



IN FRONT of the shelter house, a group took a break after walking the trails at Sappa Park during a fun walk in May. — Photo by Kimberly Davis

Everyone enjoys time spent at Sappa Park

In the mood for a little outdoor recreation, if so, Sappa Park, just east of Oberlin off U.S. 36, offers a little bit of everything.

The park, owned by the City of Oberlin, boasts miles upon miles of walking trails put in by volunteers. There are flat trails along the former lake bottom, ones through the trees and another more challenging one called the wilderness trail.

People are able to hike the trails with their friends and dogs, snowshoe the trails, mountain bike at the park and even train their hunting dogs.

At the center of the park is the old shelter-house which was built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the depression-era-workers camp built the park including the bath-house when the Work Progress Administration (WPA) built the dam for the lake.

The shelter house now can be used for family reunions, church services and others by simply checking out a key at the city office at no charge.

Although the city lost water rights to the lake bottom years ago, since then volunteers,

members of Pheasants Forever and the city council have joined forces to put in a wetlands area behind the shelter house.

The park also offers a nine-hole Frisbee golf course put in by a group of students from the Decatur Community High School.

There's areas to camp and water wells, for non-drinkable water, that were put in by the city. Keys to the wells have to be checked out at the city office.

The most recent additions to Sappa Park include a free pumpkin patch for the community, fruit trees planted on the lake bottom and an archery practice area with a target bear, turkey, coyote and two deer.

On the outskirts of the park is a nine-hole golf course with rolling green hills, sand hazards and water.

There's also a gun club, which provides an area for skeet shooting and other competitions.

Sappa Park is located two miles east of the U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 intersection. Drivers will take a left at the Sappa Park sign on U.S. 36 and a short winding drive will take them to the shelter house.

Things to do

Upcoming events in Decatur County include:

- Decatur Community High School Alumni Banquet — Saturday, May 23 at The Gateway.
- Memorial Day Services — Monday, May 25 at the Oberlin Cemetery.
- Last Indian Raid Museum Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show — Saturday, June 6 at the museum.

- Decatur County Fair and Home Owned Carnival Tuesday, Aug. 4 through Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Decatur County Fairground.
- Last Indian Raid Museum Mini Sapa — Saturday, Oct. 3 at the museum.
- 29th annual Mini Sappa Antique Thresher and Engine Show — Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday Oct. 4 at the Decatur County Fairground.

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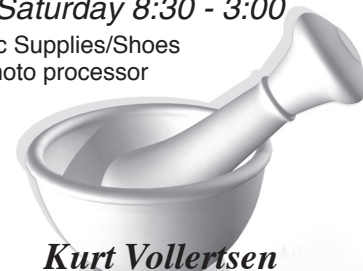
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