

Litzenberg Memorial Woods



Hancock Park District Headquarters
 1424 East Main Cross, Findlay, Ohio 45840
 419-425-PARK(7275) (24 hrs.)
 419-423-5811 fax
 www.HancockParks.com
 HPD office hours: 8AM - 4:30PM



Welcome...

...to Hancock County's renewable forest, 227 acres located five miles downstream west of Findlay along the Blanchard River at Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Many scenic surprises await visitors to this natural, historical park. Rolling countryside of the Blanchard River Valley, wooded ravines and vistas that haven't changed for over a century make Litzenberg one of the "most beautiful places" in the Hancock Parks System.

The rich agricultural heritage of Northwest Ohio, preserved in the restored buildings and farm fields of Litzenberg, make it a natural "farmpark". It is an educational place to learn the history of the land - the Native Americans who first settled, hunted and farmed it; and later, the pioneer families who cleared it and made farming their life.

Litzenberg is a natural experience - trails through woods and fields, wildlife and wetlands, and places to play and picnic. Enjoy the changing seasons and park activities for a "harvest of outdoor adventure".

Facilities and Activities

Historic farmstead structures date back to the mid-1800's and today serve the Park for many seasonal activities. The Park is designed for the disabled with paved walks and ramps connecting all major features. A picnic grove with a shelter and playground is located near the parking lot.

Exhibits at the gatehouse welcome visitors and encourage guests to learn more about these unique surroundings.

The largest barn has been reconstructed for public use and is the activity center for many park programs and year around activities. The barn can be reserved for groups of up to 100 people by contacting the Park District Headquarters. Restrooms and drinking fountain are located next to the barn.

The McKinnis farmhouse and related structures serve as a living history area. Rural farm life is portrayed by costumed living history interpreters during scheduled or requested programs. Watch the bulletin boards at the barn and gatehouse for activity schedules and park information or call 419-425-PARK(7275) to receive updated park information or visit the parks on line at:

www.HancockParks.com

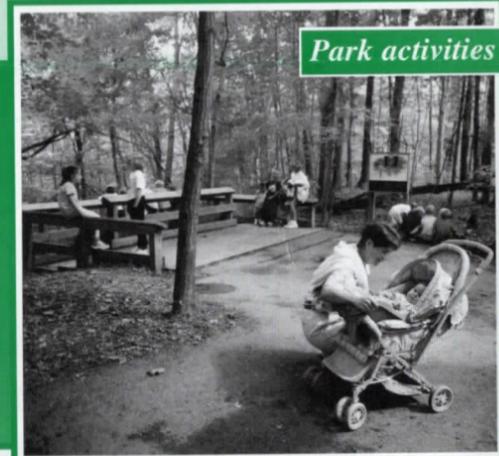
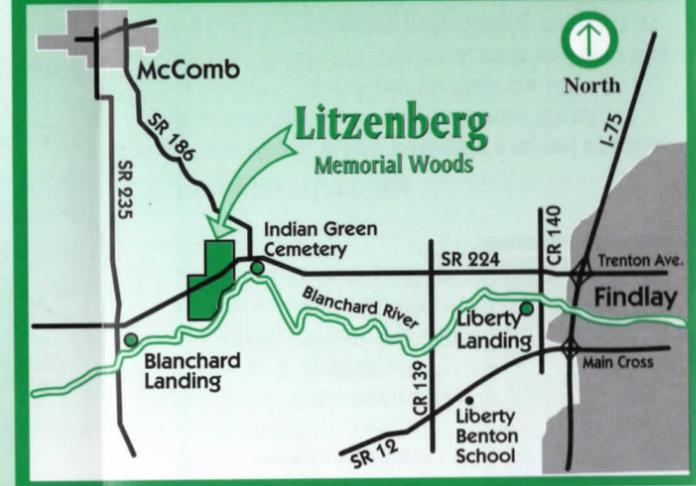
Litzenberg Legacy

In 1985, the property was bequeathed to the Hancock Park District by the late Otta Litzenberg to be sustained as a forest preserve. It is the largest, single gift of land to a public agency in Hancock County, valued at that time to be worth \$650,000. Initially, the Park District received the woods and farm buildings. The fields are to be used for conservation purposes for 30 years, or until the year 2017, through a special trust agreement in Mr. Litzenberg's will for the Garrett Wykoff Masonic Lodge in Lima. A monument to Otta and Ruby Litzenberg is located near the flagpole and an interpretive panel about the "Litzenberg Legacy" can be viewed at the scenic overlook deck. Mr. Litzenberg named the Park and called for the woods to be managed as a renewable resource with timber harvests to help fund Park improvements and maintenance.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods Park Map

(See Enlargement Other Side)

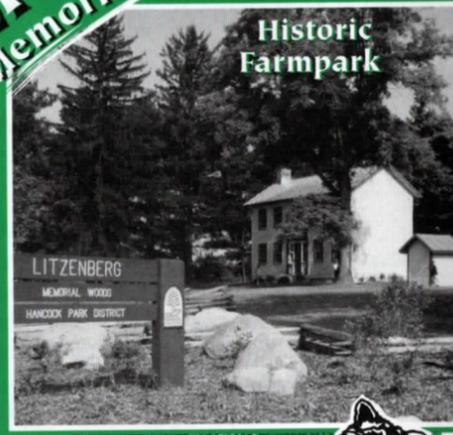
Location Map



Park activities for all ages, all interests.



Litzenberg Memorial Woods



Historic Farmpark



As Hancock County's principal outdoor recreation agency, the Hancock Park District has basic responsibilities for park and recreational resources. Created by Hancock County in 1970, the Park District is a special district of the State of Ohio. Protection of our environment and improvement of outdoor recreation close to home are major concerns of the Board of Park Commissioners. The District works in cooperation with the villages and the City of Findlay to ensure the wisest and most economical choices in managing all our scenic, historic and recreational resources. The heritage is a public trust for residents of Hancock County, now and in the future.

Parks for All Seasons, All People

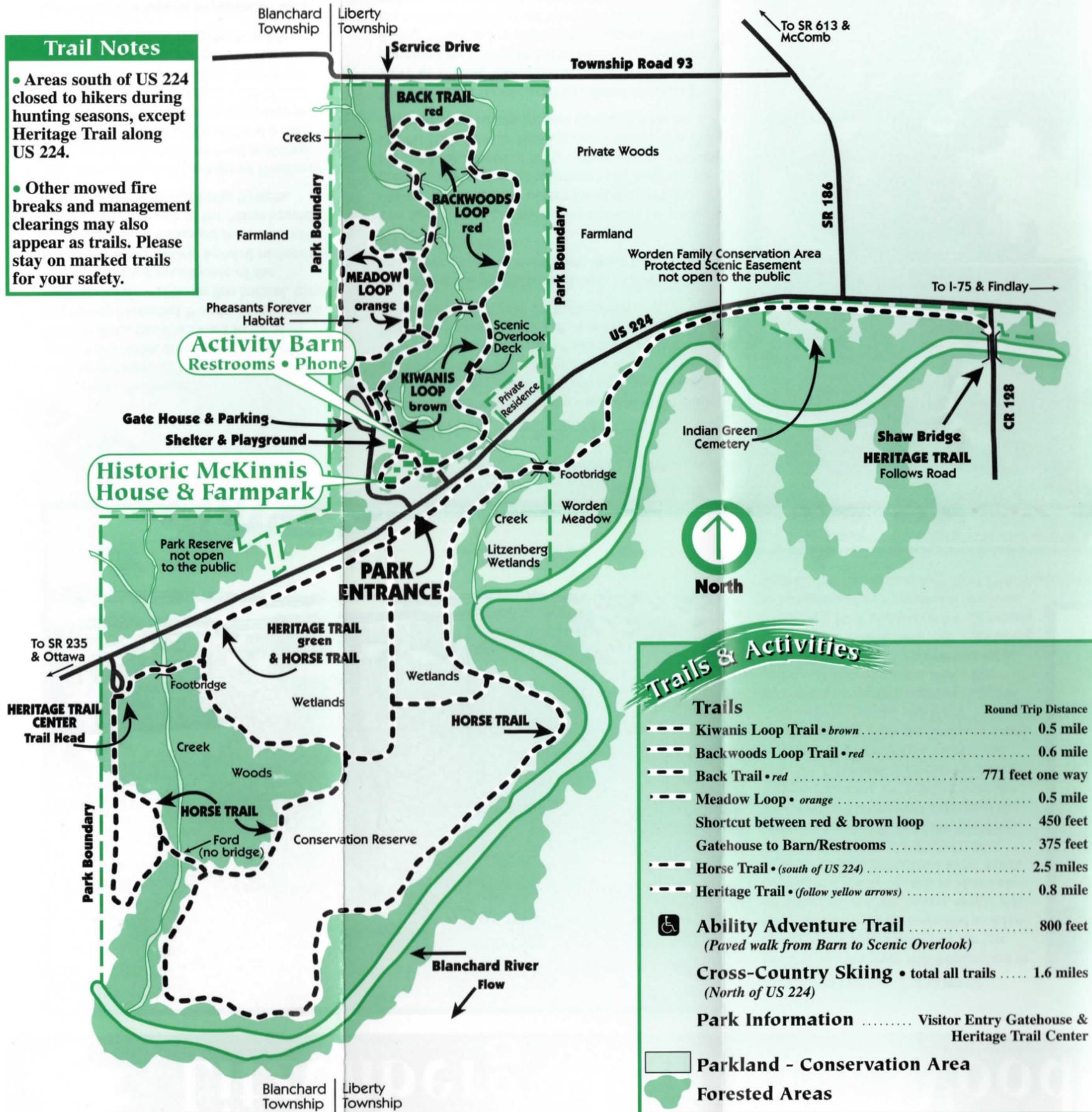
The Hancock Park District welcomes, encourages and supports participants in all activities. HPD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Most parks in the Hancock Parks System have been acquired and/or developed with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund of the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, matched by local support.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Trail Notes

- Areas south of US 224 closed to hikers during hunting seasons, except Heritage Trail along US 224.
- Other mowed fire breaks and management clearings may also appear as trails. Please stay on marked trails for your safety.



Trails & Activities

Trails	Round Trip Distance
--- Kiwanis Loop Trail • brown	0.5 mile
--- Backwoods Loop Trail • red	0.6 mile
--- Back Trail • red	771 feet one way
--- Meadow Loop • orange	0.5 mile
--- Shortcut between red & brown loop	450 feet
--- Gatehouse to Barn/Restrooms	375 feet
--- Horse Trail • (south of US 224)	2.5 miles
--- Heritage Trail • (follow yellow arrows)	0.8 mile
Ability Adventure Trail	800 feet (Paved walk from Barn to Scenic Overlook)
Cross-Country Skiing • total all trails	1.6 miles (North of US 224)
Park Information	Visitor Entry Gatehouse & Heritage Trail Center
Parkland - Conservation Area	
Forested Areas	

Trails for All Seasons

Three loop trails on the north side of U.S. 224 are color coded for you to easily find your way around the Park. Follow this map and colored arrows on posts along the trails throughout the Park. Trail head signs also show the routes for a safe return. **Please stay on the trails for your safety. Do not disturb the habitat of animal homes and food supply.**

Meadow Loop (orange arrows)

Easy walk around Pheasants Forever habitat on grass trail.

Kiwanis Loop (brown arrows)

Some paved and woodchipped trail sections with footbridges. Sertoma Scenic Overlook Deck located halfway on Loop through farmpark and woods. Several steep ramps.

Backwoods Loop (red arrows)

Woodchipped trail deep into woods, across several footbridges, hooking up to Kiwanis Loop on shortcut back to parking lot. A short "Back Trail" provides an alternate link in the loop.

Ability Adventure Trail

A paved part of the Kiwanis Loop Trail extends from the barn to the Sertoma Scenic Overlook, the high point of the Park. Provided by Findlay Civitan Club to benefit the disabled, this access for all has benches along an easy path for wheelchairs.

Natural Areas

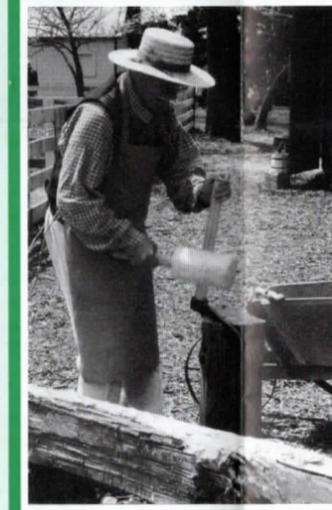
Oak, hickory and maple dominate a mixed species stand of trees in Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Hillsides and upland forest habitats are full of watchable wildlife like squirrels, owls and deer that can be seen from vantage points along the trails. A variety of habitats can be compared in the Park as the north woods slope to fields, wetlands and the Blanchard River floodplain to the south. The ravines contain steep slopes cut into a glacial moraine. The moraine was deposited at the end of the last ice age (Wisconsin Glacial Period) 10,000–14,000 years ago. Small streams have continued to cut the ravines from the north bank of the prehistoric and present flood plain of the Blanchard River. The changes in grade or elevations vary

90 feet from the river to the high point at the overlook deck. This topography gives visitors some interesting scenery not found elsewhere in Hancock County. Farmland cleared centuries ago provides open space for birds of prey to soar in search of rabbits, squirrels and mice that live around the edges. Pheasants Forever have developed a 7-1/2 acre habitat for nesting birds away from the busy park areas but that can still be seen from the Meadow Trail.

Wetlands thrive along the creek and wildlife and vegetation are abundant. These ground water recharge areas help feed water wells for homes and farms as well as freshen the environment acting as the Park's "clean air machine". Please stay out of sensitive wetlands to avoid getting stuck in the mud. Good stewardship of the Park protects these areas for future generations to enjoy.

Fall color, spring wildflowers, migrating birds and sweet summer smells are natural rewards offering something new to discover with every visit. Naturalist-led hikes at sunset or under a full moon and living history walks are scheduled to help visitors learn more as they walk the trails during park programs.

Period crafts demonstration.



Park Heritage

Woods once covered most of Hancock County, including the area now known as Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Native Americans hunted here and built their lodges safely on the high ground to escape floods on the Blanchard River. Settlers later cleared the land, using it for over 150 years as farmland and pasture to provide food and shelter. Three families have owned the land from the 1820's until 1985 when the property was donated to the Park District and the citizens of Hancock County. In 1989, three Findlay Kiwanis Clubs joined efforts to build the new park through a long range "Adopt-A-Park" project. Trails were opened in 1990 and the Farmpark opened to the public in October of 1995.

Thanks to many volunteers, gifts, grants and contributions since 1985, starting with the land itself, a park is now open in western Hancock County, dawn to dark, 365 days a year.

Come Back Soon!

