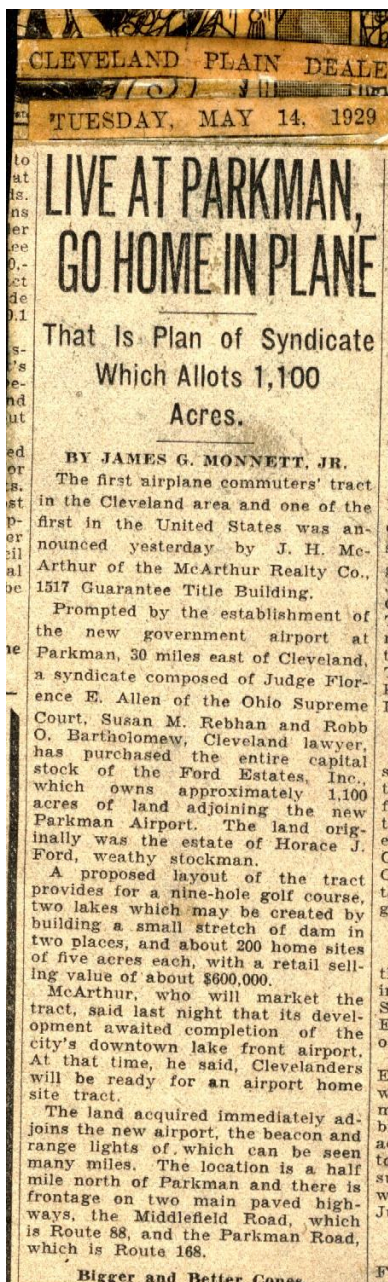




Parkman Historical Society Presents: History of the Camp Chickagami

From a deflated dream into a Boy Scouts Camp and into the current Geauga Park District



Back in the early 1920's, the US Government designated the area across from the Parkman High School as an official Air Field for the airplanes of the US Air Mail program. It was a part of the new night flying system to New York to Cleveland to Chicago where beacons would flash lights to allow pilots a safe route to fly at night. Prior to this, pilots would only fly in daylight following concrete arrows that were laid across dedicated farmland areas.



Since this newly dedicated Parkman airport was officially approved by the regulations of that time, others who developed an interest in the use of airplanes became more common. Thus a group of investors jumped on the opportunity to try and develop a community that would host these others who had access to airplanes and wanted to design a community for them. 1100 acres spanning from Rt 88 across to the East (and north of Rt 168) was in this vision. That was when the Great Depression hit.

Not long after, the "1934 Air Mail" scandal occurred and President FDR canceled all private domestic airmail contracts. The ripple effect put the end to the Parkman Air Field. Thus the "Parkman Airport Community" development plan obviously was derailed. Eventually the 1100 acres were redistributed into smaller purchases; one of them was the Camp Chickagami acreage.

The Western Reserve Council was able to acquire about 140 acres in 1941. This area was the beginning of the Grand River where an old dam created Lake Estabrook. It was a reasonable area to acquire since the Boy Scouts used to have a camp in Parkman previous to this camp.



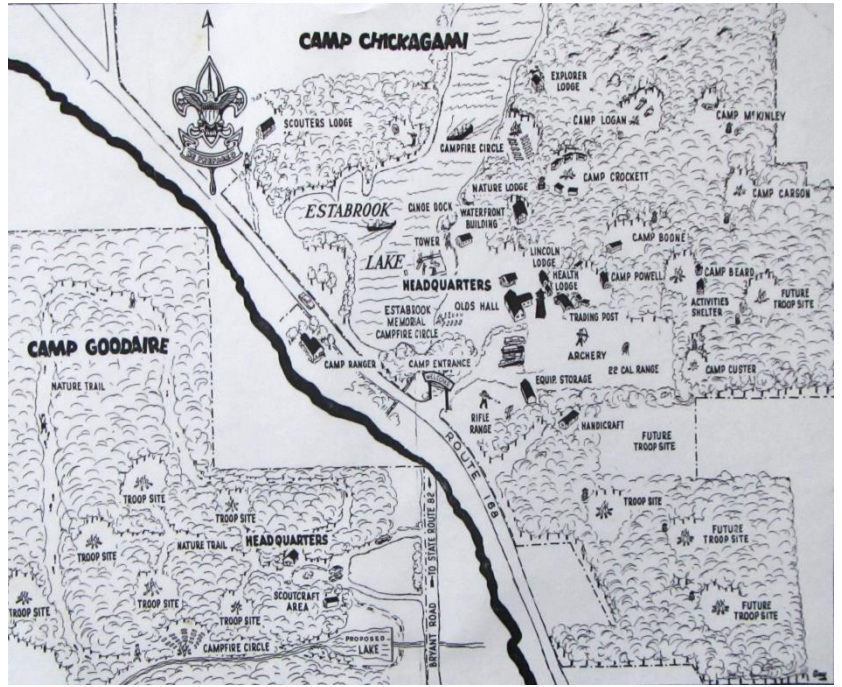
Per the historical Camp Chickagami website <https://chickagami.net/>

In 1922 Camp Skudiweecook was established in Parkman, Ohio along the shores of the Grand River. This operated until 1930. In 1931 Camp Skudiweecook was re-established in Windham Ohio and remained there until 1940 when the land was taken over for the establishment of the Ravenna Arsenal as the country positioned itself for World War II.

On June 21, 1941, Camp Chickagami opened and was dedicated during a special Dedication Camporee with much pomp and ceremony.



It should also be noted that the Western Reserve Council also operated Camp Goodaire in Garrettsville from 1956 through 1980. It served as the councils more primitive camp with one cabin and a smaller sugar shack. When it was closed, the Scouters Cabin on the far side of Lake Estabrook at Chickagami was renamed Goodaire Lodge in memory of the other camp.



On July 14, 2007, the Boy Scouts hosted their final retreat ceremony before the closing of camp.

On October 02, 2009 Chickagami Park opens under the management of the Geauga Parks District. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony hosted various dignitaries and Boy Scout leadership. Troop Pack 101 from Arrowhead District was the first unit to camp there. It has been a wonderful addition to the many parks preserved in our Geauga community and throughout NE Ohio. Thanks to everyone who supports our Geauga Park District and various other park systems.

Please visit the Geauga Park District website to learn more about this Parkman gem - <https://geaugaparkdistrict.org/>

