



THE WILD SIDE OF THE CITY



Outdoor enthusiasts can take a walk on the wild side of the city in Delaware County, Ohio. With numerous recreational opportunities ranging from exploring the Arctic, sailing the open waters, hunting, fishing, camping, and more, awaits adventure seekers.

A neighboring community to Columbus, Delaware County is home to the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Stratford Ecological Center**, a **Preservation Park District**, two state parks, four reservoirs, and a growing number of pet parks.

An abundance of everything wild and nice about the region is open for exploration.

WAVE POOLS AND POLAR BEARS

The nationally recognized **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** will open two new attractions in 2008. The first to be unveiled is **Zoombezi Bay**, a brand new 22.7 acre water park that will

occupy the former home of Wyandot Lake. The park will feature state-of-the-art slides, a wave pool, an action and lazy river, and interactive water playground. The new water park will be the only one in the country where visitors receive free admission to a zoo as part of their water park admission.

Also new in 2008, the Zoo anticipates the completion of **Polar Frontier**. Animals to be featured as part of the exhibit include: Polar bears, Alaskan brown bears, Arctic fox and Reindeer. An Education Center is also being constructed to house Zooaides and the Zoo High School. Additional guest amenities will include a children's play area and visitor services facilities.

AN ORGANIC EXPERIENCE

Playing in the dirt has never been so much fun! Developed as a "family farm," the **Stratford Ecological Center** works to educate children and adults about the relationship between living things and their environments. Situated on 236 acres, the Center strives to preserve the natural ecosystems of woodlands, streams, meadows, and swamps. Kids can be kids and romp through fields and trees, and search for creepy crawlies. Outdoor adventures and the opportunity to experience a

working farm of animals and crops are all up for grabs with everything grown organically. Families may visit the on-site greenhouse and gardens and pick out their dinner at the same time!

KEEPING IT GREEN

In a few cases Delaware County, Ohio has tinkered a bit with nature's designs. The result? Extensive nature trails, beautiful golf courses, scenic bike paths, and family friendly parks.

Dedicated to preserving open, green space for current and future generations, the **Preservation Park District** is sprinkled throughout the county on a nearly 800 acres and more than six miles of collective walking trails.

Through the collective efforts of the county's citizens, the district came to fruition through numerous volunteers and donated materials. On a stroll through the district's parks, visitors will experience rolling meadows, wetlands, virtually untouched woodlands, and even the remains of glaciers and a ravine system.



If Fido needs a break from the family as they scout out attractions and grab a bite to eat, then **Bark Til Dark** is the place to be. Six acres of fenced lot, this park and daycare, is open seven days a week and is accommodating to dogs of all shapes and sizes. A few of the perks to this private park include areas for agility and one-on-one training, a paw wash, pond, and friendly staff.

Whether you are 4 or 94, Delaware County offers visitors an experience chalk full of vivid memories and photos worth framing.

When You Have More Time

Chandra's Bistro – “The restaurant of sushi inc,” this bistro is relatively new to downtown Delaware and offers an Asian blend of foods from China, Japan and Korea. The Korean dishes are particularly recommended because owner Chandra Yoon has adapted her own recipes to the kitchen.

Zoofari – An annual adult event in June, Zoofari is jam-packed with all the food and music you can handle! Ticket price includes admission, samplings of nearly 100 restaurants' fare, three drink tickets and live musical entertainment. Proceeds from Zoofari benefit the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's conservation and education programs.

To Learn More

Delaware County CVB
44 E. Winter St
Delaware, Ohio 43015
888-DEL-OHIO | visitdelohio.com



PET TRAVELS

Bringing Fido along for the family vacation is welcomed. In fact, Delaware County even caters to man's best friend with several dog parks, doggy daycares and spas.

Alum Creek Dog Park was recognized in 2007 by DogChannel.com as one of the 10 best dog parks in the country! Positioned on four acres, the dog park features a fenced river rock beach, as well as two additional fenced areas for large and small dogs. Completed in 2006, with private donations and volunteers, the dog park is the first of its kind constructed within an Ohio State Park and was honored with an Award of Excellence from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. Admission is free.