



# Hancock Park District

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## HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS Public Meeting Notice and Agenda

**Date:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
**Location:** Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated September 11, 2018
2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes dated September 11, 2018

### Financial Status

1. Review of Financial Statement dated September 30, 2018, presented by Hancock Park District business manager, Vicky Stozich

### Old Business

1. Request to hunt geese and ducks in the field at Oakwoods Nature Preserve

### New Business

1. Request from the Marion Township Board of Trustees for funding assistance from the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners regarding the paving of Township Road 208 through Riverbend Recreation Area
2. Request to approve the apparent low bid from Geddis Paving & Excavating for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project
3. Request to approve Resolution 2018-09 regarding an additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project

### Discussion

1. Hancock Park District Report:
  - Director – Gary Pruitt
  - Park Operations Manager – Bill Patch
  - Naturalist – Michelle Rumschlag
  - Marketing Manager – Anne Coburn-Griffis
  - Natural Resource Manager – Bob Sams

### Public Input

### Adjournment

### Park Tour

The Board will tour Riverbend Recreation Area immediately following the meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Richard S. "Doc" Phillips Discovery Center at Oakwoods Nature Preserve

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Report / Agenda Supplement**  
**October 9, 2018**

**Request to hunt geese and ducks in the field at Oakwoods Nature Preserve:** Before the Board permits the hunting of geese and ducks at Oakwoods Nature Preserve, it should consider the following:

1. The farmland at Oakwoods Nature Preserve is leased for farming. The current lease ends on December 1, 2019. Typically, a new lease is entered into by the time the current lease expires. Therefore, there is no time when the farmland at Oakwoods Nature Preserve is not leased for farming. As of 9/12/2018, the farmer intends on planting wheat this fall followed by a July harvest. Terms and Conditions of the current lease agreement say:
  - “It is understood and agreed between the parties that this Lease shall not be assignable or subject to sublease by the LESSEE without the written consent of the LESSOR.”
  - “If LESSEE shall pay the rent and perform all covenants and agreements of this Lease on his part to be performed, then LESSEE shall have the full use and enjoyment of said premises without molestation or hindrance by LESSOR or any person claiming under LESSOR.”

RECOMMENDATION: If hunting is authorized, the lease agreement should be revised so that future farmers are aware of the hunting potential following harvest and that exclusive use under the terms of the agreement is not offered. This may or may not be acceptable to farmers.

2. The Hancock Park District’s current policy is to permit hunting at Litzenberg Memorial Woods (south side only) from November 1-January 31. Ten Small Game and Furbearer permits (waterfowl and furbearing animals only – no deer) were available to hunters as part of the 2017-2018 Hunting with Permission Game Management Program. Hunting geese and ducks is already occurring as part of the current program and policy, and at a location where management controls and oversight are confined to one place with separate on-site parking.
  - The Lottery gives everyone an equal chance to participate. To do otherwise, such as issuing a permit to a person upon request, could create a conflict. If you do for one, you need to be prepared to do for all.
  - Steps were taken in 2017 to strengthen the warning to park visitors during hunting season. Large yellow signs were revised to say: Warning/Trails Closed During Hunting Season/November 1 – January 31/No Hiking/No Horseback Riding/Ohio Revised Code 1545.09, 1545.99/\$150-\$300 fine. Even though there are no hiking trails in the field near CR 144, the land is technically part of Oakwoods Nature Preserve. Park visitors can get to the field or near the field via McKinley Trail at Dold Lake and from the remnant woodlands west of the field via the Meadowlark Trail.

The following excerpts are from a report by Natural Resource Manager, Bob Sams about precedent, enforcement, ballistics, and safety:

*Precedent/Enforcement*

*The Hancock Park District currently allows for limited hunting on the south portion of Litzenberg Memorial Woods. This is conducted through an annual lottery for limited available slots. In the interest of fairness to those hunters involved in the lottery, all hunting permitted/conducted in the Hancock Park System should follow the same general protocols by either adding a goose hunting lottery or revamping our permit process.*

*Any permission to hunt on Hancock Park District property comes with an understanding that personnel hours will be needed to check on compliance that permitted hunters are following established guidelines and to monitor for illegal hunting activity. It stands to reason that any expansion of hunting areas will naturally require more staff hours from primarily the park manager, natural resource manager, and park rangers.*

Ballistics/Safety

Determining the maximum lethal range using non-toxic shot is difficult to determine due to multiple variables (gauge used, shotgun condition, type of shot, wind speed & direction, etc.), but most sources generally give 35-45 yards as the maximum effective kill range. However, since the shotgun shells used for waterfowl hunting are based on the concept of projecting a pattern of small balls (shot) toward a target, there is no guarantee that all the shots will hit their intended target. Therefore, we need to look at the overall range of non-toxic shot.

Again, it is difficult to arrive at an exact range, but many sources quote numbers from 250-300+ yards. At these extreme ranges shot will likely not cause any physical harm to a person, but the psychological effects of an unsuspecting member of the public getting rained on by small balls of steel should not be underestimated. For the sake of showing an example, we will say no hunting within 275 yards of any house, road, or trail. Using this exclusion zone, no area of the CR 9 field would be open since there is a trail that borders the entire field.

On the CR 144 side, factoring in only HPD property, we find that the north-western 1/3 of the combined field falls outside of a 275-yard exclusion or Safety Zone.



(Rough estimate of 275-yard Safety Zone from road, trail, or public area.)

If we factor in the private property of Cooper Pond, the hunting area is cut effectively in half:



(Rough estimate of 275-yard Safety Zone from road, trail, public area, or Cooper Pond.)

*On the left middle side of the maps above, we have what the Park District designates as the North Woods. There are no trails in the section of the preserve, however, people have been known to walk off-trail in this section. If we were to expand the safety zone to give this woods a buffer zone, then the huntable area of this field is basically reduced to zero.*

<https://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/waterfowl/waterfowl-getting-started/nontoxic-shot-and-shot-size>

<https://www.trapshooters.com/threads/how-far-does-steel-shot-travel.405961/>

<https://www.duckhuntingchat.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=137768>

RECOMMENDATION: If hunting is authorized, warnings should be posted as part of a risk management plan, including large signs and park closure (if necessary) similar to what occurs at Litzenberg Memorial Woods during hunting season. The safety zone should be marked in the field and monitored (adding even more staff time to manage hunting). Actions should guard against a haphazard approach to hunting on public land. It shouldn't be taken lightly.

3. Prior to the 2017-2018 Hunting with Permission Game Management Program, hunting opportunities at Litzenberg Memorial Woods were reduced by two months in favor of keeping publicland open longer for other outdoor recreation activities and because there are other public hunting locations throughout Hancock County. The reduction was a policy decision by the Board. Expanding hunting opportunities in Oakwoods Nature Preserve or anywhere else in the Hancock Park System would appear to be in conflict with the intent of that action. Perhaps the Board should reinforce its position (e.g. the policy is to permit hunting at Litzenberg Memorial Woods – south side – only from November 1-January 31 via a lottery and that hunting is not permitted anywhere else in the Hancock Park System).

The following excerpts are from a report by Natural Resource Manager, Bob Sams about the issue of preserve status/wildlife impact:

*Preserve Status/Wildlife Impact*

*Oakwoods is considered a nature preserve. While the Hancock Park District currently does not have specific definitions for park designations, it has historically been perceived that the primary goal of our preserves is to preserve wildlife and enhance education, while providing opportunities for light-impact recreational activities. The Hancock Park District has historically considered hunting as more of a special permitted activity, rather than a general, low-impact one. While the rented farm fields are not what most people think of when they picture Oakwoods Nature Preserve, they are nevertheless part of the preserve.*

*The fall-winter population of Canada Geese in Hancock County typically runs in the low thousands. Limited goose hunting at this location would have little impact on these numbers.*

RECOMMENDATION: If hunting is authorized, the Board should have a good reason for issuing the permit. Moreover, the Board should be comfortable with and be prepared to justify the following headline: HPD Board permits hunting in Oakwoods Nature Preserve. The combination of "hunting" and "Oakwoods Nature Preserve" may raise questions and concerns. Visitors to Oakwoods Nature Preserve enjoy the quiet, natural environment and desire a certain experience that may be disrupted and changed with the sound of hunting in a nearby field.

4. Hancock Park District staff, including Director, Park Operations Manager, Natural Resource Manager, Naturalist, Marketing Manager, and Business Manager met recently to review an assessment provided by Natural Resource Manager, Bob Sams and to discuss the pros and cons of the request. As a result, there is a consensus among the group that hunting geese and ducks at Oakwoods Nature Preserve should not be permitted (see Bob Sam's full report titled Goose hunting at Oakwoods Nature Preserve).

**Request from the Marion Township Board of Trustees for funding assistance from the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners regarding the paving of Township Road 208 through Riverbend Recreation Area:** Jim Goshe will be at the meeting to make a formal request, provide more information, and answer questions. Two paving options are being considered: asphalt overlay at approximately \$34,500.00 or tar and chip at approximately \$8,250.00.

There are at least two considerations: Should the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners pay for improvements to Township Road 208 through Riverbend Recreation Area? Should the road be improved with an asphalt overlay (more expensive, high quality surface, long lasting) or with tar and chip (less expensive, may provide better skid resistance, less able to maintain its integrity)? Bicyclists often complain about tar and chip roads.

**Request to approve the apparent low bid from Geddis Paving & Excavating for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project:** Three bids were received. The apparent low bid of \$39,518.75 was submitted by Geddis Paving & Excavating, Inc. from Toledo, Ohio (see Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project Bid Tabulation Sheet).

**Request to approve Resolution 2018-09 regarding an additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project:** The request for an additional appropriation is for \$43,470.63, including \$39,518.75 for the contract and \$3,951.88 for contingency (see Resolution 2018-09).

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2018**

The October 9, 2018 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held in Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area.

Park Commissioners Present: Gary Hirschfeld, Scott Younger, Ed Ingold  
HPD Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Vicky Stozich, Michelle Rumschlag, Bill Patch, Anne Coburn-Griffis, Bob Sams  
Guests Present: Jim Maurer, Jim Lowden

The meeting was called to order by Gary Hirschfeld at 3:27 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Ed Ingold to approve the September 11, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Scott Younger with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve the September 11, 2018 Executive Session minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**FINANCIAL STATUS**

Income and expense reports year to date September 30, 2018 were presented by HPD business manager, Vicky Stozich and reviewed by the Board of Park Commissioners.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Request to hunt geese and ducks in the field at Oakwoods Nature Preserve:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Scott Younger to hold on the request until the current farmland lease is over. The issue can be revisited at that time. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request from the Marion Township Board of Trustees for funding assistance from the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners regarding the paving of Township Road 208 through Riverbend Recreation Area:** A motion was made by Gary Hirschfeld with a second by Ed Ingold to pay 50% of the cost for an asphalt overlay on Township Road 208 through Riverbend Recreation Area. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Request to approve the apparent low bid from Geddis Paving & Excavating for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Scott Younger to approve the low bid from Geddis Paving & Excavating in the amount of \$39,518.75. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners  
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**Request to approve Resolution 2018-09 regarding an additional appropriation within the Auditor’s Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the general fund for the Blanchard Landing Parking Lot Project:** A motion was made by Gary Hirschfeld with a second by Scott Younger to approve Resolution 2018-09 in the amount of \$43,470.63, including a 10% contingency. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**DISCUSSION**

Hancock Park District Report:

The National Recreation and Park Association and the Ohio Park and Recreation Association are conducting a 2018 Salary Survey. House Bill 736 would require a Board of Park Commissioners to get approval from a Board of County Commissioners before it certifies a tax resolution.

Docks are out. Hayrides have started. Exercise equipment at Centennial Park will be installed soon.

History Comes Alive served 476 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Pioneer Tyke Hikes served 600 youth ages 3 to 6. Dawn Stechschulte was hired as a new program specialist. The Program Department is at full staff.

Attended the NRPA Annual Congress in Indianapolis. Working on a graphic for the Seasonal Program & Event Guide that communicates the benefits of participating in programs and visiting parks. The Photography Contest is being revamped. Several volunteer projects are scheduled for October. A survey for volunteers has been conducted.

Grasslands are being mowed and an erosion control project has been completed at Giertz Lake.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Jim Lowden inquired about the status of the Blanchard River Water Trail designation and expressed concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

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Gary E. Hirschfeld, Chairperson

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Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

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Date

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Date