

Geauga County Bridle Trails

The Geauga County Park District has eleven parks throughout the county. Five of these parks have bridle trails totaling eleven miles. This report is only a brief review of each park/reservation giving general information and the location.

All Bridle Trails are primarily for the use of equestrians but hikers, dog walkers (dogs must be on a leash), skiers and on certain designated trails, bicyclists are allowed. All users are responsible for sharing the trail and other courtesies.

Horseback riding is permitted along designated trails and on park roadways only. These are indicated in individual park maps and with trail signs. Please keep your horse on the improved portion of the trail. Don't ride through streams, other than horse trail crossings or to the edge of the reservoir at Headwaters Park. NEVER leave your horse unattended except at a designated hitching rail or horse shelter. You are responsible for cleaning up after your horse in parking lots and along roadways.

General Information for the Geauga Park District:

Trail Provider/ Land Manager is: The Geauga Park District, www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
Emergency Phone Numbers:

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 9 1 1

Geauga Park District 440-286-9516 (during Park Hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays
10:00 am to 6:00 pm weekends)

Sheriff's Department 440-286-1234 (off hours, when park is closed)

Our OHC Park Liaison, Nora Stanton, 440-564-7926, would gladly answer questions regarding the Park trails.

All Geauga Parks have brown park signs indicating the park on the major roads. All the trails are rated as an easy trail with the exception of Pioneer Trail (West Woods), and Highline Trail (Big Creek Park), which are rated as moderate. There is no overnight camping with horses available.

BEARTOWN LAKES RESERVATION – Whitetail Trail

LOCATION: 18870 Quinn Rd. Auburn/Bainbridge Townships. Quinn Rd is located off of Taylor May Road, which runs between Rt. 306 and Rt. 44.

There are no unique or scenic trail features. There are scenic lakes at Beartown.

EASY TRAIL

Whitetail Trail makes an 1.5-mile loop through woodland, meadow, and overlooking wetlands. The trail has gently sloping terrain; groomed surface, this trail does have a small bridge. The trail surface is gravel topped with Geo-textile fabric and is dry normally and acceptable in winter and wet weather.

TRAIL HAZARD

The trail hazard would be the trail marker at the base of the dam causes the rider to back track.

The trail can be accessed on the north end of the North Point parking area. **PARKING**

Both Trailhead parking areas are asphalt.

FACILITIES

There is a tie rail available also picnic tables, shelter house and restrooms.

BIG CREEK PARK – Creek Trail and Highline Trail

LOCATION: 9160 Robinson Rd. Chardon Township. Robinson Road is located off of Woodin Road between Rt. 608 and North Street/Ravenna Rd. This park has four entrances.

EASY TRAIL

Creek Trail makes a 2.1-mile ride that wanders through woodland between Tupelo Pond and Woodin Road. The trail surface is gravel and is dry normally and acceptable in winter and wet weather.

MODERATE TRAIL

Highline Trail utilizes .8 miles of power line clearings that run through Big Creek Park. The trail surface is gravel and is dry normally and acceptable in winter and wet weather, however, north on the Highland Trail it can be muddy and this trail is rocky by the power lines.

TRAIL HAZARD

If you take the trail down the power lines toward Robinson Road there is a very steep gullied out hill.

PARKING

Trailer parking is available at the Woodin Rd., Tupelo Pond, and Big Creek parking areas. The parking areas are asphalt.

FACILITIES

There are no facilities available. The people facilities are located in the Big Creek Nature Center Building.

HEADWATERS PARK – Buckeye Trail

LOCATION 13365 Old State Rd. Huntsburg/Claridon Townships. Headwaters Park/East Branch Reservoir. Headwaters Park has two entrances one on Rt. 608 between Rt. 87 and Rt. 322 and one entrance on Rt. 322. The reservoir is owned by the City of Akron Water Supply Division and leased by Geauga Park District. All users share the common effort to prevent erosion and water contamination.

EASY TRAIL

Buckeye Trail is a 2-mile multi-purpose trail shared by horseback riders, hikers, bicyclists, and others. The trail surface is gravel and is dry normally and acceptable in winter and wet weather.

PARKING

Trailer parking is available off of Route 608. The parking area is gravel and asphalt.

FACILITIES

There is a tie rail available also picnic tables, shelter house and restrooms.

SWINE CREEK RESERVATION- Wagon Trail, Gray Fox Trail, and Meadowlark Trail
LOCATION 16004 Hayes Rd. Middlefield/Parkman Townships. Hayes Road is located off of Route 87. There are also two other park entrances on Swine Creek Rd.

EASY TRAIL

The Wagon Trail, Gray Fox Trail and Meadowlark Trail provide 2.4 miles of riding through woodlands and meadows.

TRAIL HAZARD

In the meadow there is an OIL WELL that can start working at any time. When it starts working it can be very noisy and could startle a horse.

The Park District has at various times of the year on the Wagon Trail scheduled public wagon rides.

PARKING

Trailer parking is available at the Hayes Rd. entrance by the lodge and there is another parking area by the trail. The parking areas are asphalt.

FACILITIES

There is a tie rail available also picnic tables, shelter house for horses and restrooms in the Lodge.

THE WEST WOODS PARK – Pioneer (Bridle) Trail

LOCATION 9465 Kinsman Rd. Newbury/Russell Townships. The Park is on Route 87 (Kinsman Rd.) closer to Rt. 306 but between Rt. 306 and Route 44.

MODERATE TRAIL

Pioneer Trail is a 2-mile loop, which circles the perimeter of the park with sandstone ledges, mature forests, wetlands and pristine Silver Creek. In 2004 the Park District is planning another trail. The trail surface is gravel topped with Geo-textile fabric and is dry normally and acceptable in winter and wet weather.

PARKING

The trailer parking is the first driveway on your right. The parking area is asphalt.

FACILITIES

There is a tie rail available in the parking lot area; also there is a tie rail available on the trail.

There are no picnic tables or facilities available at this time by the parking lot. The people facilities are available at the Nature Center located in the Park. The picnic shelters located in the park are off limits to horses.