



BIG CREEK PARK, a beautiful 624-acre wooded tract, is located in Chardon Township. Scenic Big Creek bisects the park from south to north, and with its many tributaries, creates a landscape of varied relief. *It is Geauga Park District's intent to protect this natural area in perpetuity.*



Paul A. Newman


HABITATS

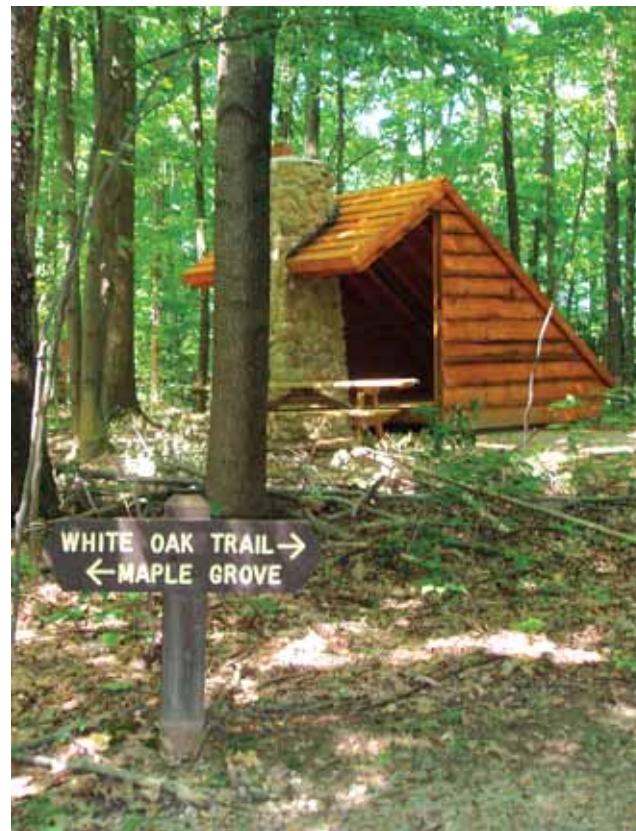
 Most of the park is forested with a rich beech-maple woods carpeted with colorful wildflowers in spring. Numerous species of songbirds migrate from the tropics to nest in this mature forest, which also shelters many kinds of woodland animals.

 The uplands are divided by small streams exposing glacial deposits and bedrock in their ravines. Where the valley of Big Creek narrows, hemlock trees line the cool steep slopes. Distinctive plant species are found on the clay slumps and along flood plain areas.

FACILITIES

The Donald W. Meyer Center is the focal point of Big Creek Park. With exhibits, meeting rooms, wildlife feeding area, and outdoor amphitheater, this nature center offers visitors unique opportunities to appreciate the natural history of Geauga County.

 Camping is available by permit throughout the year at four primitive sites, two of which are equipped with Lean-To shelters.




HISTORY

In 1926, Samuel Livingston Mather purchased almost 1000 acres of land in Chardon Township with hopes of creating a high class resort. However, the onset of the Depression shattered his dreams.

Because of Mather's desire to see the area preserved, 505 acres of land were donated to the State of Ohio in 1955. After its creation, Geauga Park District entered into a lease agreement with the State in 1965. Several adjoining parcels were later acquired to bring the total to 624 acres. In 1990, the State of Ohio officially transferred ownership of the leased portion to Geauga Park District.


FISHING


 Fishing for bluegill and bass can be enjoyed on Chestnut, Wild Goose and Tupelo Ponds. Fish may be taken only with rod and reel, or cane pole; a current Ohio fishing license is required in accordance with state regulations. Boating and wading are not permitted, nor is the collection of live bait within the park. Geauga Park District encourages catch and release practices.





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TRAILS


 A 6.4-mile network of trail loops in the vicinity of the picnic and parking areas provide a variety of options for enjoying the surrounding forest on foot.

 The Creek Trail and Highline Trail are designed for horseback riding.

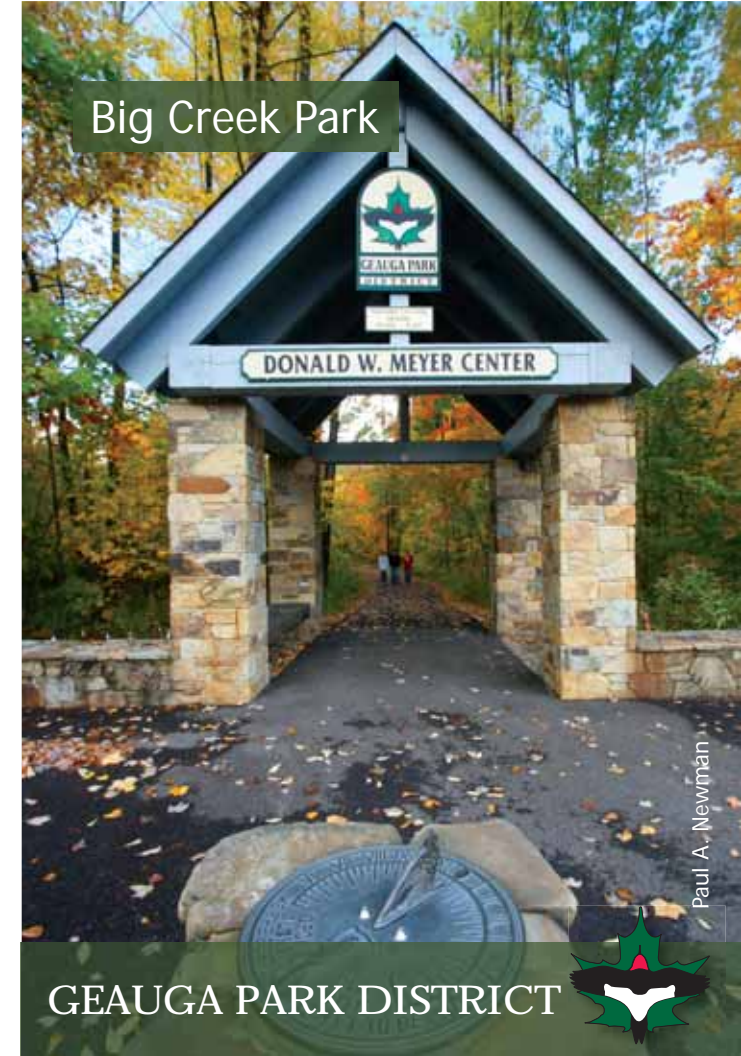
 Trails appropriate for cross-country skiing are marked.

 The paved Cascade Trail; and Ruth Kennan Trail provide outdoor access for people of all abilities.

 A section of the Buckeye Trail, which encircles the State of Ohio, passes through Big Creek Park. Its path through the park is marked with blue blazes on trees.

 The North Section of the Maple Highlands Trail can be accessed from the Big Creek Spur parking area on Ravenna Road.

Big Creek Park



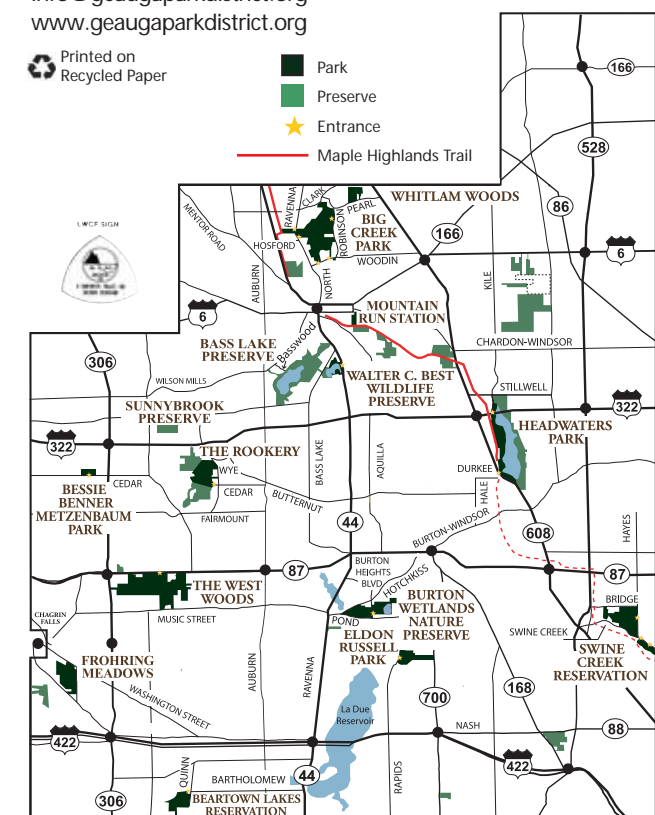
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GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

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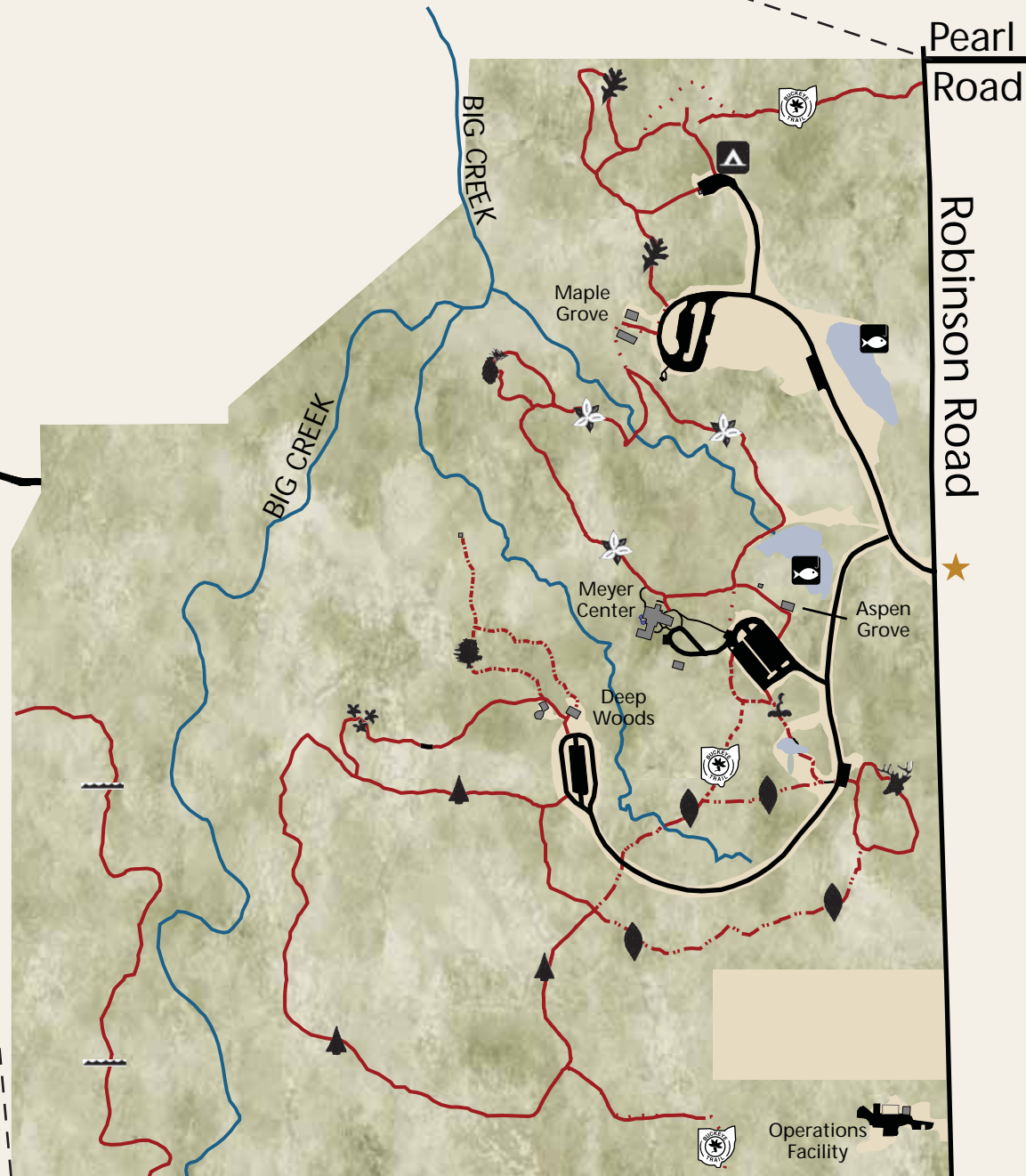
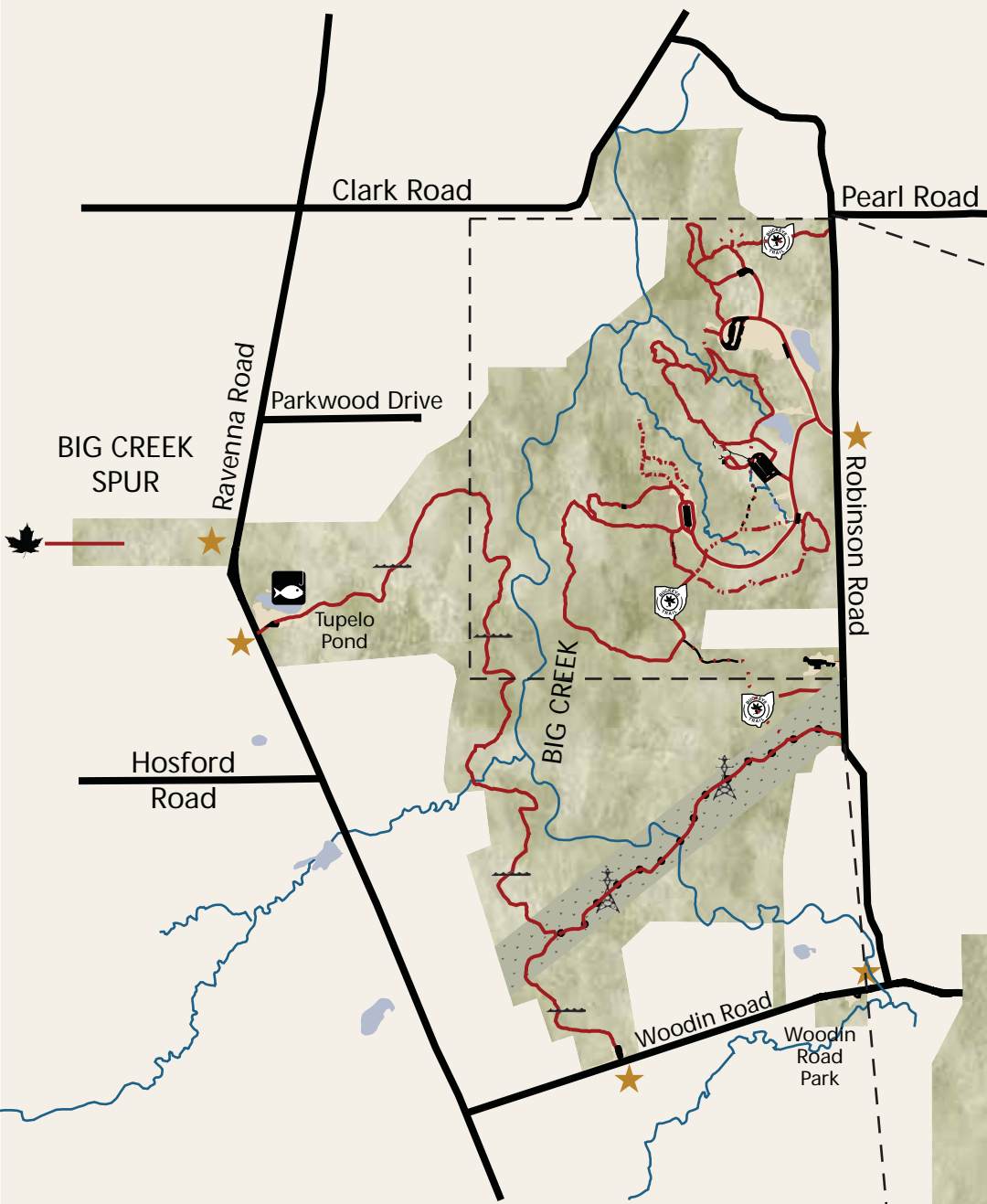
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Big Creek Park Lat: N 41 37.257 Long: W 081 12.071

5M707



MAP KEY	
★	Park Entrance
■	Meadow/Shrub
■	Wetlands
■	Vernal Pool



TRAILS	MILES
White Oak Trail	0.3
Trillium Trail	0.7
Boreal Trail	0.1
Cascade Trail	0.1
Ruth Kennan Trail	0.2
Beechwoods Trail	0.6
Deep Woods Trail	0.3
Wildflower Trail	0.2
Hemlock Trail	1.0
Creek Trail	2.1
Highline Trail	0.8
Buckeye Trail ●●●●	
Maple Highlands Trail	4.0

PICNIC AREAS	
Maple Grove	*
Aspen Grove	*
Deep Woods	*
Campground	*
Woodin Road Park	

* Reservable

