

Don W. Miller Memorial Park

1329 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420



The formerly named River Cliff Park consists of 80 acres located on the south side of Fremont, right on the Sandusky River. The location was previously the site of the Thornwood Public Golf Course that opened in 1962. It was later named the River Cliff Golf Course and Lodge, and had 9 holes for three different skill levels. The course closed in August of 2017, and the property was purchased by the Black Swamp Conservancy for \$900,000 using grant funding from the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program.

The park was originally named River Cliff after the Blue Banks, or Cliffs, that were formed by the Sandusky River. The river makes a sharp turn in this section, which causes it to cut into the softer yellow clay and slightly harder blue clay that form the layers of the banks. The blue clay is made up of glacial deposits, and is what gives the cliffs their name, the Blue Banks. Today, the park has many opportunities for hiking, fishing, birding, and boating. It is designated as a Scenic Rivers location, and has many trails that both follow along the river and travel around and through the meadow area. The former 9-hole golf course has been planted to native prairie grasses and wildflowers, and was reseeded in 2023.

This park is home to the administrative offices of the park district. The lodge of the old golf course was converted and a new entryway was added. The remainder of the building is undergoing renovations to become a community gathering place for hosting large events. The \$1.5 million project includes a \$250,000 donation from the Fremont Rotary Club, with the rest of the funds being raised by the park district through grants and donations. \$40,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has also been secured to build a canoe/kayak launch adjacent to the main parking lot.

As of April 27th, River Cliff Park has been renamed the Don W. Miller Memorial Park in honor of the late Don Miller. Mr. Miller was "instrumental in helping the Sandusky County Park District acquire and preserve natural areas behind the scenes in years past, including an expansion of White Star Park and supporting the funding of the Wilson Nature Center."