PARK EXPLORER

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE

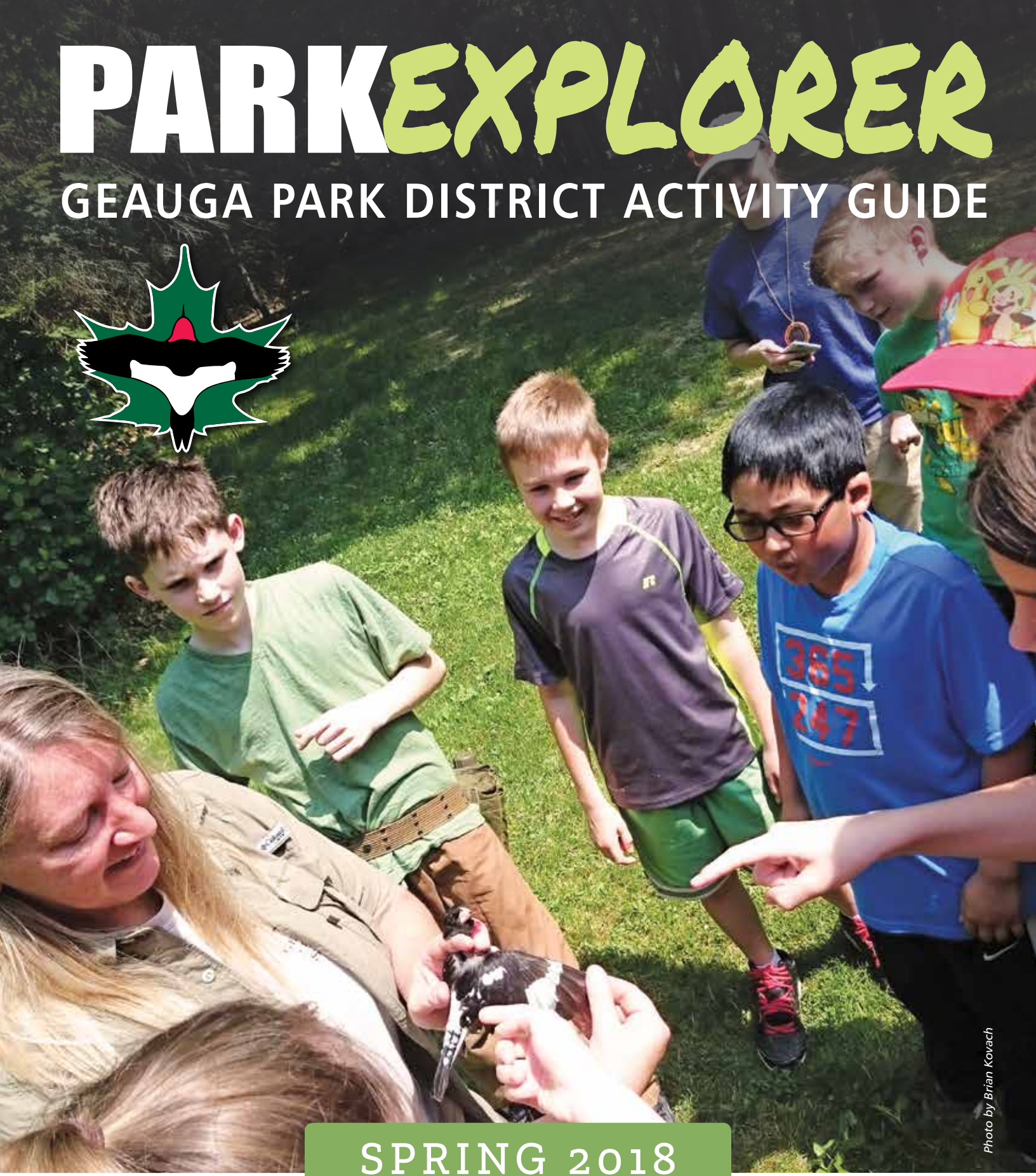


Photo by Brian Kovach

SPRING 2018

4 Why balance is key when planning and managing park lands

7 Introducing new Park Board Commissioner Howard Bates

15 The pleasure of providing parks to county residents

18 Students get involved by constructing Mallard Duck nesting tubes

UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*

EARTH DAY Extravaganza with Natural Resource Management

Sunday, April 22 • 11 AM - 3 PM • The West Woods

• presentations by wildlife experts • live animals • Nature craft
• amphibian/reptile show & tell • wildlife discovery walks

Milkweed Giveaways

Visit these parks between 10 AM & 1 PM to pick up a free milkweed plant!

Mother's Day Giveaway: May 13 • The West Woods
Father's Day Giveaway: June 17 • Swine Creek Reservation

Watch our website or social media for any additional giveaways

CAVEMAN CRAWL 5K TRAIL RUN & 1-Mile Fun Walk

Sunday, June 10 • The West Woods

Experience this one-of-a-kind 5K trail run through the wooded hills of The West Woods. Caveman era costumes encouraged! Register at http://bit.ly/gpdcaveman.

Registration 7 AM • Costume Contest 8:30 AM • Race/Walk 9 AM

Coming Soon to Claridon Woodlands

*Watch our website or social media to learn when you can finally walk among the trees on the **ropes course**, climb the **freeform boulder wall**, kid-test the **Nature-based playground**, ride the **single mountain bike track** or **pump track**, and try your luck casting from the new **fishing platform**...all opening in May!*

Nights Out in the Parks

A great way to spend a summer evening!

Amphitheater concerts at Big Creek Park, 7-8:30 PM

Erie Height Brass Ensemble 6/9
Northern Comfort Band 7/7
Long Time Gone 7/28
Upriver 8/25

Outdoor movie nights at Observatory Park Activities begin at 8 PM, movies at dark

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" 6/29
"Peter Rabbit" 7/14
Fan's Choice: Vote For Your Favorite! 8/11
(details on page 17)

West Woods Wednesdays FARM MARKET

Beginning June 13 • 4 - 7 PM

Purchase locally grown/made items the second Wednesday of each month June through September

at The West Woods' picnic shelters

SPRING PROGRAMS *on pages 8–13*

- Registration is required in advance for limited enrollment programs on a first come, first served basis. Registration can be completed online or at 440-286-9516.
- Programs may be cancelled in the event of severe weather or a storm warning.
- Programs are generally free of charge; those with fees are noted. Payment of fees must be made at the time of registration with a credit/debit card.
- Registration fees are refundable up to five days prior to the event, or if the Park District cancels the program.
- If you or a member of your family has special needs, please call the Park District regarding available accessibility accommodations.

Volunteers Needed
Fully Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible
Partially Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible
Nature's Not To Be Missed
Program focused on unique encounters with Nature
Nature Scopes - Program tailored to our exclusive binocular program for Geauga County fifth-graders

PARKEXPLORER

A seasonal guide to the programs, special events and news of Geauga Park District

Upcoming Events 2
Feature: Managing Park Lands 4
Park Spotlight: Frohring Meadows 6
Introducing a New Commissioner 7
April Programs 8
May Programs 10
June Programs 12
Summer Camps Schedule 14
From the Executive Director 15
Park Locations & Amenities 16
Geocaching 17
In Nature: Mallard Tubes 18
Fun Page 19

Park Mission

The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to our residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year.

Park Hours

Daily 6 AM - 11 PM

Big Creek Park's Donald W. Meyer Center
is open weekdays 10 AM - 4:30 PM

The West Woods Nature Center
is open daily 10 AM - 4:30 PM

Observatory Park is open daily until 11 PM
from Labor Day to Memorial Day
Observatory Park's Robert McCullough Science Center and Oberle Observatory are open
2nd & 4th Fridays & Saturdays
of each month 6 - 11 PM
and every other Sunday
of each month 1 - 4 PM
For weather conditions the day of outdoor programs, please call 440-279-0820

The Maple Highlands Trail
is open daily dawn till dusk

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
is open daily 6 AM - 9 PM

For more information on your parks, programs or events
Phone: 440-286-9516
Fax: 440-286-1285

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
info@geaugaparkdistrict.org

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE DIVISION GEAUGA COUNTY

TIMOTHY J GRENDELL – JUDGE

Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor
231 Main Street, Suite 200 • Chardon, Ohio 44024
Voice: 440-279-1830
geaugacourts.org

FROM THE BENCH

Dear Geauga County Friends and Neighbors:

Congratulations to Director Oros, the hardworking Park Staff, and the dedicated Park Board for the highly successful "Frozen Fest." More than 3,600 individuals attended – another record!

The Geauga Park District has received two major financial grants to preserve and protect sensitive streams in Geauga County.

Taken together, Frozen Fest and these stream protection grants demonstrate the Park District's ability to Preserve, Conserve and Protect our natural resources, while providing Geauga County residents and families with opportunities to enjoy our wonderful county parks.

Special thanks to Len Barker, Chardon resident and the last Cleveland Indian's pitcher to pitch a perfect game, for his 2 years of exemplary service as a Commissioner on the Geauga County Park Board. Len provided professional leadership to the Park Board and proved to be a steady hand of reason. He was clear, concise, and exhibited a common sense approach that was appreciated by all who worked with him on the Board.

Welcome to Howard Bates, as the newest appointee to the Park Board. Howard is a successful Geauga County business owner and avid supporter of our County Parks. Howard has served on the Berkshire School Board and the Great Geauga County Fair Board, including as President of the Fair Board. He will bring his public board experience, major business acumen, and an appreciation of the Geauga County Parks to the Park Board.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Grendell
Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge

Board of Park Commissioners

Howard Bates

Jackie Dottore

Andrej N. Lah

Executive Director

John Oros

Park Board Meetings
Dates and times are subject to change. Find the current list on our website under About GPD, or call 440-286-9516.

Claridon Woodlands
Photo by Dan McConnaughy

MANAGING PARK LANDS:

Everything in Nature, from the smallest microscopic life forms in a pond to large roaming carnivores like wolves, rely on a key fundamental word: balance.

This is a seemingly simple word to understand at first glance. Upon further reflection, it becomes rather complicated.

Throughout my years working across science disciplines, trudging the fields with botanists, listening to ecologists and exchanging experiences with practicing land managers, I have found one common thread. Managing park lands is all about this word, balance. Of course Geauga Park District's mission boils down to this as well, human use in harmony with Nature.

The million-dollar question that Geauga Park District is faced with daily is, how do we strike this balance? How do we allow citizens the use of these great natural areas without negatively impacting Geauga County's clean water, green trees, luscious plants and teeming wildlife?

Put another way, how do we responsibly develop a beautiful natural area so that everyone can enjoy this land and its wonderful creatures while leaving enough wildness to sustain wildlife? How do we ensure future generations will have a chance to marvel at its wonders, too?

How do we keep the "wild" in wildlife?

Responsibly developing and managing park land begins with knowing what resources we have. Documentation and inventories of baseline information – such as which species of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, plants, etc. inhabit our backyard forests, wetlands, streams and meadows – is a crucial starting point.

Bloodroot at Sunnybrook Preserve
Photo by Paul Pira

From the collection of baseline data, Geauga Park District writes guidelines, also known as natural resource management plans, to serve as critical "field guides" for the wise planning and development of the land, as well as the implementation of sustainable long-term management.

The Park District also looks to another long-standing land management policy guiding all of its park development and management. This document allows for new development of park lands, but stresses the vast majority of this land be set aside as natural area for wildlife. Geauga Park District's newest park, Claridon Woodlands, with its grand opening this summer, is a perfect example. All buildings, parking and active recreational areas were placed in already highly disturbed areas of the property (old fields), while a vast majority of the property was left untouched for wildlife and passive recreation, such as Nature trails and birdwatching.

It's All About Balance

by Paul J. Pira, Park Biologist
Natural Resource Management

As it has in the past, Geauga Park District will continue to recognize and understand the parks' important need for balance.

So, back to that word, balance – how much do humans really know about life on Earth and how it is balanced? Actually, very little.

One of the world's most famous living scientists today, Dr. E.O. Wilson, states that we have only documented about 10 percent of all living creatures on Earth, and many of his colleagues support this claim. Essentially, we are living on an unexplored planet.

Think about it: that means that we have yet to understand more than 75 percent of all life on Earth. Can you imagine going to your family doctor and he tells you that medicine only knows about 10 percent of what is inside your body?

One of Geauga Park District's most basic and fundamental jobs, and one we tackle every day as staff, is knowing what natural resources are present in the parks and how to balance the needs of natural areas and wildlife with those of park users. Geauga Park District undoubtedly will continue to ensure that both have a place in this great county – beautiful parcels of land for future generations to enjoy alongside clean water, healthy air and biological diversity for all residents.

Balance, what a simple word.

Headwaters Park
Photo by Grace Rybak

Spend Some Time at Frohring Meadows

Photo by Grace Rybak

Easy to access on Savage Road, just off Washington Street in Bainbridge Township, Frohring Meadows offers almost a mile of paved trail, 3.5 trail miles total.

Recent additions to this park include a new wetland to attract migrating shore birds and a new wildlife viewing platform for a sweeter spot to observe them.

On a nice day, walk the 100-acre prairie and see what's coming up, or head out to the woods. A formerly open-air shelter has also been enclosed to create a beautiful versatile lodge featuring a patio, two fireplaces and doors to let in that sweet spring air.

Photo by Anne Kinkopf

Field Notes:

A wet sedge meadow provides an important stop for migrating shore birds. Keep an eye out for sandpipers and Sandhill Cranes!

Trails here are considered easy to moderate with generally flat land – ideal for leisurely walking and cross country skiing.

Background photo of Lesser Yellowlegs, regular visitors of the wetland at Frohring Meadows.
Photo by Linda Gilbert

Introducing new commissioner Howard Bates

This December, Geauga County Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Timothy J. Grendell swore in Howard Bates as the newest member of the three-person Geauga Park District Board of Park Commissioners.

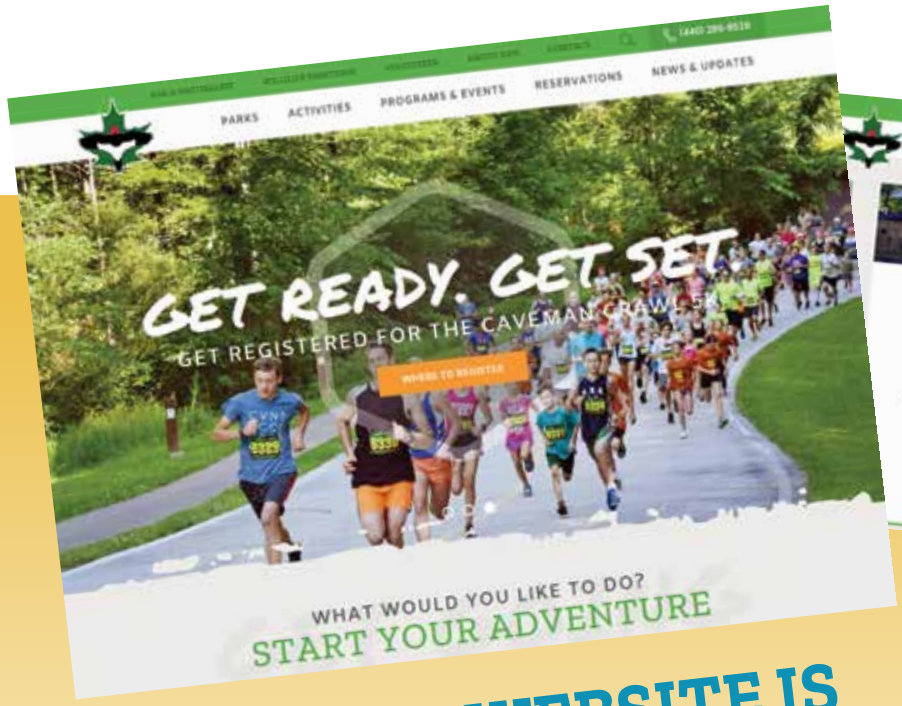
He replaces Len Barker, who fulfilled a two-year term on the board.

Mr. Bates is the owner and president of Arms Trucking Company in Claridon Township, proud father of four, and resident of Geauga County since 1973. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Burton.

Among goals for his term, he said, is getting more people outdoors and into the parks, where he enjoys walking. Swine Creek Reservation is his favorite park to visit; he also enjoys Observatory Park's special events and programming.

Mr. Bates is a current member of the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents Fund Board. Previously he also served as president of the Geauga County Fair Board, the Geauga County Agricultural Society and the Burton Middlefield Rotary Club, and on the boards of the Geauga Growth Partnership, Leadership Geauga, Berkshire Board of Education, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Burton Township Zoning Commission.

Of Mr. Bates' appointment, Judge Grendell said, "Howard Bates will bring his unique knowledge of Geauga County as a long-time resident who has served on a variety of community boards, along with his impressive business acumen and love of the Geauga County parks, to benefit the residents of Geauga County."



OUR NEW WEBSITE IS YOURS TO EXPLORE!

- Easy to navigate on any device
- Featuring stunning images by local photographers
- Introducing fun tools to plan your next adventure and to report or review local wildlife sightings

APRIL *bird songs welcome spring*

Adventure/Discovery · Arts · Astronomy · Kids · Seniors

2 Math in Nature

Monday, April 2, 1-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Drop in during listed hours for an afternoon of spring-break Nature math! Visitors can try different activity stations exploring math in Nature: learn to crochet a hyperbolic plane, track an earthquake, or test out some space math.

6 Homeschool Days: Amphibian Awakening

(Ages 5-7 & 8-12)
Friday, April 6, 2-3:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Search for frogs and salamanders that have awakened from hibernation to greet the spring. Uncover the habits, habitats, adaptations and life cycles of these captivating creatures. Adults may attend (need not register) or drop off child with waiver. Mostly outdoors; dress for the weather. ***Registration required.***

6 April Evening Adventure

Friday, April 6, 7:30-9 PM
Eldon Russell Park

A woodcock air show accompanied by a chorus full of Spring Peeper piping, Barred Owl bantering, beaver tail-slapping and Great Blue Heron flapping culminate in a memorable spring evening hike for families.

7 Herons of Bath Road Van Trip

Saturday, April 7, 10 AM-2 PM
The West Woods

Bring your binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras to search for birds and explore the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Beaver Marsh and Bath Road Heronry. Bring a packed lunch for a picnic. Must be able to walk at least a mile on a flat, gravel surface. ***Registration required.***

8 Hidden Gems Hike: Claridon Woodlands

Sunday, April 8, 1-2:30 PM
Claridon Woodlands

Discover the variety of wetlands, streams, uplands and forests within your newest park, Claridon Woodlands! Must be able to hike 2 miles over gently rolling terrain.

8 Warbler Warm-up

Sunday, April 8, 2-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Birders Matt Valencic and Kelly Koslowski present techniques for identifying spring warblers using color patterns, habitat, behaviors and song. For novice to intermediate birders; handouts provided. Walk follows to find early songbird migrants. Collaboration with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland.

10 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, April 10, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also April 24.

12 Timbertots: What's the Weather?

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Thursday, April 12, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Frohring Meadows

Explore the wonderful world of weather with hands-on activities. Some outdoors, weather permitting; dress accordingly. Designed for a specified age group; older or younger siblings will not be considered registered participants. Also April 14. ***Registration required.***

12 Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, April 12,
2-3 PM & 7-8 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Find out about the opportunities for volunteers, and begin the application process to become an official volunteer. Paperwork includes background check for ages 18 and up; youth under 14 must volunteer with an adult. ***Registration required.***

13 Cloud Spotting

Friday, April 13, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

Learn all about clouds and what they can teach us about the hidden forces ruling our atmosphere. Weather permitting, program will be followed by night-sky viewing using park telescopes until 11 PM. Also April 27.

14 Timbertots: What's the Weather?

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Saturday, April 14, 10-11 AM
Orchard Hills Park, Lodge

See description for April 12. ***Registration required.***

14 Bald Eagle Hike

Saturday, April 14,
10 AM-Noon
Headwaters Park, Boathouse

Learn amazing facts about Bald Eagles and hike to an active nest, rain or shine, hopefully to observe eagle activity! Must be able to hike 2 miles over rolling terrain.

Photo by Steve Humpal

14 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, April 14, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

Join us at the Oberle Observatory to take in the wonders of the night sky using park telescopes. If it's cloudy, we'll be in the planetarium instead. Also April 28.

15 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, April 15, 7:30-9:30 AM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

See a variety of birds as they return to prime breeding habitat during spring migration. Experienced leaders will assist participants with observation and identification. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and bird guide. Also April 22 & 29 and May 6, 13 & 20 at different locations.

15 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, April 15, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Discover what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment. Also April 29.

Photo by Tami Gingrich

21 Sharing Trails with Horses (For Hikers, Bikers and Other Trail Users)

Saturday, April 21, 10 AM-Noon
The West Woods

Horses and riders from Rich Bradshaw Training Stables of Burton will demonstrate trail etiquette and non-threatening ways to approach and safely co-exist with horseback riders. Bring your children, strollers and dogs for a chance to meet the horses; no additional horses, please.

21 Meet the Artists: Susan Hood & Sheila R. Dorris

Saturday, April 21, 2-4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Meet two friends sharing a love of art and Nature: Susan Hood, with her display of landscape and floral paintings, and Sheila R. Dorris, with her collection of drawings, paintings, photography and mixed media. Light refreshments will be served.

22 Earth Day Extravaganza

Sunday, April 22, 11 AM-3 PM
The West Woods

Celebrate Earth Day locally during this interactive event with wildlife and conservation experts. Activities include talks, hands-on activities, educational and stewardship walks and more. Hosted by Geauga Park District's Natural Resource Management staff. Complete schedule at bit.ly/gpdspecial.

22 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, April 22, 7:30-9:30 AM
Frohring Meadows

See description for April 15.

24 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, April 24, 1-2:30 PM
The Rookery

See description for April 10.

25 After Work Wildflower Walk

Wednesday, April 25, 6:30-8 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Enjoy a diversity of colorful spring wildflowers emerging along the Falls Trail, and hear some fascinating folklore associated with them. Collaboration with Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio.

26 Elderberries: Wild About Wildflowers

Thursday, April 26, 9-11:30 AM
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge

Join the Geauga County Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center for breakfast in the lodge at 9 AM, then enjoy a stroll as we reveal secrets of pollination, seed dispersal strategies and wildflower lore and legend. ***Registration required.***

26 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, April 26, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians combine short performance spots (by sign-up) with jam sessions. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

27 Astrotots: Reach for the Stars!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Friday, April 27, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
The West Woods Nature Center

Come and find out for yourself that stargazing is amazing, learning what stars are, what they do, where they are and what they look like. Also April 28. ***Registration required.***

27 Cloud Spotting

Friday, April 27, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

See description for April 13.

28 Nature Explorers: Amphibian Awakening

(Ages 6-7 & 8-11)
Saturday, April 28, 10 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge Shelter

Explore vernal pools and welcome frogs and salamanders coming back to where they were born. Findings will be recorded on iNaturalist as we participate in the 2018 City Nature Challenge, a global competition celebrating local biodiversity. Mostly outdoors; dress for the weather. Boots recommended for wet ground around vernal pools. Children should be dropped off by 10 AM and picked up by noon. ***Registration required.***

28 Mason Bee Box Building Workshop

Saturday, April 28, 10 AM-Noon
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge

See a short presentation about Mason Bees – their importance as pollinators and their flair for using mud to construct nursery chambers. Then construct your own box to help attract these beneficial insects to your yard. Bring a pair of pruners/scissors and a hammer. Fee: $10. ***Registration required.***

28 Astrotots: Reach for the Stars!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Saturday, April 28, 1-2 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

See description for April 27. ***Registration required.***

28 Night-Sky Viewing

Saturday, April 28, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

See description for April 14.

29 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, April 29, 7:30-9:30 AM
The Rookery

See description for April 15.

29 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, April 29, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See description for April 15.

29 Nature Challenge

Sunday, April 29, 2-4 PM
The West Woods

Be a part of science history as we participate in the 2018 City Nature Challenge, a global competition celebrating local biodiversity. Our afternoon will be spent searching for as many plants and animals as we can via pond dipping, trail hikes and insect netting, to be recorded on iNaturalist.

29 The Full Frog Moon

Sunday, April 29, 8:30-9:30 PM
Observatory Park

Come learn what makes a full moon, meet a few frogs, and observe the rising "Frog Moon" using park telescopes!

MAY *brings something for everyone*

Adventure/Discovery · Arts · Astronomy · Kids · Seniors

3 Timbertots: Flower Fun

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Thursday, May 3, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Big Creek Park, Deep Woods Shelter

Find out how flowers can be fun with colors, counting and exploration! Program outdoors, weather permitting; dress accordingly. Designed for a specified age group; older or younger siblings will not be considered registered participants. ***Registration required.*** *Also May 5.* V

4 Fishing Opportunities in Geauga Park District

Friday, May 4, 7-8 PM
The West Woods

Come learn how the parks' lakes and ponds are managed for sport fishing, the science that goes into providing you with great fishing holes; receive great tips on where, when and what to fish in various parks; and hear about Geauga County's natural lakes.

5 Maple Highlands Horse Ride

Saturday, May 5, 10 AM-12:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area Rt. 608 Parking Lot

Bring your horse for this leisurely spring Amish-countryside ride on the bike and buggy path that includes two covered bridges. This 6-7 mile ride on the newly opened Maple Highlands Trail-South provides a peaceful tour of parks, farms and village. A different ride takes place in the afternoon; riders may register for both rides and bring lunch to eat in between. ***Registration required.*** V

5 Hidden Gems Hike: Observatory Park

Saturday, May 5, 10-11:30 AM
Observatory Park, Cygnus Shelter

Although Observatory Park is well known for evening star gazing, it also offers much to explore during the day! Join a naturalist to hike 2.5 miles along a fairly new trail through woodland and wetland. V

5 Headwaters Horse Ride

Saturday, May 5, 1-3 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area Rt. 608 Parking Lot

Bring your horse for this leisurely 4-mile, naturalist-led ride enjoying wildflowers, an eagle nest, migratory birds and scenic lake views. Includes gravel, bridges and possibly bikes. A different ride takes place in the morning; riders may register for both rides and bring lunch to eat in between. ***Registration required.*** V

5 Timbertots: Flower Fun

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Saturday, May 5, 2-3 PM
B Benner Metzenbaum Park

See description for May 3. ***Registration required.*** ♿ V

6 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, May 6, 7:30-9:30 AM
Eldon Russell Park

See a variety of birds during spring migration. Experienced leaders will assist with observation and identification. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and bird guide. Also May 13 and 20 at different locations. V

6 Beautiful Blooms Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 6, 1-2:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Rt. 322 Entrance

Take a naturalist-led hike to one of the best locations in the parks to find beautiful spring-blooming wildflowers, 1.5 miles along gently rolling terrain. V

7 Magee Marsh Birding Van Trip

Monday, May 7, 6 AM-5:30 PM
The West Woods

Visit one of the best birdwatching spots in the country to witness spring bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie. We'll provide transportation and a naturalist to assist with bird identification; bring binoculars, water and sack lunch. Fee: $10, $25 out-of-county. ***Registration required.***

8 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, May 8, 1-2:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Rt. 322 Entrance

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also May 22.

Frog Fest "Party Line" Call List

Sometime in May, 8-9:30 PM
The West Woods

Get your name on the call list to witness the noisy courtship behavior of Gray Tree Frogs and Green Frogs as they come home to woodland pools to breed. We'll call when conditions are right, so expect short notice. ***Registration required.*** ♿ V

11 The Seneca Anomaly

Friday, May 11, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

Is there an ancient meteor crater below Ohio's Seneca County? Learn about an ongoing scientific investigation into Ohio's ice-age past. Weather permitting, program will be followed by night-sky viewing using park telescopes until 11 PM. ♿ V

12 Claridon Woodlands Spring Bird Sit

Saturday, May 12, 6:30-10:30 AM
Claridon Woodlands

Let's start a tally of birds in our newest park, seeing how many we can identify in 4 hours of "bird sitting" beside the back pond! Bring binoculars, scope, camera and chair to help a naturalist keep a list. V

12 Backcountry Ravine Exploration

Saturday, May 12, 1-4 PM
Welton's Gorge, Burton Township

Venture into the rocky woodland ravines of this Park District preserve to discover deep rock ledges, cool streams, salamanders and other stream life. Includes slippery stream bottoms, steep grades and off-trail obstacles like downed trees and stream crossings. Dress for the weather with sturdy shoes. Held even in the event of rain. ***Registration required.*** V

12 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, May 12, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

Join us at the Oberle Observatory to take in the wonders of the night sky using park telescopes. If it's cloudy, we'll be in the planetarium instead. Also May 26. ♿ V

13 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, May 13, 7:30-9:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove Shelter

See description for May 6. V

13 Mother's Day Milkweed Giveaway

Sunday, May 13, 10 AM-1 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Stop by to pick up a free milkweed plant for Mom in the effort to aid the Monarch Butterfly in its plight of population decline. Attracts many other species of pollinators to your yard as well. One pot per family.

13 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, May 13, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

Find out what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, view the sun using safe solar-viewing equipment. Also May 27.

Photo by C&C Saladin

15 A Look into the Lives of Ohio's Peregrine Falcons

Tuesday, May 15, 7-8:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Chad and Chris Saladin provide insights into the behavior and ecology of Peregrine Falcons as witnessed over their years of monitoring them at Ohio nest sites, both officially for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and on their own once that project ended in 2015. Featuring a special appearance by a live peregrine courtesy of Lake Metroparks. Collaboration with Blackbrook Audubon Society.

17 Elderberries: From Jungles to Geauga, Songbirds of Spring

Thursday, May 17, 9-11:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove Shelter

Join the Geauga County Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center for breakfast, then look for colorful birds including orioles and warblers. Bring binoculars or try a pair of ours. ***Registration required.***

19 Cuyahoga Family Canoe

(Ages 5+ w/adult) Saturday, May 19, 1:30-3 PM, Eldon Russell Park

Celebrate River Day with an easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River. Up to two kids ages 5-11 in middle; 12+ to paddle. More about River Day at www.crookedriverday.org. ***Registration required by phone beginning May 12.***

19 Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, May 19, 8-11 PM
Swine Creek Reservation,
Lake Side Shelter

Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to celebrate the stars and observe our amazing night sky! A variety of telescopes will be on hand to get a closer look. Cancelled if cloudy; call 440-279-0880 after 3 PM to check status.

20 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sunday, May 20, 7:30-9:30 AM
Swine Creek Reservation,
Woods Edge Shelter

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a variety of neo-tropical birds as they return to prime breeding habitat. See description for May 6.

20 Lake Kelso Kayak

Sunday, May 20, 1-2:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Enjoy the wildlife and beautiful surroundings on the tranquil waters of Lake Kelso. Basic kayaking skills required; instruction not given. Held rain or shine, except in event of thunderstorm. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy and bring water. ***Registration required beginning May 13.***

20 Bluebird Patrol

Sunday, May 20, 1-2 PM
Frohring Meadows

Continue celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with Eastern Bluebirds. Learn the basics of becoming a bluebird landlord with Naturalist Tami Gingrich as she monitors boxes. Also learn to identify different species, observe different nests and eggs, and if there is an opportunity, watch nestlings be banded for scientific research.

22 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, May 22, 1-2:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge

See description for May 8.

24 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, May 24, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians combine short performance spots (by sign-up) with jam sessions. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

25 Kokedama String Garden Workshop

Friday, May 25, 6:30-8 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Kokedama is a form of centuries-old Japanese garden art tied into the practice of bonsai. Join artisan Tracy Reid to create two beautiful Japanese Kokedama hanging moss ball planters. Refreshments provided. Fee: $24. ***Registration required.***

25 The Seneca Anomaly

Friday, May 25, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

See description for May 11.

26 Tea & Wildflowers

Saturday, May 26, 10-11:30 AM
Frohring Meadows, Katydid Shelter

Celebrate spring and its splendor with a wildflower talk by naturalists while you enjoy a variety of teas and pastries. Then head out onto the paved trail for a hike among the meadow flowers. Held rain or shine. ***Registration required.***

26 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, May 26, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

See description for May 12.

27 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, May 27, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See description for May 13.

27 The Full Corn-Planting Moon

Sunday, May 27, 8:30-9:30 PM
Observatory Park

Hear the Navajo story that uses the sky to tell when planting season has arrived, then watch the (nearly) full moon rise over Observatory Park.

30 Nighthawk Canoe Float

Wednesday, May 30, 8-10 PM
Eldon Russell Park

The Upper Cuyahoga River comes alive with wildlife at sundown! Witness the annual mayfly hatch and appearance of mysterious nighthawks drawn in for in-flight feasting. Ages 10+; 12+ to paddle. Participants must have basic canoe handling skills; no lessons.
Registration required by phone beginning May 23.

JUNE *makes outside popular again*

Adventure/Discovery · Arts · Astronomy · Kids · Seniors

2 National Trails Days: Hike Around the Reservoir

Saturday, June 2, 10 AM-2 PM
Headwaters Park, Rt. 608

Hike 7 miles on the preserve side of East Branch Reservoir not otherwise open to the public. Possibility of wildlife sightings. Pack a lunch and water bottle. ***Registration required.***

3 Hidden Gems Hike: Swine Creek Valley

Sunday, June 3, 1-2:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Valley Shelter

Explore this beautiful valley and the sights and sounds of late spring, 2 miles over hilly terrain and stream crossings.

5 Geauga Walkers: Summer Picnic

Tuesday, June 5, 12-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge Shelter

Hike at noon, then annual potluck picnic at 1 PM; bring a dish to share. Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Geauga Walkers also June 19.

8 Grandparents Summer Picnic

Friday, June 8, 12-1:30 PM
Claridon Woodlands, Lodge

Enjoy our brand new park with a picnic, Nature activities and trail rides on the EZ Go Cart! In collaboration with the Chardon Senior Center, which provides hot dogs. Bring a dessert or side dish to share. ***Registration required.***

8 Exoplanets & How To Find Them

Friday, June 8, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

Hunt for planets outside our solar system as we try out some citizen science projects. Program followed by night-sky viewing using park telescopes until 11 PM, weather permitting. Also June 22.

9 Basic Learn To Kayak

(Ages 10+) Saturday, June 9, 9 AM-Noon, Bass Lake Preserve

Learn basic kayak handling techniques for flat water. No private kayaks or unregistered people. Shoes may get wet or muddy, bring water and change of clothes in case kayak overturns. ***Registration required by phone beginning May 26.***

9 Basic Learn To Canoe

(Ages 10+) Saturday, June 9, 1-4 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Learn basic canoe handling techniques for flat water. No private canoes or unregistered people. Shoes may get wet or muddy, so bring water and a change of clothes in case canoe overturns. ***Registration required by phone beginning May 26.***

9 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, June 9, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

Take in the wonders of the night sky using park telescopes. If cloudy, we'll be in the planetarium instead. Also June 23.

9 Nights Out in the Parks: Erie Heights Brass Ensemble

Saturday, June 9, 7-8:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Amphitheater

Enjoy a variety of sentimental love songs, sometimes called "torch songs," under the stars! Refreshments served. Indoors if inclement weather.

10 Caveman Crawl 5K Trail Run & 1-Mile Fun Walk

Sunday, June 10, 7-11 AM
The West Woods

A one-of-a-kind trail run through wooded hills – costumes encouraged! Registration 7-8:30 AM, costume contest 8:30 AM, 5K run/walk at 9 AM. Apply at bit.ly/gpdcaveman, The West Woods Nature Center or Big Creek Park's Meyer Center. Advanced registration: $20; additional charge day of race. Course is primarily well graded dirt and gravel. Awards for winning runners and creative costumes. Proceeds benefit the Chip Henry Institute for Outdoor Adventure. ***Registration required.***

10 Polliwog Paddle Family Canoe

(Ages 5+ w/adult) Sunday, June 10, 2-4 PM, Eldon Russell Park

Easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River. Up to two kids 5-11 in middle; 10+ to paddle. ***Registration required by phone beginning June 2.***

Photo by Grace Rybak

10 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, June 10, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using safe solar-viewing equipment. Also June 24.

13 West Woods Wednesdays Farm Market

Wednesday, June 13, 4-7 PM
The West Woods

Purchase locally made/grown items at The West Woods the second Wednesday of each month this summer, June through September!

14 Veteran's Appreciation Picnic

Thursday, June 14, 4:30-8 PM
Claridon Woodlands, Lodge

Geauga Park District celebrates our veterans on Flag Day with a special picnic to say thank you for serving our country! Veterans and a guest are welcome to enjoy food, live music and this exciting new park. ***Registration required.***

16 Fly Fishing Family Day

Saturday, June 16, 1-4 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lake Side Shelter

Learning to fly fish is fun and easy! Join members of the North Coast Fly Fishers as they teach the basics of fly casting, fly tying and where to look for fish, then try your hand at catching aquatic insects in pond and stream – a great way to kick off a lifetime of angling. Fishing license required if you plan to wet your line.

16 Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, June 16, 8:30-11:30 PM
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve

Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to celebrate the stars and observe our amazing night sky! A variety of telescopes will be on hand to get a closer look. Cancelled if cloudy; call 440-279-0880 after 3 PM to check status.

17 Father's Day Milkweed Giveaway

Sunday, June 17, 10 AM-1 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lakeside

Stop by to pick up a free milkweed plant for Dad in the effort to aid the Monarch Butterfly in its plight of population decline. Attracts many other species of pollinators to your yard as well. One pot per family.

17 Almost-Summer Kayak

(Ages 12+) Sunday, June 17, 1-3 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Summertime fun with an afternoon of kayaking. Eagles, waterfowl and a variety of other wildlife await our discovery! Dress for the weather. ***Registration required by phone beginning June 10.***

19 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, June 19, 1-2:30 PM
Frohring Meadows

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2137. Also June 5.

20 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1-2 w/adult)
Wednesday, June 20, 10-11 AM
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve

Enjoy the start of summer with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome! ***Registration required.***

21 Elderberries: Seniors at Claridon Woodlands

Thursday, June 21, 9-11:30 AM
Claridon Woodlands, Lodge

Join the Geauga County Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center for breakfast at 9 AM, then explore the ropes course, hiking trails (on foot or by EZ Go Cart), wildlife and fishing areas. Go "finny-dipping" and scoop up life in the ponds, too! ***Registration required.***

21 Solstice Sunset Hike

Thursday, June 21, 8-9 PM
Observatory Park

Take a 2-mile hike through the solar system on the longest day of the year, then watch the sun set on the first day of summer. ***Registration required.***

22 Exoplanets & How To Find Them

Friday, June 22, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park

See description for June 8.

23 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk, Trot & Canter)

Saturday, June 23, 10-11:30 AM
Observatory Park

Faster-paced, naturalist-led trail ride. Walk-only riders should attend afternoon ride; may also register for both rides and bring lunch to eat in between. Trailer your horse to the park. ***Registration required.***

23 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk Only)

Saturday, June 23, 1-3 PM
Observatory Park,

Leisurely paced, naturalist-led trail ride. Faster riders should attend morning ride; may register for both rides and bring lunch to eat in between. Trailer your horse to the park. ***Registration required.***

23 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, June 23, 7-11 PM
Observatory Park

See description for June 9.

23 Nights Out in the Parks: Movie Night

Saturday, June 23, 8-11:30 PM
Observatory Park

View "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle!" Activities at 8 PM include the Geauga County Public Library's Fun Bus; movie at dark. Free popcorn and lemonade. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Night sky viewing after movie, if weather permits.

24 Backcountry Hike

Sunday, June 24, 1-3 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve

Off-trail adventure on rugged terrain; several miles of off-trail challenges with steep hills. Wear sturdy shoes with good traction that can get wet and muddy. ***Registration required.***

24 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, June 24, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park

See description for June 10.

24 Hound Hike

Sunday, June 24, 6-7 PM
Observatory Park

A 2-mile hike with water stops for dogs. One, non-aggressive dog per handler, on leash at all times (8 ft. max). Must be able to fully control dog. Problematic dog(s) may be asked to leave. ***Registration required.***

27 Nature Explorers: Summer Camp Sampler

(Ages 6-7) Wednesday, June 27, 10 AM-Noon, Big Creek Park

Try camp activities: ice breakers, field games, hiking, s'mores and more! Drop-off program; indoors and out. Also June 28 for ages 8-11. ***Registration required.***

28 Nature Explorers: Summer Camp Sampler

(Ages 8-11) Thursday, June 28, 9:30 AM-Noon, Big Creek Park,

See description for June 27 (same program but for ages 6-7). ***Registration required.***

28 Timbertots: Life Under a Log

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Thursday, June 28, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Big Creek Park

Discover a world of critters under just one log! Designed for a specified age group; older or younger siblings not considered registered participants. Also June 30. ***Registration required.***

28 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, June 28, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians sign up for performance spots/jam sessions. All genres, instruments and levels welcome. Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience. Snacks to share welcome.

28 Full Moon Program: The Strawberry Moon

Thursday, June 28, 8:30-9:30 PM
Observatory Park

Get a taste of strawberries, then watch the full moon rise using park telescopes.

29 Firefly Frolic

Friday, June 29, 8:30-10:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge

A magical hike reveals an array of species identified by colors, flash patterns and flight paths. Nets provided. Program begins with brief history of these amazing insects.

30 Timbertots: Life Under a Log

(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Saturday, June 30, 10-11 AM, Big Creek Park

See description for June 28. ***Registration required.***

30 Amazing Moths

Saturday, June 30, 10 PM-12 AM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Join naturalists Tami Gingrich and Linda Gilbert, with other moth experts, as they use mercury vapor and black light stations to attract beautiful moths and other fascinating insects. Bring flashlight and camera.

Photos by Abby Smith

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

2018 summer Camps

THE Chip Henry INSTITUTE FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Get out for some fun!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT 440-286-9516

Junior Naturalist

$150/week - 9 AM-4 PM

Youth entering grades 5-7

Monday-Friday, June 11-15

Ready to explore and learn how to be a naturalist? If so, you're in for an exciting week of exploring streams, lakes and forests for exciting wildlife such as macro-invertebrates, birds, amphibians, insects and more! Participants begin and end each day at The West Woods Nature Center.

Camp transportation is provided to other park locations for various activities facilitated by highly qualified staff. Schedules, waivers required of each participant, and other details are sent once registration is complete. Each camper must bring lunch, water and a raincoat in a backpack for daily activities. Other equipment is provided and included in the registration fee. Financial assistance is available; please call for details.

Adventure Day Camps

$150/week - 9 AM-4 PM

Youth entering grades 5-7

Mondays-Fridays:

June 25 - 29
July 9-13
July 16-20
July 30 - Aug 3
August 6-10

Gear up for an exciting week of exploring, biking, kayaking, fishing, sending rockets high into the sky and more! Participants begin and end each day at The West Woods Nature Center.

Teens entering grades 8-10

Mondays-Fridays:

June 18 - 22
July 23 - 27

Get ready for an exciting week of exploring, biking, kayaking, fishing, archery, sending rockets high into the sky and trying out the brand new ropes course at Claridon Woodlands! Participants begin and end each day at The West Woods Nature Center.

X-TREME Days

$30/day - 9 AM-4 PM

Teens entering grades 8-10

Monday, July 2

X-treme: Kayak River Challenge

Eldon Russell Park

The wilds of the Upper Cuyahoga River are home to a wondrous variety of birds and beasts. Experience this 10-mile "X-treme" adventure as we paddle our way, discovering wildlife in and along the river. Bring a lunch and water bottle in a waterproof bag, as well as sunscreen and insect repellent that can be applied onsite if needed. V

Tuesday, July 3

X-treme: High Ropes Adventure

Claridon Woodlands

Explore the new high ropes course at this brand new park. From there, campers will take The Maple Highlands Trail by bike to Headwaters Park, where they will kayak on the beautiful East Branch Reservoir, then hop back on their bikes and bike north back to Claridon Woodlands.

Thursday, July 5

X-treme: Kayak River Challenge

Eldon Russell Park

See description for July 2. V

Friday, July 6

X-treme: High Ropes Adventure

Claridon Woodlands

See description for July 3.

Photo by Alienna Arnold

From the Desk of

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Providing Nature For You

This spring's feature article was written by Park Biologist Paul Pira. As your former Natural Resource Manager, I had the privilege of hiring Paul in 2004. In his article, Paul talks about applying the word "balance" to managing the lands, plants and animals of Geauga Park District. It is a responsibility we take seriously.

As a park system of our type, we recognize the importance of ensuring that land and Nature is protected. We also recognize the importance of providing for your enjoyment and the enjoyment of the next generation of Geauga County residents. You may not know, but the law that defines us – in this case, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1545 – defines our responsibilities for striking a balance between protecting parks and providing parks. One portion of 1545 states, "The board of park commissioners may acquire lands either within or without the park district for conversion into forest reserves and for the conservation of the natural resources of the state, including streams, lakes, submerged lands, and swamplands, and to those ends may create parks, parkways, forest reservations, and other reservations and afforest, develop, improve, protect, and promote the use of the same in such manner as the board deems conducive to the general welfare".

For me, this is one of the most inspiring sections of the 1545 provision for park districts. It not only gives us the opportunity to set aside land for Nature, but it also gives us the opportunity to provide Nature to you. It speaks to the legacy of past boards, as well as the responsibility of current and future boards, to not only acquire lands, but also develop, improve and promote their use.

To that end, it is the desire of Geauga Park District that each of you experience one or more of your parks. We've worked hard to protect the Nature there, while still making it as accessible as possible. Our hope is to provide something for everyone. We want you to have fun in your parks.

Whether you experience Nature in one of our 22 open parks, 77 trails or hundreds of naturalist-led programs offered each year, get out and strike a balance in your life. It's somewhere between responsibility and relaxation.

Beartown Lakes Reservation - Photo by Jim Marquardt

I think famous conservationist John Muir said it best when he said, "Going to the woods is going home." Let Geauga Park District be your home this spring – and for generations to come.

- John Oros

Entries are due May 1 for the 23rd annual

Nature Writing Contest

Learn how to enter at www.geaugaparkdistrict.org under News & Updates

Save the date for the 27th annual

Nature ARTS Festival

Sunday, August 5
10 AM - 5 PM
Big Creek Park

(Writing contest winners are also invited to read their winning works at this event)

Geauga Park District's

FAMILY FUN Giveaway

Co-presented by Great Lakes Outdoor Supply

WIN UP TO 4 KAYAKS, LIFE VESTS & PADDLES!

...plus, get email updates personalized to your interests

Enter to win & read official rules at http://bit.ly/gpdgiveaway2018

Park Locations and Amenities

ICONS LISTED AT RIGHT IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR

Bass Lake Preserve 1145 Lakeview Drive, Munson, 44023 *NO TRAILS AVAILABLE; BOATING BY PERMIT ONLY*				✓	✓						✓	✓		
Beartown Lakes Reservation 18870 Quinn Road, Auburn/Bainbridge, 44023 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.8*	✓	✓ 0.7	✓ 2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park 7940 Cedar Road, Chester, 44026 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.0*	✓	✓ 0.5	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Big Creek Park 9160 Robinson Road, Chardon, 44024 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 6.4* *Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details*	✓	✓ 0.3	✓ 3		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Big Creek Park - Tupelo Pond 9373 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024							✓	✓	✓			✓			
Big Creek Park - Horse Trail 12000 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024					✓		✓	✓	✓						
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve 15681 Old Rider Road, Burton/Newbury, 44021 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7*	✓				✓		✓	✓							✓
Chickagami Park 17957 Tavern Road, Parkman, 44021 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6*	✓		✓ 2		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Claridon Woodlands 11383 Claridon Troy Road, Claridon, 44033 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.2*	✓	✓ 0.6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Eldon Russell Park 16315 Rapids Road, Troy, 44021 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 0.8*			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Frohring Meadows 16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge, 44023 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.5*	✓	✓ 0.7		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Headwaters Park 13365 Old State Road, Claridon/Huntsburg, 44021 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.3*			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
The Maple Highlands Trail (TMHT) *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 20.7* *City of Charon: 1.2 and City of Middlefield: 0.5* *Access to trail also from Claridon Woodlands, Headwaters Park & Swine Creek Reservation; horses permitted on south section only*	✓	✓ 20.7					✓	✓	✓	✓					

What Movie Will Show in August at Observatory Park?

FANS, YOU DECIDE!

From June 1 to July 14, visit our website to vote for the vintage movie you've been wishing to re-watch or show a friend...we'll be happy to host your watch party under this very dark night sky!

ADVENTURES in Geocaching

Expires December 31, 2018
Details on our website under Activities

Check out this two-stage "mystery cache" in Sunnybrook Preserve!

PART A:
N 41° 31.813
W 081° 18.043

This new cache poses a puzzle for you,
Presenting a treasure divided in two.
The first part, you'll find, is easy enough;
Locating the second could prove to be tough.
Take a look at the cache and you'll soon understand:
You hold the key in the palm of your hand!

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS • PAVED TRAILS SHOWING MILEAGE • OPEN SHELTERS • ENCLOSED LODGES • RESTROOMS • PLAYGROUNDS • HIKING • X-COUNTRY SKIING • HORSES • BICYCLES • CAMPING • FISHING • BOATS PERMITTED • SLED HILL • NATURE VIEWING AREA

Mountain Run Station - Access to TMHT 12601 Chardon Windsor Road, Hambden, 44024	✓	✓ 0.36	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓					
Big Creek Spur - Access to TMHT 9280 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024	✓	✓ 0.64			✓		✓	✓		✓					
Observatory Park 10610 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 Nassau Astronomical Station 10350 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.62* *Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details*	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓					
Orchard Hills Park 11340 Caves Road, Chester, 44026 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.6*	✓	✓ 0.75	✓ 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Sunnybrook Preserve 12474 Heath Road, Chester, 44026 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7*	✓	✓ 0.37		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Swine Creek Reservation 16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield, 44062 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 5.8*	✓	✓ 0.40	✓ 3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
The Rookery 10110 Cedar Road, Munson, 44026 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.4*	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
The West Woods 9465 Kinsman Road, Russell, 44072 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 6.7* The West Woods - Affelder House 15139 Chillicothe Road, Russell, 44072 *Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details*	✓	✓ 0.3	✓ 2		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve 11620 Ravenna Road, Munson, 44024 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6*	✓	✓ 1.6	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓
Whitlam Woods 12500 Pearl Road, Hambden, 44024 *TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.1*					✓		✓								✓
Woodin Road Park 12205 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024 *NO TRAILS AVAILABLE*															

View the current fee schedule on our website under Reservations. All enclosed lodges, but not all open shelters, are equipped with electricity. Boating on Bass Lake requires a permit. Permitted watercraft are kayaks, canoes and electric motors; gasoline engines are permitted only in Eldon Russell Park. Learn more on our website under Activities.

A Nest Fit For a Mallard

by Jen Weitzel, Land Steward, Natural Resource Management

Early last year, with help from Chagrin Falls Girl Scout Aly Brandt and some students in Mike Sustin's West Geauga environmental science class, our Natural Resource Management team installed Mallard Duck nesting tubes at three parks: Orchard Hills Park, Frohring Meadows and Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve.

Nesting tubes make strong additions for public viewing and appreciation of wildlife, and can greatly benefit resident Mallard Ducks. Since Mallards usually nest on the ground, tubes boost their success by decreasing the likelihood of predation by raccoons, skunks and other predators. Tubes are elevated with a large stake and placed deep in the water, then the stake is covered with a large PVC pipe to inhibit hungry predators from climbing up for access.

Once nesting season ended last year, NRM removed all eight new tubes, took them apart, refilled them with fresh grass and placed them back into their original locations. One tube showed evidence that a nest had been there, so we are hopeful more of the tubes will be used for nesting this spring.

For information about building and using nesting tubes yourself, visit deltawaterfowl.org/hen-houses.

Photo by Jen Weitzel

Photo by Joel Firem

Spring Things

What is a vernal pool?

Vernal pools are special habitats that fill with rainwater in the fall, winter and spring and usually dry up in the summer. Because these pools are temporary, fish are not able to survive. Without fish to eat their eggs or larvae, then, amphibians such as Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs and Spotted Salamanders can use these pools to lay their eggs.

Look at this photo of a vernal pool and its surrounding habitat. Can you spot all 10 amphibians that have been placed in it?

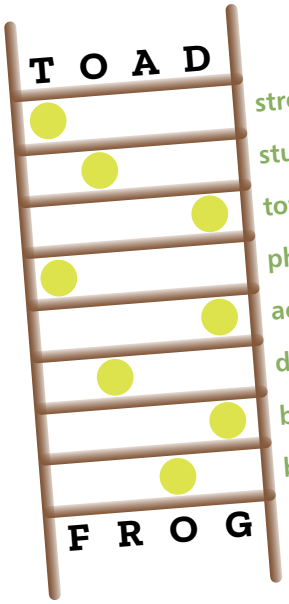
Frog vs. Toad

Do you know some of the differences?

Needs to live near water	Does not need to live near water
Smooth, moist skin that makes it look slimy	Rough, dry, bumpy skin
Narrow body	Wider body
Higher, rounder, bulgier eyes	Lower, football-shaped eyes
Longer hind legs	Shorter, less powerful hind legs
Takes long high jumps	Will run or take small hops rather than jump
Has many predators	Does not have many predators (a toad's skin lets out a bitter taste and smell that burns the eyes and nostrils of predators)

Turn a toad into a frog!

Turn the word TOAD into the word FROG by changing one letter to make a new word at each step. The clues on the right will help you, and the green circles indicate the letter that needs to be changed. Good luck!



street

study/leaf through

toward the back

phobia

achievement

deflated, spread out

banner

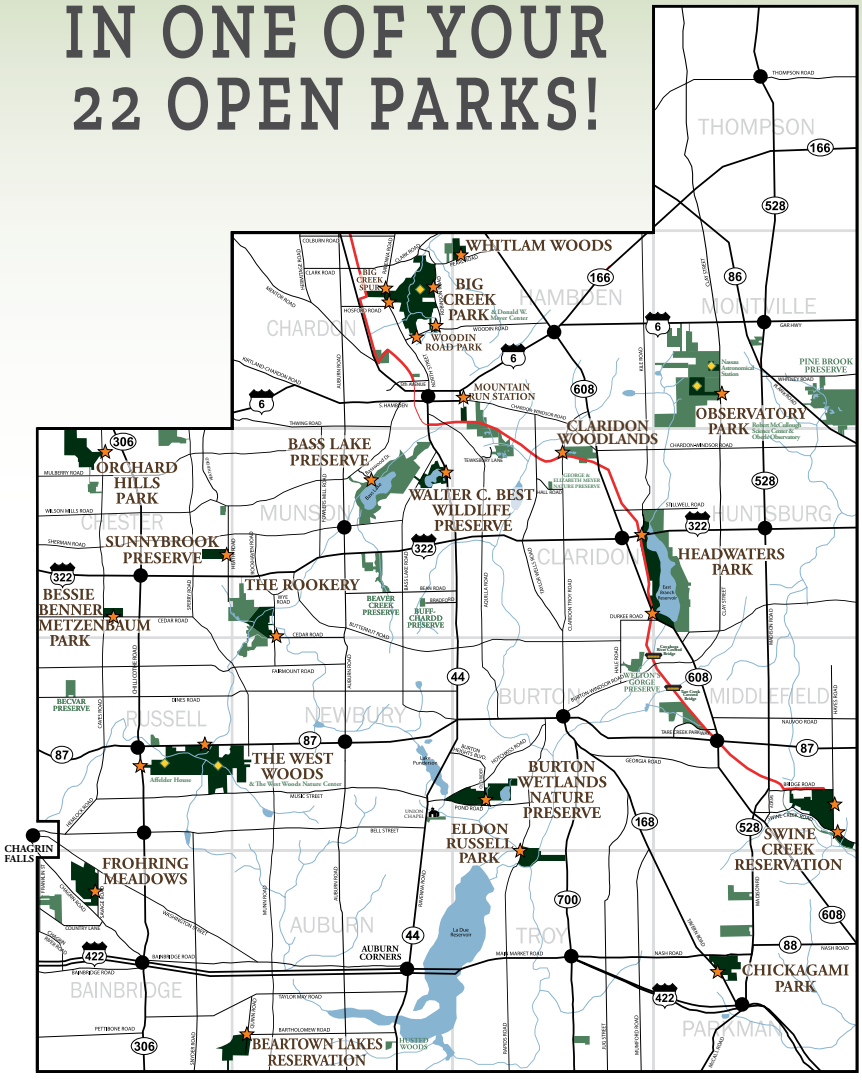
beat up, whip, lash

Answers to puzzles on bottom of back cover

Geauga Park District
9160 Robinson Road
Chardon, OH 44024-9148

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

IN ONE OF YOUR 22 OPEN PARKS!



440-286-9516 • www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Printed on paper using 30% post-consumer waste

Answers from page 19

See highlighted shapes at right

Word ladder puzzle, in order: TOAD, ROAD, READ, REAR, FEAR, FEAT, FLAT, FLAG, FLOG, FROG