



# Hancock Park District

---

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

**Date:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
**Location:** Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated August 10, 2021

### Financial Status

1. Review of the Financial Statement dated August 31, 2021, presented by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich
2. Statement of Activity for the Hancock Park District Blanchard River Greenway Trail Fund from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021

### Old Business

### New Business

1. Request to hunt waterfowl in the Wetland Restoration Area at Oakwoods Nature Preserve
2. Request to approve Resolution 2021-19 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Auditor/Treasurer settlement fees
3. Request to approve Resolution 2021-20 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor
4. Request to approve Resolution 2021-21 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$176,305.00 for design and engineering services associated with the Bright Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project

### Discussion

1. Hancock Park District Report:
  - Director – Gary Pruitt
  - Business Manager – Vicky Stozich
  - Naturalist – Michelle Rumschlag
  - Natural Resource Manager – Chad Carroll

### Public Input

### Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. in Brugeman Lodge at Riverbend Recreation Area

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Report / Agenda Supplement**  
**September 14, 2021**

**Request to hunt waterfowl at Oakwoods Nature Preserve:** At the October 9, 2018 meeting, the Board considered a request to hunt waterfowl in the fields at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. The Board chose to hold on the request until the current farmland lease was over with the understanding that the issue could be revisited at that time.

Subsequent action by the Board led to the discontinuation of farming at Oakwoods Nature Preserve in favor of natural area development, approval of conceptual plans for a Wetland Restoration Project, and the submittal of H2Ohio grant applications for the development of wetland habitat, prairie habitat, and woodland habitat. In January 2020, the Board approved the H2Ohio Grant Agreement between the Hancock Park District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Wetland Restoration Project at Oakwoods Nature Preserve.

At the July 2021 Board meeting, a request was made to hunt waterfowl in the Wetland Restoration Area at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. Before the Board permits hunting at Oakwoods Nature Preserve, it should consider the following:

1. The Wetland Restoration Area is currently closed. The project will not be finished until December 2021 (tree planting is scheduled for autumn). Therefore, the earliest that hunting should be permitted is autumn of 2022.
2. Immediately upon completion of the Wetland Restoration Project, the Hancock Park District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will mutually agree upon an Environmental Covenant subjecting the property in perpetuity to activity and use limitations sufficient to protect the project and all wetlands created, restored, or maintained.
3. If hunting is permitted, it should be part of the Hancock Park District's Hunting with Permission Game Management Program. It should be subject to the annual hunting lottery, rules, and guidelines. Note: Ten permits are issued each year for waterfowl hunting at Litzenberg Memorial Woods.
4. If Oakwoods Nature Preserve is added to the hunting lottery, the park should be closed when hunting occurs. To do otherwise would create an unsafe environment.
5. Oakwoods Nature Preserve lacks the characteristics that make the south side of Litzenberg Memorial Woods a favorable hunting location. Compared to Litzenberg Memorial Woods, logistically, it would be more challenging to close Oakwoods Nature Preserve to the general public and permit hunting. Oakwoods Nature Preserve is already a popular destination. It is not difficult to foresee user conflicts and public relation challenges if the park is closed for hunting.

Staff Report/Agenda Supplement, continued – page 2

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-19 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Auditor/Treasurer settlement fees:** There was an increase in the Auditor/Treasurer fees, which are based on a percentage of taxes collected. That percentage increases every year. This year there was also a large company that is appealing its value to the state, which has caused the delinquent tax collection fees to rise (see Resolution 2021-19).

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-20 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor:** Resolution 2021-20 accepts the amounts

and rates as determined by the Hancock County Budget Commission and authorizes the necessary tax levies and certifies them to the Hancock County Auditor for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022. As a routine matter each year, the Board of Park Commissioners is required to accept and adopt the resolution (see Resolution 2021-20).

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-21 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor’s Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$176,305.00 for design and engineering services associated with the Bright Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project:** The Hancock Park District issued a Request for Qualifications on December 13, 2019 and received Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified environmental firms on January 3, 2020. Coldwater Consulting, LLC was selected to complete all site assessment, conceptual design, cost estimating, surveying, permitting, design, and construction oversight activities. Coldwater Consulting, LLC provided professional services for the Wetland Restoration Area at Oakwoods Nature Preserve and has also been selected to provide the same services for the Bright Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project.

The project timeline is as follows:

- Engineering and Design                      October 2021-March 2022
- Construction Process                         April 2022-December 2022

An agreement between the Hancock Park District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was executed on August 29, 2021. An H2Ohio grant in the amount of \$439,000.00 has been awarded. It is a 100% reimbursable grant. Engineering costs and construction costs are eligible and are included in the \$439,000.00 grant.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources processed a purchase order in the amount of \$439,000.00 on September 2, 2021. A copy of the purchase order was given to the Hancock Park District with a message saying that the project can now begin.

An agreement for professional services between the Hancock Park District and Coldwater Consulting, LLC will be executed following Board approval of Resolution 2021-21. The agreement includes a fee for professional services in the amount of \$176,305.00 (see Resolution 2021-21).

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
**Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2021**

The September 14, 2021 meeting of the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners was held at Riverbend Recreation Area's Brugeman Lodge.

Park Commissioners Present: Gary Hirschfeld, Ed Ingold  
Park Commissioner Absent: Scott Younger  
HPD Staff Present: Gary Pruitt, Vicky Stozich, Michelle Rumschlag, Chad Carroll  
Guests Present: Todd Richards, Sara Arthurs (3:32 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Gary Hirschfeld at 3:28 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve the August 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**FINANCIAL STATUS**

Income and expense reports year to date August 31, 2021 were presented to the Board by Hancock Park District Business Manager Vicky Stozich.

The Board reviewed the Statement of Activity for the Hancock Park District Blanchard River Greenway Trail Fund from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Request to hunt waterfowl in the Wetland Restoration Area at Oakwoods Nature Preserve:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to take the matter under advisement and table the request pending more information and further review. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-19 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Auditor/Treasurer settlement fees:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve Resolution 2021-19. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-20 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve Resolution 2021-20. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**Request to approve Resolution 2021-21 regarding additional appropriation within the Auditor's Certification and Park Commissioners to appropriate in the General Fund in the amount of \$176,305.00 for design and engineering services**

**associated with the Bright Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project:** A motion was made by Ed Ingold with a second by Gary Hirschfeld to approve Resolution 2021-21. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

**DISCUSSION**

**Hancock Park District Report:**

The Hancock Park District Director will be attending the virtual National Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference on September 21-23. The Director and Natural Resource Manager along with Kristen Risch from Coldwater Consulting will host a tour of the Wetland Restoration Area at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. Representatives from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and prospective H2Ohio project participants will be in attendance to see an actual H2Ohio project and learn how a project goes from start to finish. Stevie Brooks was hired at Park Manager East. She will begin work on September 27.

Budget development is underway. History Comes Alive is next week. Pioneer Tyke Hikes and Autumnfest are scheduled for the fall. Zonta Landing Boat Rental revenue was \$6,500.00; not as much as 2020 but more than 2019. Fall Float Trips are available on weekends from September through mid-November. Drone photographs were taken of the Wetland Restoration Area on August 25, 2021.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Meeting Minutes approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary E. Hirschfeld, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary E. Pruitt, Director/Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_