

In conjunction with the dedication of its newest hunting park – The Cooke Family Wildlife Conservation Area – the Ashland County Park District will hold both its annual deer gun lottery and waterfowl lottery for the 2008 hunting season. The lottery will be held immediately following the dedication on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Tours of the park will begin at 9:00 am. The dedication will begin at 10:00 am with special guests Ohio Department of Natural Resources Chief Director Dave Gram and State Representative Bob Gibbs attending. A lunch will be available by donation.

For a \$5.00 fee, you can put your name in the lottery. Winning lottery hunters will be able to pick the park and day they want to hunt and will be allowed one hunting partner each day. You must be present at the lottery to secure hunting days. A deer youth season lottery, will also be held at, no charge. Parks included in these lotteries are Black Fork, Cooke, Cool Springs, Gilliom-Cherp and Audubon Wetlands. Not all the parks are the same or allow the same types of hunting. Maps and park regulations will be available and be posted on kiosks at each of the parks. Any questions concerning the lottery please call Tim McMillen at 419-289-8056.

The Cooke Park is located in Richland County on St. Rt. 13, ¼ mile south of St. Rt. 96. Over the years this 163 acre park was developed by the Cooke Family for the conservation of wildlife habitat. There is a mixture of grasslands, marshes and wooded lots, well maintained buildings, a 3 acre pond with pavilion, trap shooting range and sugar bush camp.