

## Brief History & Overview

The Reserve offers a wide variety of attractions. Not only does it bear witness to some very historical events, it also displays a homestead from an era long gone.

The agricultural fields were once dense forests that were cleared by the original pioneers. They learned the value of corn from the Native Americans, so it became their major crop. As the years passed, produce was moved on flat boats down the Miami River to the Ohio River and on to Cincinnati, where products were sold and seeds were purchased to expand their crops. Mr. Knoop farmed these fields until his retirement.

Beginning in 1810, the land was scattered with sheep as the major livestock. The barns are still standing from the early days. A large Sweitzer bank barn sets the scene with its cantilevered forebay (an overhanging upper level) with a bank on the opposite side leading to the barn's upper level.

The original Knoop cabin, built by John E. Knoop and his sons, was a two-story log cabin. Built in 1800, it sufficed as a home for John, his wife Barbara and his three sons, George, Jacob III, and John T. In 1815, a one story brick home was built on the site. In 1883, the brick house was torn down and this Victorian-style home was built. Some additions have been made to the structure over time, but it is still basically the original home.

John E. Knoop brought his widowed mother Anna Gerber Knoop to Ohio on horseback in 1798. She lived with John and Barbara Knoop until her death in June 1803. She was the first person to be buried in the Knoop Cemetery. The descendants of the pioneers are buried in the Knoop Cemetery, as are spouses, relatives and close friends. (Mark Kerr Knoop and family are buried in Riverside Cemetery, Troy.)

In 1997, Mark D. & Dorothy put 239 Acres in Trust to be transferred to the Park District upon their passing. In 2006-2007 the Park District purchased the 10 acre Homestead and 163 acres of farmland with assistance of Clean Ohio funds and a donation from Mark & Dorothy's two daughters Rebecca Knoop Shepard & Elizabeth Knoop Herrlinger. The Reserve will total 413 acres.

## Protecting Nature Today & Tomorrow

The mission of the Miami County Park District is to acquire and manage outstanding natural resources for the purpose of preservation, conservation, education and passive leisure activities for the people of Miami County.

Founded in 1967, the Park District has grown to encompass over 2,000 acres of scenic land, which preserves the environment and helps maintain the natural beauty of our region. The Park District is funded through private donations, a local tax levy, and various state and federal grants. Thank you for your support of the Miami County Park District. Enjoy your visit, and plan to explore one of your other Miami County Park District sites soon!

- Charleston Falls Preserve
- F.L. Blankenship Riverside Sanctuary
- Garbry Big Woods Reserve & Sanctuary
- Goode Prairie Reserve & Preserve
- Great Miami River Recreational Trail
- Greenville Falls State Scenic River Area
- Hobart Urban Nature Preserve
- Honey Creek Preserve\*
- John A. Wannemacher Nature Preserve\*
- Stillwater Prairie Reserve
- Twin Arch Reserve

\*Future Parks



### Miami County Park District

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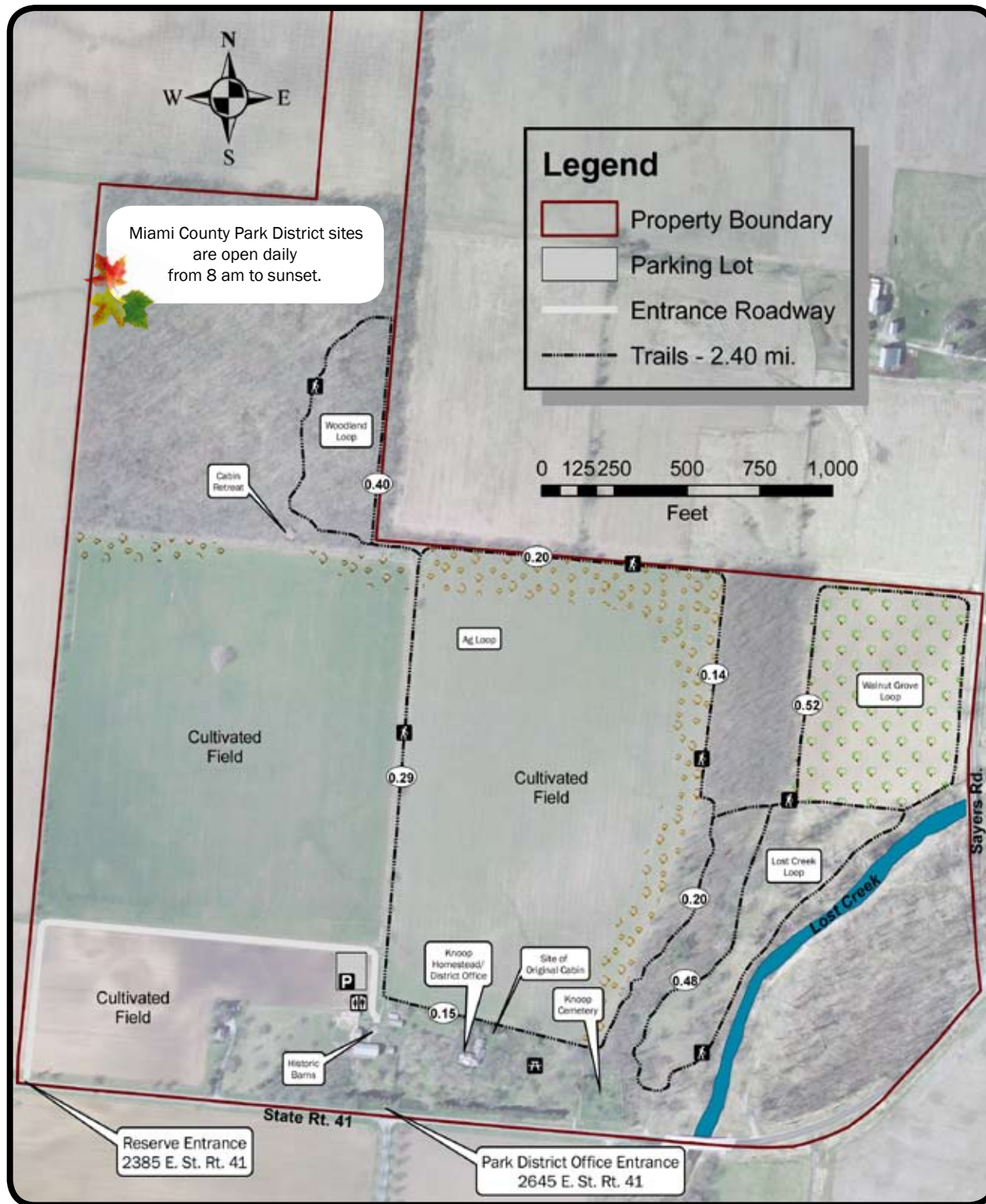
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# Lost Creek Reserve & Knoop Agricultural Heritage Center



## Highlights of Lost Creek Reserve & Knoop Agricultural Heritage Center



- As you enter the park, experience the “country” feeling of traveling along a farm lane between crop fields.
- The cluster of barns have been in place since 1832 when built by the Knoop pioneers. They include a Sweitzer bank barn for livestock and hay, a buggy barn, corn crib, blacksmith shop and a tall barn for drying tobacco.
- As you walk the trail near the Victorian-style house, notice the fountain pond near the road.
- The Victorian home was built in 1883 by William & Mary Barbara (Knoop) Saunders. North of the house, you will find four large rocks which supported the original log cabin built in 1800. An interpretive sign near the site displays a photo of the cabin.
- East of the homestead, an orchard was planted by the original Knoop family. Apple seeds and flower seeds called “pinks” were brought from Pennsylvania. The apple tree is gone, but you can still see the “pinks” in the summer.
- In the Knoop Cemetery, the oldest in Miami County, Anna Gerber Knoop, John’s mother was the first to be buried on the hill overlooking Lost Creek. Relatives from John E. Knoop through Mark Dale Knoop are buried here.
- Lost Creek Loop trail goes along Lost Creek in the low area amongst very large, old oak trees.
- The Walnut Grove Loop trail circles approximately 3000 walnut trees. Park District staff planted these trees in spring of 2008.
- The Ag Loop trail travels along the farm fields, connecting the Lost Creek Loop trail, the Homestead and the Woodland Loop trail.
- The Woodland Loop trail takes you past the Cabin Retreat and through the forest where you will see many kinds of trees, wild flowers and animals. A quarry, not accessible by trail, is located in the woods. The quarry provided rocks for the foundations of many of the homestead barns.