., has been appointed to the MWCD Board of Directors by the judges of the MWCD Conservancy Court. She brings 27 years of experience as Court Administrator for the Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas, along with a long history of leadership in court administration across Ohio.

Stephenson has a strong personal and professional connection to MWCD, having participated in Conservancy Court proceedings and experienced the District's lakes and programs firsthand. Her understanding of public service and governance will bring valuable perspective to the Board as it continues to guide MWCD's work.

Dana Ohman has joined MWCD as Chief of Conservation, bringing more than two decades of experience in aquatic ecology, stream and wetland restoration, and natural resource management. In this role, she will lead the District's conservation strategy and oversee programs that protect and enhance the Watershed's natural resources while advancing sustainable land and water management across the 18-county district.

Ohman holds a Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Bachelor of Science from Otterbein University. She is passionate about protecting the Watershed and looks forward to working alongside communities and partners to ensure its health for future generations.



Elizabeth Stephenson
Board of Directors



Dana Ohman
Chief of Conservation



New Recreation and Lodging Projects Set for 2026/2027

By Eric Stechschulte, Deputy Chief of Planning & Projects, and Jeff Yohe, Deputy Chief of Facilities

Exciting improvements are underway across our parks to enhance recreation, lodging, and visitor amenities.

Atwood Lake Park

Construction will soon begin on four new pickleball courts, along with a turf bocce ball court and a bag toss court. The existing pickleball court will also receive new fencing and re-striping, with completion expected by summer. Looking ahead, the Atwood Park Treehouse and Cabins Development Project is scheduled to begin in Spring 2026 with completion by Summer 2027. This unique waterfront development will feature five architecturally distinctive treehouse cabins offering upscale lodging with modern finishes, spa-inspired bathrooms, fireplaces, outdoor decks, and select amenities such as hot tubs and private saunas. Guests will also enjoy access to a private beach area and exclusive dock space. Additionally, the Atwood Lake Dam

Connector Trail — the first project from the District’s new Trails Master Plan — will add approximately 1.7 miles of multi-use trail connecting the Woodland Trail to the Atwood Dam Day Use Area. This project will improve non-motorized access and is expected to be completed in December.

Charles Mill Lake Park

Construction continues on the Beach Area Development Project. Improvements include 30 upgraded full-hookup campsites with concrete pads, a new restroom facility, renovation of the existing beach restroom, and a new picnic shelter. The beach area will also feature a community playground, sport courts, an ADA-accessible fishing pier, shade structures, and a designated food truck

utility pad. To improve access during flooding, the causeway to the beach has been raised by seven feet. Completion is anticipated by summer.

Clendening Lake Marina

Significant upgrades are in the works with a new 3,400-square-foot marina building under construction that will include restrooms, a sales area, office space, storage, and an emergency generator.

The existing marina will be removed following the upcoming season, with the new facility set to open by summer. Construction will also begin soon on three new cabins — two two-bedroom units and one one-bedroom unit, all with lofts and fireplaces — with completion expected by the end of the year.



The new 3,400-square-foot marina building at Clendening Lake Marina is set to open by summer.



Tappan Lake Regional Safety Center scheduled for completion this fall.

Pleasant Hill Lake Park

Work is progressing on new beach amenities located between the existing restroom building and the shoreline. This recreation area will include volleyball courts, tetherball, interactive water feature, a new restroom and changing facility, kayak launch, improved pedestrian connections, and additional seating. The project is scheduled for completion this summer. Additionally, redevelopment of Area E Campground is beginning and will include 101 full-hookup RV sites, a new family-style shower house, improved boat ramp parking, and replacement and widening of Loop Road with the addition of a bike lane. This project is expected to be completed by Spring 2027.

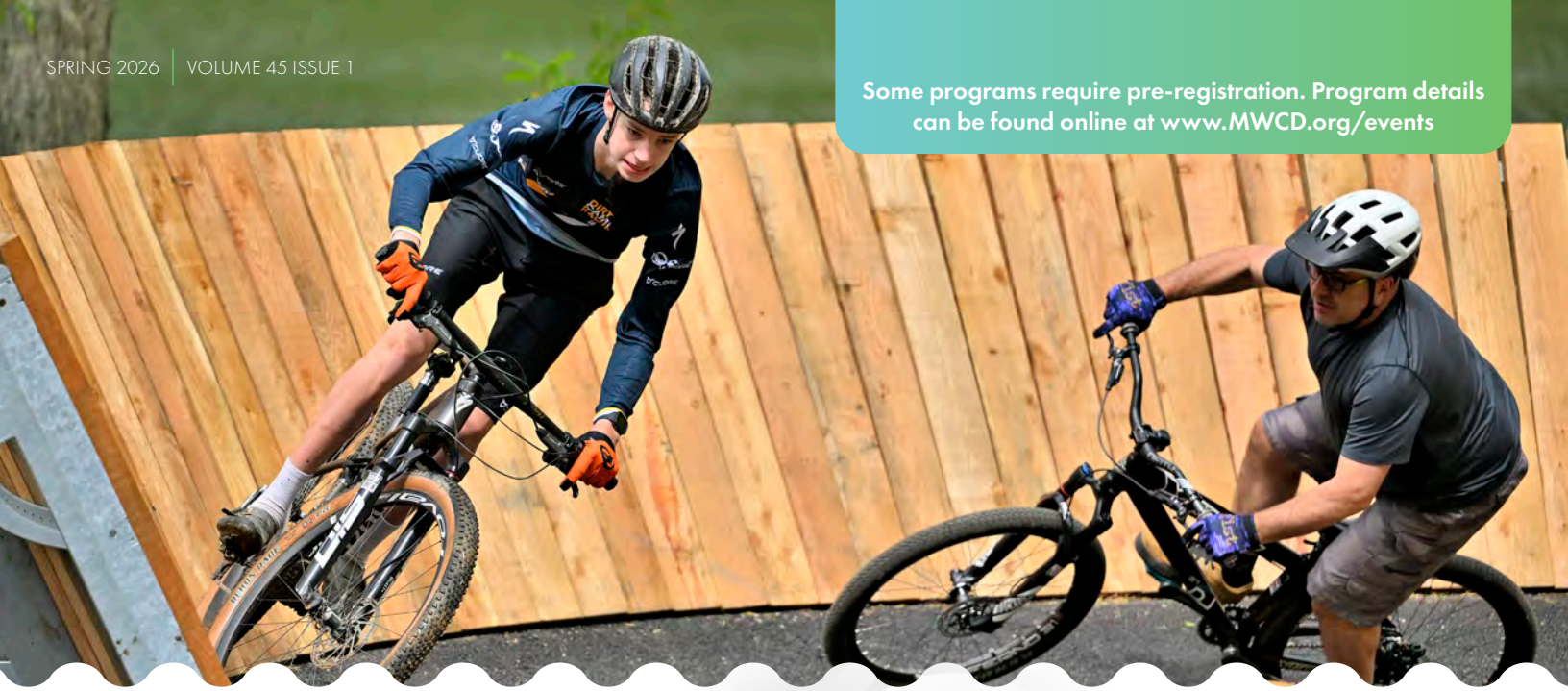
Tappan Lake Park

A new asphalt trail will provide improved pedestrian access between the Welcome and Activity Centers, the beach, and Area 5 Campground, with completion expected this summer. Construction is also underway on the Tappan Lake Regional Safety Center, a 12,530-square-foot multi-use facility that will serve as a ranger training center and home to the Tappan Lake Volunteer Fire Department. The facility will include garage bays, a shooting range, classroom space, a helicopter landing zone, and a storm shelter, with completion anticipated this fall.



Playground at Charles Mill Lake beach area.

Some programs require pre-registration. Program details can be found online at www.MWCD.org/events



A Season of Fun Awaits at our Parks This Spring

Spring is here and we are all looking forward to warmer weather and programs at the lake! Our programs are open to campers, boaters, day visitors, and community members. Mark your calendars for these fun events and be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date with our program calendar.



Welcome Back Camping

April 1 marks the first day of the official camping season! Camp with us in April to meet staff, prepare your camper, and enjoy a variety of programs at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks.



Meet the Easter Bunny and Hunt for Eggs

Celebrate Easter and springtime with Easter egg hunts and more on April 4 at Atwood, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks, or on April 11 at Charles Mill Lake Park. Meet the Easter Bunny and kids ages 3-15 are invited to join an egg hunt. There will also be an egg hunt for our dog friends! Details for each location can be found at MWCD.org/calendar.



Join the Earth Day 2026 Cleanup Challenge

Raise awareness for litter prevention and celebrate Earth Day at all parks and campgrounds. All you need to do is grab gloves and trash bags to pick up litter at a MWCD lake from Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, April 26. Post photos of the cleanup on MWCD Facebook and Instagram pages using #MWCEarthDay2026 and tag the park or marina. Or visit a park on the date listed below to earn coupons for a free night of camping by filling a trash bag. Details for each location can be found at MWCD.org/calendar.

- April 18: Atwood, Charles Mill, Clendening, and Tappan Lakes
- April 25: Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, and Seneca Lakes



Spring Craft Show at Atwood Lake Park

The Spring Craft Show at Atwood Lake Park will take place on April 11 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, featuring a variety of vendors offering a wide range of handmade goods from local artisans. It's a great opportunity to explore unique creations and support local talent in a beautiful park setting.



Tree Giveaway

Do you have a spot for a tree? Stop by the Atwood, Charles Mill, or Tappan Lake Parks on April 18 to pick up free saplings. Red and white oak seedlings will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Planting and species information will also be available at the time of pick-up.

Attend an Ohio Boater Education Course

Spring is the perfect time to get ready for boating season. Make sure to renew your registration through ODNR, purchase a new MWCD docking decal, if needed, and take the Ohio Boater Education Course. While this course is required for those who will operate a boat over 10 horsepower and were born after January 1, 1982, it is a great course for all boaters. There are many ways to complete the course – online, home study, or in-person classes. MWCD certified instructors will be offering in-person courses at the following locations (registration required online).

- April 18: Seneca Lake
- April 25: Tappan Lake
- May 2: Pleasant Hill Lake
- May 9: Atwood Lake



Get a Jump on Summer Camp Registration

Day camps are designed to provide a fun and safe place for kids, ages 5-16, to explore nature, have fun, and learn a new skill. Camps are offered at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan Lake Parks, with a special theme and age-appropriate activities for a full day at the lake. Camp information and registration is available at www.MWCD.org/tickets.



Take a Hike

MWCD Lakes offer a variety of hiking trails for beginners or experienced hikers. Get outside and search for signs of spring and shake off those winter blues. Follow our social media pages for guided hike announcements or explore the trails on your own. View hiking maps at www.MWCD.org/trails.





Join Our Dynamic Team at MWCD

At MWCD, we offer exciting opportunities for individuals at all stages of their careers — whether you are just starting out, seeking a career change, finishing your education, or looking to stay active after retirement. Our team works across various fields related to flood reduction, recreation, and conservation, and we collaborate both internally and with partners.

From engineering and conservation to law enforcement and administration, we offer a variety of roles to match diverse skill sets. All seasonal, part-time, and full-time employees contribute to the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) and enjoy paid holidays. Full-time staff also receive health, dental, and vision benefits, life insurance, paid time off, disability insurance, wellness incentives, and more.

We are a passionate team dedicated to making a difference and providing excellent service to the public and our partners. If you are interested in being a part of our team, visit www.mwcd.org to explore current job openings. And spread the word — you or someone you know might find your next career opportunity is right here at MWCD!



Need A Speaker for Your Next Event?

Is your civic, social, or community group looking for speakers for upcoming meetings? How about providing information for a discussion about the MWCD or any of its many programs?

MWCD can provide the details by supplying a speaker and presentation for those in attendance.

For details, topics, or to book a date, contact Ethan Zucal at MWCD at (330) 556-4814 or by emailing at ezucal@mwcd.org.



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VENDORS AND SPONSORS WANTED

Do you have a business that would benefit from sponsoring weekly program schedules or setting up a vendor table at an event throughout MWCD lakes and campgrounds?

We would love to have you join us to offer the best events for our visitors!

Call 330-343-6647 for more information about our Market in the Park, Car Shows, and Craft Show events.