



*Welcome to*  
**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP**  
**Bailey Lakes ★ Savannah**

*Surrounded by Natural Beauty  
 and Small Town Values*

TO SAVANNAH

CELEBRATING  
**AMERICA'S**  
**250<sup>th</sup>**  
 1776 ★ 2026  
*Honoring 250 Years*  
 ★ of Freedom ★



**PRESERVING OUR PAST ★ ENRICHING OUR PRESENT ★ BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

# The Story of BAILEY LAKES & SAVANNAH

Long before Bailey Lakes became the village we know today, this area was known for its beautiful lakes, wooded land, and rich natural resources.

In 1868, 16-year-old Daniel Nelson Ringler arrived in Ashland County by railroad and walked to Savannah, where the area surrounding what was then known as Vermillion Lake was still largely wilderness.

Years later, the Ringler family would play a major role in shaping the community. In 1923, James Edgar Ringler purchased the Floyd Fair Farm bordering Savannah Lake, an area already enjoyed as a picnic grove. With the help of family and neighbors, homes were built, the lake was improved, and the area became known as Savannah Lake Park.

In 1954, additional land west of U.S. Route 250 was developed from what was once part of the historic Bailey Farm. Three lakes were created, lots were established, and a growing community began to take shape.

On May 29, 1961, Bailey Hill, Savannah Lake Park, and surrounding areas were incorporated as the Village of Bailey Lakes.

## JAMES LAKE & THE LEMMEL LIGHTHOUSE

James Lake was gifted to the Village by the Don and Mary Ringler family and named in honor of James Edgar Ringler.

At the center of James Lake stands the beloved Lemmel Lighthouse, a longtime symbol of Bailey Lakes. Earl and Eleanor Lemmel lovingly cared for the lighthouse for decades, keeping its light shining. In 2006, the Village officially named it the Lemmel Lighthouse in their honor.

## A CONNECTION TO THE PAST

During dredging near Savannah Lake (Mud Lake) in the 1970s, an ancient dugout canoe was discovered. The canoe, later donated to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, was carbon dated to be more than 3,600 years old — a reminder of the people who traveled and gathered here long before us.

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## THE HISTORY OF SAVANNAH

SAVANNAH  
FOUNDED  
1818

The Village of Savannah was laid out on Christmas Day in 1818 by John Haney, who was only 19 years old at the time.

Originally named Vermillion, the village sat along an important route used by early settlers traveling north toward Lake Erie. The road became known as the "Milan Wheat Trail," carrying travelers and goods through the area.

Because another Ohio community shared the Vermillion name, the village was renamed Savannah in 1839.

Early Savannah became home to craftsmen, businesses, schools, and churches. In 1856, Reverend Alexander Scott founded the Savannah Male and Female Academy, beginning an important educational chapter in the village's history.

SAVANNAH  
MALE & FEMALE  
ACADEMY  
EST. 1856

Clear Creek Township and Savannah also played a role in the Underground Railroad, with local families helping freedom seekers on their journey north.

Today, Savannah and Bailey Lakes continue to celebrate the history, natural beauty, and small-town spirit that have shaped this community for generations.

# Welcome to CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

Bailey Lakes ★ Savannah

Long before Bailey Lakes and Savannah became villages, this land was known for its lakes, forests, and waterways. Native peoples traveled and gathered throughout this area, leaving behind reminders of a history thousands of years old.

During dredging near Savannah Lake (Mud Lake) in the 1970s, an ancient dugout canoe was uncovered. The canoe was preserved and carbon dated to be more than **3,600 YEARS OLD** connecting today's community with those who came before us.

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