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**New and Noteworthy 2019**

**Cedar Point Debuts Forbidden Frontier on Adventure Island** – **[Forbidden Frontier on Adventure Island](https://www.cedarpoint.com/explore/forbidden-frontier-on-adventure-island)** will debut at the park in 2019 and will be included with park admission. The new attraction is described as an interactive experience, where you are challenged both mentally and physically to solve the mystery surrounding the Forbidden Frontier. It is said every experience has a different ending, determined by the player and the secrets unlocked. The attraction is geared towards adults, teens, and tweens. Additionally, the park is adding two new dining options. At the front of the park, **Hugo’s Italian Kitchen** will replace the Midway Market. Towards the back, the all-new **BackBeatQue** is going in where the Witches’ Wheel used to be. The Motown-inspired restaurant will feature barbecue favorites along with an outdoor entertainment stage. [**Monster Jam® Thunder Alley**](https://www.cedarpoint.com/play/events/monster-jam-thunder-alley) roars into Cedar Point this Summer **May 18 through June 30**! Get up close, sit in, and even ride in some of your favorite Monster Jam trucks at this all-new, limited time experience. Monster Jam Thunder Alley includes four adrenaline-charged experiences included with park admission.

**Cedar Point Sports Center –** Crews broke ground in July 2018 on the new Indoor Sports Facility and The Lee C. Jewett Sports Medicine Center at the [**Cedar Point Sports Center**](https://www.cedarpoint.com/play/cedar-point-sports-center)***,*** located adjacent to the Sports Force Parks outdoor sports venue.When completed, the $28 million facility is expected to host indoor sports such as basketball, volleyball, and wrestling.

**Satellite College Campus in Sandusky –** [**Bowling Green State University**](https://www.bgsu.edu/) and [**Cedar Fair**](https://www.cedarfair.com/) will construct a new building for an academic program offering resort and attraction management studies in downtown Sandusky. The building at 250 E. Market St. will be a five-story, 78,000 sq. ft. mixed-use building with classrooms, meeting spaces, offices, retail, and 80 residential units for students. Classes are expected to begin fall 2020 and the project broke ground in April.

**Kalahari Continually Ads New Features –** New this year at [**Kalahari Resorts & Conventions**](https://www.kalahariresorts.com/ohio/things-to-do/experiences/escape-room/) are two escape room attractions for families. Families will love these new “Out of This World” escape rooms. The adventures are perfect for all experience levels. Check out this two-part mission and book the ***Desert of Time*** where you’ll be transported into space, then finish out your journey as you ***Escape from Planet Obscura*** on a quest back to planet Earth.

**Freefall Over an Island –** New this season at Put-in-Bay, [**Skydive Put-in-Bay**](http://www.skydivepib.com/) offers a unique new way to experience island thrills.Tandem jumps will be offered by island-based air service, Island Air Taxi, in conjunction with instructor JR Piosek, with over 20 years of experience and over 19,000 jumps. Jumps include hand cam video to document your one-of-a-kind adventure.

**Grooves are Accessible –** The Ohio History Connection recently completed an upgrade project at the [**Kelleys Island Glacial Grooves State Memorial**](https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/glacial-grooves). The site now has access to an overlook into the grooves for anyone with accessibility challenges, especially those in wheelchairs.

**New Downtown Marketplace –** A downtown Sandusky restoration project, **The Marketplace at the Cooke**, opened in April. The $6 million renovation of the iconic Cooke Building, at the corner of Columbus Ave. and Market St. in downtown Sandusky, will include a number of new businesses including The Marketplace at the Cooke – a new indoor retail and restaurant space with entrances on Market and Water streets.

[**Sandusky Children’s Museum**](https://www.facebook.com/sanduskychildrensmuseum/) **–** A 4,300 sq.ft. interactive museum for kids features hands-on exhibits such as small radio-controlled trucks, bulldozers, a bubble area with bubbles big enough to place kids inside them, a flight exhibit involving ping pong balls traveling along clear plastic tubes with the help of air pressure, and more. Admission is free for children 12 and under with adults paying a fee for entry. It is operated by Richard Gallagher who previously set up temporary children’s museum exhibits in schools and at festivals.

**Fancy Me Boutique –** A popular local mobile and online clothing shop will make its permanent storefront in the Cooke Building. Operated by the Amber and Spencer Patterson family of Huron, [**Fancy Me Boutique**](https://fancymeboutique.myshopify.com/) specializes is handmade apparel, accessories, and home décor. The Patterson’s will continue to operate their online business and appear at local festivals.

**Other Marketplace proprietors include:
Bake Erie** - Specialty cupcakes and sweets **Doughin' Crazy** - Raw Cookie Dough, ice cream and more **Derrick Jr’s** - BBQ and Soul food, an offshoot of Derrick’s Diner **Nobel Axes** - Axe throwing Bar **Sandusky Bell and Deli** – an offshoot of the Bay Bell Restaurant

**Brand New Waterfront Hotel in 2019 –** A brand new, four-story [**Fairfield Inn and Suites**](https://www.shoresandislands.com/lodging/fairfield-inn-suites-port-clinton-waterfront?id=13216) will debut at a beautiful waterfront location on E. Perry St. in Port Clinton. The new 85-room hotel will feature lakeside views and large suites along with Marriott Hotel amenities such as fast Wi-Fi, continental breakfast, fitness center, and indoor pool.

**Holiday Inn Expanding –** [**Holiday Inn Express & Suites**](https://www.shoresandislands.com/lodging/Holiday-Inn-Express-and-Suites?id=511889) on Cedar Point Dr. announced a major expansion to be ready to receive guests in 2019. The $1 million hotel addition will add 66 rooms to the popular property. The adjacent Quality Inn & Suites Rain Water Park will close and rebrand as ***The Cedar Corners Hotel and Entertainment Complex*** containing the existing bowling alley, laser tag, and Thirsty Pony restaurant. The hotel itself will be remodeled and transformed into a boutique-style hotel called ***The Stables at the Thirsty Pony***.

**Island Experiences –** Kelleys Island offers a couple of new attractions for the 2019 season. The [**Kelleys Island Jolly Trolley**](https://www.kelleysislandchamber.com/place/jolly-trolly/) offers $5 rides throughout the village with regular stops at various island businesses, Friday-Sunday. The trolley departs the Village Peddler beginning at 10 am, with drop off/pick up points at Kelleys Island Wine Co., Unc’l Dik’s/KI State Park, West Bay Inn, and Kelleys Island Venture Resort/Kelleys Island Brewery. Routes continue at 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, and 6 pm each weekend. The trolley seats 14 and is reservable for groups on week days. The [**Kelley’s Island Wine Company**](https://www.kelleysislandwineco.com/) introduces **The Marketplace**, a new concept store within the winery that features a deli, baked goods, apparel, and wellness products. One such product is a new island business, **The Juice Caboose**, featuring hand-pressed fruit and vegetable bottled drinks.

**Make a Friend at Great Wolf Lodge –** [**Great Wolf Lodge**](https://www.greatwolf.com/sandusky) has announced a partnership with
Build-A-Bear Workshop to open permanent shops at four resort locations, including Sandusky. Inventory will consist of a wide assortment of plush, clothing and accessories, as well as Great Wolf Lodge characters Wiley the Wolf, Brinley Bear, Sammy the Squirrel, and Violet the Wolf, with corresponding outfits. The make-your-own experience will allow guests to leave with a one-of-a-kind, special souvenir.

**New Maritime Exhibit –** Introduced at the [**Maritime Museum of Sandusky**](https://www.sanduskymaritime.org/) in early April, ***The Giant with the Gentle Hands: Commercial Shipping and the Coal Industry in Sandusky Bay*** features a working model of the railroad yard and the hi-lift dumper on Coal Dock #3, a recognizable feature of the Sandusky skyline for 80 years.

**New Sculptural Exhibits at Schedel –** Three new bronze sculptures adorn the gardens at Schedel Arboretum & Gardens for 2019. Created by Artist Andy Sacksteder, these creations will be for sale and on exhibit through October 31st. Andy, a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in landscape horticulture decide to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a sculptor. Currently on exhibit at Schedel Gardens are "Uplifting", "Last Man Standing," and "Lightkeeper and his Dog."

**New Island Preserve –** A new 15-acre public nature preserve opened on Kelleys Island in late summer 2018. The Western Reserve Land Conservancy purchased the land through a combination of grants and donations from local Kelleys Island resident Ron Curilla, and transferred ownership to the Village of Kelleys Island, which will permanently preserve it as a public passive park. The new [**Curilla Preserve**](https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/articles/2018/08/13/edcurillapreserve/) is in the southwestern part of the island within walking distance from the village’s downtown area and is available for exploration and hiking.

**The Lake House on North Bass Island -** Nature enthusiasts rejoice! [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](http://ohiodnr.gov/) and [Ohio State Parks & Watercraft](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/) recently unveiled their newest overnight offering, [**The Lake House**](http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/northbassisland#reserve) at North Bass Island. This secluded island, also known as Isle St. George, is only accessible by private plane or boat. There is no ferry service to the island. The island is mostly home to 593 acres of public land, but also features a one-room schoolhouse, post office, church, numerous vineyards, and an airport. The Lake House can accommodate up to 12 people in 3,065 sq. ft., plus four bedrooms with private baths, pool table, two large screen TV’s, fully-equipped kitchen, fireplace, and outdoor grill and patio. Hunting and fishing are permitted in designated areas on North Bass Island with a valid Ohio hunting or fishing license. Hiking is also permitted on the island.

**Cheers to Pub 221 –** A new restaurant and bar opened in downtown Port Clinton recently. [**Pub 221**](https://www.facebook.com/Pub-221-216429022321317/), named after its address at 221 Madison St., opened in a space that sat empty for a couple of years. The newly-renovated space offers entertainment, pool tables, a wide variety of drinks, and a diverse menu by Chef Byron McMorris featuring barbecue recipes including ribs, chicken, and smoked brisket along with traditional bar food at affordable prices.

**Pet-friendly Put-in-Bay –** A new dog park is now available for the island’s four-legged visitors and residents. Located next to the airport, off of Langram Rd., [**Island Paws**](https://www.facebook.com/Island-Paws-440294943412676/) is the island’s only off leash dog park and is open sunrise-sunset. The park is maintained by volunteers and guests are asked to clean up after their pet.

**Cleaning up in Marblehead –** [**Marblehead Soap Co.**](https://www.marbleheadsoap.co/) opened mid-summer 2018. The organic soap shop is operated by Patti Wandover who formerly operated the Back in Thyme store in downtown Port Clinton. Rebranded and now operating on Main St. in Marblehead, the store offers handcrafted organic soap, honey, essential oils, aromatherapy, pet items, and gifts.

**New Lodging Options in Bay View –** [**Cedar Motel**](http://www.thecedarmotel.com/)in Bay View reopened late in 2018 after undergoing extensive renovations. The motel’s owners invested significantly into the property, which included full restoration of all 12 rooms, new restrooms, TVs, and modern amenities, like Wi-Fi. The property is managed by the same team that runs Sandusky’s Hotel Kilbourne. The reimagined motel caters especially to hunters, fisherman, and bird-watchers – hobbies popular with visitors to Bay View. Next summer, guests will also be able to rent kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft as well. [**The Lodge at Bay View**](https://www.h2property.com/the-lodge-at-bay-view)also opened just before the end of the year. The lodge sleeps 15 and caters especially to hunters and fishermen, but is also great for all kinds of groups like small weddings and reunions. In addition to sleeping facilities, the rustic décor lodge features a great room with a 22-foot bar; a game room with a pool table, shuffle board table, poker table, electronic dart board, and two TVs; as well as a full kitchen and cleaning station/mud room.

**New at Lakeside Chautauqua –** The creators of the popular Sandusky modern-Mexican restaurant Barra, are planning to open the [**Lago Coastal Café**](https://www.facebook.com/lagocoastalcafe/) in south Lakeside. The restaurant is located across from the Williams Tennis Campus on Sixth Street in an existing building. The restaurant will feature a walk-up window for carryout service, an indoor café dining experience, and shaded outdoor seating and will be open Memorial Day – Labor Day.The brand-new **Pickleball Center** will open this summer and the Lakeside Chautauqua organization is introducing a new app with program and schedule information now available on mobile devices. New Music Director & Conductor, Daniel Meyer, will take the stage in his first season with the **Lakeside Symphony Orchestra**. Under Meyer’s direction, the symphony will add a Pops concert and two new matinee youth concerts to its schedule.

**Lakeside Daisy Preserve Expanding** – ODNR will be purchasing 118 acres of land adjacent to the [**Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve**](http://ohiodnr.gov/news/post/odnr-to-purchase-additional-118-acres-for-lakeside-daisy-state-nature-preserve), increasing the size of the preserve from 19 acres to 137 acres. Located on the Marblehead Peninsula in Ottawa County, this site is the only natural population of Lakeside Daisy left in Ohio.

**Old Town Hall Opera House gets new life –** A new nonprofit, [**Harbourtown Fine Arts Center**](https://www.erieshorewaverunners.com/), are renovating the landmark building as an entertainment venue for movies, concerts, dance recitals, or theater programs. Several fine art establishments have already relocated in the building, including Rock City Guitars music school, Harbourtown Dance Studio, and karate classes.

**New Businesses in Vermilion –** Quaint coastal town Vermilion welcomed two new businesses at the end of 2018. [**Brewed Awakening**](https://www.facebook.com/BrewedAwakeningVermilion/), a gourmet coffee and bagel shop opened in December on Liberty Avenue in the heart of town. They also serve breakfast and lunch sandwiches and salads. [**Bliss Skin Spa**](https://www.facebook.com/Bliss-skin-spa-278842909593935/) opened in September and offers skin care such as facials, waxing, and body scrubs, as well as make-up application and brow tinting. Coming soon is the [**Pavilion Grill**](https://www.facebook.com/ThePavilionFoods/), from the owners of the popular Pavilion Food Truck. The opening of this new homestyle restaurant with staple sandwiches will put downtown Vermilion at 100% capacity. Also opening this summer is [**Erie Shore Wave Runners**](https://www.erieshorewaverunners.com/) in the Captain’s Corner marina. In addition to wave runner rentals, the business will offer guided tours through the Vermilion Lagoons, Vermilion River, and the nearby coastline via personal watercraft.

**Expanding the Fleet –** [**Miller Boat Line**](https://www.millerferry.com/), which offers passenger and vehicle ferry service to Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island, has announced they will add to their fleet in 2019 with a brand-new, $7 million vessel. The new 136-foot ferry will be capable of carrying 26 vehicles and up to 600 passengers. The boat was designed by Elliot Bay Design Group of Seattle, WA.

**Capital Improvements at Erie MetroParks –** In an effort to continue its commitment to the conservation and preservation of Erie County’s natural resources, improvements have been introduced for several [**Erie MetroParks**](https://eriemetroparks.org/). Most notably, Osborn MetroPark will install a new, educational pathway for children and families featuring larger-than-life plant and wildlife-themed play structures. Four new pickleball courts will also open. At The Coupling MetroPark, improvements are coming to the canoe and kayak launch area on the Huron River and a new canoe/kayak storage shed.

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**About Ohio’s Lake Erie Shores & Islands:**

Ohio’s Lake Erie Shores & Islands is the Midwest’s favorite getaway. This coastal destination boasts 152 miles of shoreline, the best fishing on the Great Lakes, welcoming communities, rich history, wine trail, and an abundance of family-friendly attractions. World-famous Cedar Point Amusement Park and Kalahari Resorts & Conventions call it home, along with indoor and outdoor water parks, animal parks, play centers, and more. Visitors enjoy ferries and cruises to Put-in-Bay, Middle Bass, and Kelleys Island. One of the country’s best areas for spring and fall bird migration, the area is overflowing with natural beauty and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Start Coasting at [SHORESandISLANDS.com](https://www.shoresandislands.com/).