

PARKEXPLORER

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE



*Backcountry Ravine Hike
Photo by Stacey Rauch*

FALL 2020

4 How primitive camping became a meaningful pastime for one family

7 Park Board votes to add two more commissioners

14 Regional artists are getting inspired by insects and arachnids

15 Appreciating the generosity of our donors and volunteers

UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*



Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, all public programs and special events are subject to change or be cancelled. Please check our website for updates before heading out. Face coverings are required for all indoor programs and events as well as all outdoor programs and events when social distancing is not possible. Thanks in advance for helping keep the parks safe and open for everyone!



Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 1 - 5 PM • Swine Creek Reservation

Celebrate autumn with handmade and locally produced items for sale, live music, food vendors, horse-drawn wagon rides, balloon creations, a Nature scavenger hunt and more. Wagon rides are first come, first served 1 to 4 PM with limited seating.

More free horse-drawn wagon rides (also first come, first served) at this park: Oct. 17, 18, 24 & 25 • 1-5 PM



Shop this unique Nature-themed juried craft show

TWO Saturdays, November 7 & 14

10 AM - 4 PM • The West Woods Nature Center

Find handmade items for everyone on your list! Each day features different artisans; visit one weekend or both. Vendors will be listed on our website. Note: Guests may experience a wait to enter the venue.



Saturday, December 5, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Big Creek Park, The Meyer Center *All supplies provided*

Brighten a senior's holiday season with your thoughtful creation! Create evergreen decorations that will accompany home-delivered meals for seniors from the Geauga County Department on Aging during this annual "make-and-GIVE" event.

Registration required; please choose a single one-hour session.



Saturday, Sunday & Monday, December 19, 20 & 21 6 - 8 PM & 8 - 10 PM • The West Woods

Register for a two-hour time slot to take a self-guided stroll along a magical candlelit trail through the forest featuring winter solstice traditions.

FALL 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.



Gaugua Gems Trekking Series Program
Fulfills one of the naturalist-led requirements toward your Trekking Series award



Nature's Not To Be Missed
Program focused on unique encounters with Nature



Fully Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible



Nature Scopes - Program recommended for our fifth-grade Nature Scopes students

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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 till 1 AM from Memorial Day to Labor Day and till 11 PM from Labor Day to Memorial Day; its 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

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



Howard Bates, President



Pat Preston



Bill Dieterle



Dennis Ibold



Mario Innocenzi

FROM THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Dear Park Friends and Geauga County Neighbors:

First, I would like to thank John Oros and all the Park District staff for all of their hard work in keeping the parks open during this COVID-19 pandemic.

During this time, we have seen record numbers of visitors to our parks. As summer comes to an end, I would encourage everyone to go out to one of the Park District's 25 parks and enjoy the fall foliage. For the first-time visitors, I am sure you will be impressed with the quality of our parks. You may also watch our website for details about an upcoming scavenger hunt in the parks this fall.

I hope you and your families continue to have a safe year.

Howard W. Bates

Howard W. Bates



Executive Director
John Oros

Park Board Meetings

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

FEATURING PARK FRIENDS

A PRIMITIVE

CAMPING

PRIMER

By Sarah Stemen of Auburn Township

Back in March, when schools shut down and businesses started closing, my children and I watched our summer plans go down the drain. I assured them that I would do my utmost to make their summer a memorable one, and I kept my promise using Geauga Park District.

Through the past eight years of living in Geauga County, we have participated in a vast number of Park District programs, from Timbertots to summer camp to art fairs. The one thing we hadn't done was camping.

I grew up camping with my family, and even though we have a camper, primitive camping was something my children were unfamiliar with. I knew from my own childhood memories that it was something I wanted them to experience. Thankfully my kids, Lillian (11) and Nolan (7), and their friend Penelope Kellogg (11) were happy to oblige.

Our first campsite of the year was Big Creek Park's tent site A. I felt Big Creek would be a gentle beginner site for a lone adult with three children. Primitive enough to be an adventure, yet easily accessible. The tent and gear still needed to be walked in, but we wouldn't have to make long midnight treks to the bathroom. I'll admit to being nervous. Despite having done our research, there's always a bit of fear at trying something new. Did we bring enough food? Would the tent leak? How would the children react once it got dark? Hours of hiking, pond netting, campfire building, card games and leaf collecting filled our time. A sense of camaraderie and independence made for a day



of joy and happiness. For a blessed 24 hours there was no fighting. No bickering. The wonder of camping in Nature had set in, and I knew it would be something we would do again.

In July we decided to give it another go. The children felt ready for a challenge, so I made a reservation for The West Woods' campsite B. We took what we had learned from our first camping trip and made a few changes. We packed more bug spray; a camper can never have too much. We rethought what was essential regarding

toys and snacks because the kids remembered that “what you pack in you have to pack out.” We came prepared with a wagon because multiple trips back and forth to the car gets exhausting. The kids loaded it up with the tent, cooler, sleeping bags and overnight packs.

The hike to this site was more complex than Big Creek – farther away from the parking lot, with most of the hike uphill. One child pulled the wagon, one child pushed, and up the trail they went. Once they arrived at the site, they knew the work was worth the effort. Campsite B is gorgeous, a wooded site with a neighboring stream perfect for any budding naturalist to explore rocks, amphibians and insects. The West Woods is our favorite park for frog catching, and a hike to Ansel’s Cave always satisfies. When darkness fell, we listened to the nightlife awaken:



“When darkness fell, we listened to the nightlife awaken: coyotes singing in the distance and Barred Owls conversing in the trees.”

coyotes singing in the distance and Barred Owls conversing in the trees.

When it was time to leave, my 11-year-old said to me that camping has been “the most fun I’ve had all pandemic.”

It’s hard to express the importance that Geauga Park District has played in the mental health of my children during this strange and uncertain time in our lives. It’s offered a calm and quiet bonding; an opportunity to reconnect with Nature. We’re thankful.

The kids and I are already planning our next camping trip, this time in a lean-to at Chickagami Park. We can’t wait. 🍀





Park Spotlight

Spend Some Time

at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park

Photo by Jim Marquardt



Fall colors are a sight to see in the midst of the mature beech-maple forest found at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park in Chester Township. This 65-acre park also features a boardwalk that takes you through the wetlands surrounding Griswold Creek, a truly beautiful sight at all times of year.

Griswold Creek is a coldwater stream within the Chagrin River watershed that was restored in 2019 through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with the help of the Lake Erie Protection Fund and Chagrin Watershed Partners. Restoration was needed to help the stream access its historic floodplain during high water events. It also helped to naturalize stream flow and decrease the amount of sediment from stream erosion. All this has improved habitat for macro invertebrates, fish and amphibians who call this park home.

Within the trail system here, the accessible paved Evergreen Trail provides access to the Griswold Creek Trail (also accessible) which includes the boardwalk, then loops back around through a section of evergreens. The Summit Trail is a primitive trail providing a challenge for even the serious hiker; it leads to the summit of a sandstone knoll rising 140 feet above Griswold Creek.

Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park is a great location for birdwatching, hiking, walking, running and cross-country skiing. Additionally, Wisteria Shelter is a reservable open-air shelter near a playground for children of all ages to enjoy.

FIELD NOTES:

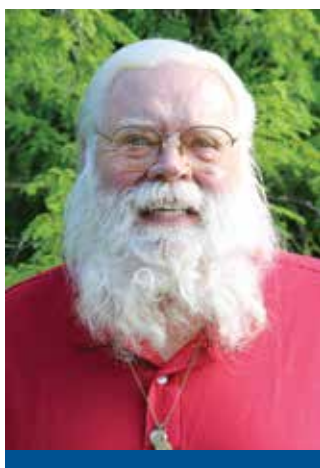
REACHING THE TOP OF THE SUMMIT TRAIL REWARDS YOU WITH A SPECIAL OVERLOOK VIEW — A GREAT PLACE TO CATCH YOUR BREATH AND TAKE IN THE SCENERY.



Geauga Park District Board of Park Commissioners Increases from 3 to 5

This June, our Park Board voted to increase their size to five total members. Upon the resignation of Jackie Dottore, Probate/Juvenile Court Judge Tim Grendell was then charged with naming three new members to join existing commissioners Howard Bates and Pat Preston.

Meet the New Commissioners.....



Bill Dieterle is a Middlefield Township resident. He is the CEO of Santa's Hide-A-Way Hollow, which offers a day of happiness to children battling illnesses and their families.



Dennis Ibold is a Munson Township resident and a practicing attorney. He is one of the founders of the law firm Ibold & O'Brien, established in 1980 and located in Chardon.



Mario Innocenzi is a Claridon Township resident. He is a business owner and operator of Mario's Barber Shop in Parma.

Thank You to All of Our Generous Donors

**Donations to
Geauga Park District
May through
July 2020**

Anonymous donor	Property maint/land acquisition	384,157.62
Anonymous donor	Property maint/land acquisition	203,723.25
Judge David & Michele Schroeder	Chip Henry Institute	150.00
Cleveland Foundation	Lewis & Ruth Affelder Fund	486.50
Kenneth Gibb	Unrestricted donation	42.90
Pam Hess	Park bench plaque at Headwaters Park In Memory of "Herbie" Grossman & Joan Harris	500.00
Cindy Roman	Park bench plaque at Headwaters Park In Memory of John & Ann Peto	500.00
Howard & Patricia Bates	Donation for camping contest gift cards	550.00
Paul & Linda Starr	K9 fund donation	50.00

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

1 Full Moon Hike: China's Moon Festival

Thursday, October 1, 7:30-8:30 PM

Observatory Park

Hear about nocturnal nature and China's Mid-Autumn Festival celebrating the moon. Observe the rising full moon using park telescopes (weather permitting) or bring binoculars. **Registration required.**

3 Autumn Bird Walk

Saturday, October 3, 9-11 AM

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Hike these beautiful trails in search of migrating songbirds heading south for the winter! **Registration required.**

3 Fall Color Kayak

(Ages 12+ w/adult)

Saturday, October 3, 1-3 PM

Bass Lake Preserve

Paddle along peaceful shores to enjoy the autumn color and wildlife. Kayaking ability/experience expected. **Registration required beginning September 26.**

4 Backcountry Hike

Sunday, October 4,
10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM



The West Woods, Affelder House
An off-trail hike into a mature woodland along Affelder Stream and Silver Creek. Must be capable of several miles of off-trail hiking on rugged wet terrain. Dress for weather; wear sturdy boots. **Registration required.**

5 Hike Around the Meadow

Monday, October 5,
8-9:30 AM & 10-11:30 AM



Frohning Meadows

See what the season has to offer. Binoculars are recommended. **Registration required.**

5 Geauga Skywatchers Club: The Moon (Virtual Program)

Monday, October 5, 6:30-7:30 PM

From phases to eclipses to moonwalks, explore the moon in fascinating detail. Also learn about the library's new telescope lending program and some basics on how to use a telescope to view the moon!

Registration required at
<https://geaugalibrary.libcal.com>.

9 Meet the Artist: "EarthLight Impressions"

Friday, October 9, 7-9 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Meet artist Robin Anne Ralls Payne and view her collection of 50+ Nature-themed art works. Show runs through January 17.

10 A Berry Good Bird Walk

Saturday, October 10, 8-10 AM

Eldon Russell Park

Search for songbird migrants that winter in the south. Focus on the wild fruits that get them there as hardy, beautiful and bountiful choices for home landscaping. Loaner binoculars available. **Registration required.**

10 Scout Day: Cadette Girl Scout "Eco Trekker Badge"

Saturday, October 10, 9-11:30 AM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Discover your important role in Nature while working on this badge and learning to conserve, preserve and protect the Great Outdoors! **Registration required.**

10 Scout Day: Webelos "Walkabout Core Adventure"

Saturday, October 10, 1-4 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

We'll complete requirements 1, 2, 3, 4 (partial) & 5. We'll start indoors for a brief opening program, then proceed outside for the hike. **Registration required.**

10 Holbrook Hollows Fall Hike



Saturday, October 10, 2-3:30 PM

Holbrook Hollows

Hike the uplands and lowlands of this park, enjoying the fall colors and whatever else Nature brings our way in early autumn. **Registration required.**

11 Fall Color Hike

Sunday, October 11, 9-11 AM
& 1-3 PM, Orchard Hills Park,



Pondside Shelter

Naturalist-led, medium-level hike to enjoy the beautiful fall colors! **Registration required.**

11 Autumn Kayak Float

Sunday, October 11, Noon-2 PM

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Paddle the peaceful waters of this ancient glacial lake enjoying autumn color and wildlife. Kayaking ability/experience expected. **Registration required beginning October 4.**

14 Weave a Cornucopia Basket

Wednesday, October 14, 2-5 PM

& 6-9 PM, Claridon Woodlands

Fee: \$20 in-county/\$24 out-of-county resident
Learn the basic art of basket weaving while making your own cornucopia basket. Great for beginners. **Registration required.**

15 Elderberries: Fall Wagon Ride



Thursday, October 15,

11:30 AM-2:30 PM

Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

Enjoy natural wonders unique to autumn! The Geauga County Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center will also host a picnic lunch for you at 11:30 AM. **Registration required.**

16 Hike & Fire

Friday, October 16, 3-5 PM & 6-8 PM

B Benner Metzenbaum Park

Enjoy a naturalist-led walk around the trails, then return to the shelter for a campfire. **Registration required.**

17 Nature Exploration Kayak (Ages 12+ w/adult)

Saturday, October 17, 10-11:30 AM

& 2-3:30 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Peaceful float experiencing the sights and sounds of fall. Kayaking experience recommended. Bring a snack and water. **Registration required beginning October 10.**

17 Plant Your Own Meadow

Saturday, October 17, 1:30-2:30 PM

Observatory Park

Start your own meadow that will benefit wildlife, including pollinators, and look amazing, too. Indoor presentation. **Registration required.** Also register for Meadow Meander, a hike following this program.

17 Meadow Meander

Saturday, October 17, 2:30-4 PM

Observatory Park

View an amazing display of meadow and prairie plants with glimpses of wildlife that benefit from them, like pollinators. **Registration required.** Follows the Plant Your Own Meadow program (requiring separate registration).

18 Nature Trek Fitness Hike

Sunday, October 18, 9-10:30 AM

Veterans Legacy Woods

Burn off calories learning some cool Nature facts along the way. Ability to hike at least 3 miles. Held rain or shine. **Registration required.**

18 Habitat Hide & Seek Family Fun

Sunday, October 18, 1-3 PM

Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove

Have fun exploring a pond, meadow and forest. Dress for possible wet or muddy conditions. **Registration required.**


18 Fire-Building Techniques

Sunday, October 18, 1-3 PM

The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge

With cold weather on the way, get some practice at fire-building skills. Explore techniques from primitive to modern, then roast a marshmallow or two. **Registration required.**

18 Autumn Discoveries Hike

Sunday, October 18, 4-5 PM 
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Explore autumn in just one mile. We'll trek through forests, pass ponds, and stop at a stream. Paved and gravel trails. Registration required.

19 Nature Journaling: The Fall Forest

Monday, October 19, 9:30 - Noon
Big Creek Park, Deep Woods
Fee: \$20 in-county/\$24 out-of-county resident
Learn journaling techniques to record Nature observations. Partially outdoors. Photo taking optional. One-time fee for monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Registration required by phone only.

23 Night Hike

Friday, October 23, 6-7:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Amazing creatures live in our woods but only come out at night. Discover their nocturnal adaptations as we search for them and listen for night sounds. Registration required.

24 The Basics: Trees!

Saturday, October 24, 9-10:30 AM & 11 AM - 12:30 PM
B Benner Metzenbaum Park
Want to learn how to identify trees? We'll cover the very basics of tree identification, and you'll soon know how to tell a maple from an oak! Registration required.


24 Autumn Hike Around the Reservoir

Saturday, October 24, 10 AM - 2 PM
Headwaters Park, Route 608 Main Lot
Join a naturalist for a 7-mile hike around East Branch Reservoir in an area not open to the public. Wildlife sightings may include eagles and waterfowl. Pack a lunch and water bottle. Registration required.

24 Veterans Hike: Fall Colors

Saturday, October 24, 2-3 PM
B Benner Metzenbaum Park
Veterans, join us for a hike to enjoy the splendor of fall colors! Registration required.

25 Tupelo Pond Trek

Sunday, October 25, 1-4 PM 
Big Creek Park, Tupelo Pond
Join a naturalist for this out-and-back medium-level hike totaling 4 miles and get your exercise! Registration required.

25 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, October 25, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center
Learn about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Held hourly; please register for only one session. Registration required.

1 8 15 22 29

Lunchtime Yoga in the Park (Ages 10+)

Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, Noon-1 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Fee: \$7 in-county, \$10 out-of-county
Join instructor Darlene Kelbach from Fairmount Center for the Arts each October Thursday. Dress comfortably; bring yoga mat and water bottle. Social distancing will be observed and face coverings are required.

25 The Rookery Through the Seasons Hike: Fall

Sunday, October 25, 4-5:30 PM
The Rookery
Discover colorful fall leaves and berries on this easy walk. Collaboration with the Native Plant Society of Northeast Ohio. Registration required.

30 Full Moon Hike: A Blue Moon

Friday, October 30, 6:30-8 PM
Observatory Park
Hike under the almost-full moon and seek out nocturnal wildlife on a 1.5-mile hike. View the rising moon using park telescopes or bring binoculars. Registration required.

31 Hallowed Ground, History in Stone

Saturday, October 31, 10-11:30 AM & 2-3:30 PM, Memorial Cemetery, Memorial Drive in Burton
A cemetery is a history museum, wildlife refuge, botanical garden and art gallery. Join us to explore Geauga's history written in stone. Registration required.

31 Headwaters Horse Ride

Saturday, October 31, 3-5 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area, Route 608 Parking Lot
Bring your horse for a leisurely ride enjoying autumn color, views of the reservoir and Nature lore. Expect gravel, bridges, possibly bikes and/or buggies. Helmets encouraged. Bring a shovel for clean up. Registration required.

31 Full Moon Horseback Ride

Saturday, October 31, 6:30-8:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Picnic Area
Bring your horse for a leisurely naturalist-led ride enjoying the sights and sounds of autumn as the sun sets and the full moon rises. 4-mile ride. Expect hills, gravel, and bridge and stream crossings. Helmets encouraged. Bring a shovel for clean up. Registration required.

RECURRING PROGRAMS

3 4 Homespun Market Days

Saturday, October 3, 1-5 PM
Sunday, October 4, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation
Celebrate autumn with handmade and locally produced items for sale, live music, food vendors, and more. Horse drawn wagon rides are first come, first served 1 to 4 PM with limited seating. Face coverings required where social distancing is not possible.

9 23 Mars Approaches (Virtual Webex Program)

Friday, October 9, 7-7:45 PM
Friday, October 23, 7-7:45 PM
Mars and Earth won't be this close again until 2035! Learn about the latest missions to explore Mars. Program is online via the free software Webex. Register and we will send you the link to join in. Registration required.

10 24 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, October 10, 7, 8, 9 & 10 PM
Saturday, October 24, 7, 8, 9 & 10 PM
Observatory Park
Telescopes spaced out around the plaza for socially distant viewing. If cloudy, planetarium presentation instead. Sessions hourly; please register for only one session per night. Registration required.

13 27 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, October 13, 1-2:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Maple Grove
Tuesday, October 27, 1-2:30 PM
Chickagami Park
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2126.

14 15 17 Timbertots:

Spider Explorers (Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Wednesday, October 14, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Thursday, October 15, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge
Saturday, October 17, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Holbrook Hollows
Discover amazing spiders! Includes art project that will be entered in our upcoming community art exhibition. All attendees must be registered (including adults and siblings). Registration required by phone only.

17 18 24 25 Horse-drawn Wagon Rides

Saturday, October 17, 1-5 PM
Sunday, October 18, 1-5 PM
Saturday, October 24, 1-5 PM
Sunday, October 25, 1-5 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge
A special way to experience fall! Free passes ensure first-come, first-served boarding. Extremely limited seating due to social distancing. No pets. Rides last about a half hour and are cancelled if bad weather. Last ride leaves at 4:30 PM.



■ Adventure/Discovery ■ Arts ■ Astronomy ■ Kids ■ Seniors


1 Nature in Disguise

Sunday, November 1, 12:30-1:30 PM,
2-3 PM & 3:30-4:30 PM

The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Meet Nature in disguise. We'll lead you around the trail at this popular park to meet different critters (volunteers in costume) and learn about their habits. Kid costumes encouraged. Three one-hour sessions at 12:30, 2 & 3:30 PM. **Registration required.**

2 Geauga Skywatchers Club: Astrolabes (Virtual Program)

Monday, November 2, 6:30-7:30 PM
Learn about our oldest multifunction computer, the astrolabe, and discover its secrets. Find stellar location, identification, time of day (and night), altitudes, latitude and much more. Also learn about the library's new telescope lending program and some basics on how to use a telescope to view the moon! **Registration required** at <https://geaugalibrary.libcal.com>. 

3 Morning Nature Walk

Tuesday, November 3, 8-9:30 AM

& 10-11:30 AM
Chickagami Park,
Overlook Shelter



Join a naturalist for an early-morning Nature walk to see what the season has to offer. Binoculars recommended. **Registration required.**

7 Nature Explorers:


All About Beavers (Ages 8-11)

Saturday, November 7,
9:30-11:30 AM, The Rookery,
Great Blue Heron Lodge

Venture along these wetlands and woodlands to discover the amazing life of beavers hidden right before our eyes! Drop-off program held outdoors rain or shine, so dress for the weather. **Registration required; waiver required.**

7 Fireside Songs and Stories

Saturday, November 7, 7-8:30 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve Lodge

Gather at the hearth for a delightful interplay of animal stories and Nature songs to enthrall and entertain audiences young of age and of heart. **Registration required.** 

8 Nature Trek Fitness Hike

Sunday, November 8, 9-10:30 AM
Orchard Hills Park


Burn off calories on this fitness hike, learning some cool Nature facts along the way. Participants should have the ability to hike at least 3 miles. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water. **Registration required.**

8 Loon Lookout

Sunday, November 8, 9-11 AM
LaDue Reservoir, Marina Parking Lot
on Valley Road

Walk Valley Road alongside LaDue Reservoir scanning waters for migrating loons, tundra swans, mergansers, ducks, etc. Bring binoculars. **Registration required.**

8 Fire-Building Techniques

Sunday, November 8, 1-3 PM
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge
With cold weather on the way, it may be good to practice some fire-building skills. Explore techniques from primitive to modern, then roast a marshmallow or two. **Registration required.** 

14 Waterfowl Watch: Mosquito Lake

Saturday, November 14,
8:30-10:30 AM

East Side of Mosquito Lake, State
Route 88 in Trumbull County

Come out to one of Trumbull County's birding hotspots, Mosquito Lake, and surrounding areas. We'll look for migratory waterfowl that use the area as a stop-over before moving south. Meet at the boat launch area on the south side of Route 88 at the east end of the reservoir. Bring your own binoculars or scope, camera, water and snack. **Registration required.**




18 Iris Folding Art Card Workshop

Wednesday, November 18,
3-5 PM & 6-8 PM

Big Creek Park, Meyer Center


Fee: \$12 in-county/\$15 out-of-county resident

Join artisan Phyllis Knapp to create two holiday-motif cards utilizing "iris folding," an offshoot of origami! Fee includes all materials & instruction.

Registration required. 

19 Elderberries: Geauga Park District's Citizen Science Projects

Thursday, November 19, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Gauga Park District completes many Citizen Science projects each year including breeding bird surveys, bluebird monitoring and butterfly research. Seniors, join us for an update on these important studies and the effects they have on the parks! A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.** 

21 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock

Saturday, November 21,
9-11 AM & 1-3 PM, The West Woods

Join a naturalist to explore the sights and sounds of Ansel's Cave on this 2-mile medium level hike – a rare opportunity to enter this restricted area! Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Registration required.**

21 Scout Day: Tiger Cub Scouts "Tigers in the Wild"

Saturday, November 21,
9:30-10:45 AM

The West Woods, Nature Center
Tiger Cub Scouts, take a short hike to learn about plants and animals and how to safely explore the outdoors. Partially outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Registration required by phone only.** All scouts, parents and scout leaders attending must register.

21 Scout Day: Daisy Girl Scouts "Trail Adventure"

Saturday, November 21, 1-2:15 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Daisy Girl Scouts, work on your Trail Adventure badge and learn to plan and prepare for a Nature hike! Dress for the weather, as program includes a hike. **Register required by phone only.** All scouts, parents and scout leaders attending must register.

21 Backcountry Hike

Saturday, November 21,
10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM

Orchard Hills Park, Pondsides Shelter
Take a rugged and potentially wet off-trail hike along a woodland stream to enjoy late fall along Caves Creek. Must be physically capable of several miles of off-trail hiking. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots. **Registration required.**



22 Afternoon Stroll

Sunday, November 22,
12:30-2 PM & 2:30-4 PM
Beartown Lakes Reservation

Take an afternoon stroll on these trails with a naturalist to discover what the season has to offer. **Registration required.**



22 Research in Our Parks: On Gossamer Wings (Virtual Webex Program)

Sunday, November 22, 3:30-4:15 PM

Learn about some of the colorful gossamer-winged butterflies from this past spring and summer and find out the results of surveys at Frohring Meadows and Burton Wetlands. Online presentation via the free software Webex. All you need to do to attend is register and we will send you the link to join in. **Registration required.**

27 Hike Your Turkey Off

Friday, November 27, 9 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

With Thanksgiving leaving us feeling a bit over-stuffed, it's time to hike that turkey off with a steady-paced, calorie-burning 8-mile hike. (That's right – one mile for every extra helping!) Registration required.



Photo by John Kolar

28 Waterfowl Watch

Saturday, November 28, 9-11 AM
Headwaters Park, Main Parking Lot
Take an opportunity to view Common Loons, Tundra Swans, mergansers, ducks and other waterfowl on the tranquil waters of this beautiful lake. Bring binoculars. Registration required.

29 Mammal Meander Hike

Sunday, November 29, 10:30-11:30 AM
The West Woods



This is a perfect time of year to observe mammals as they get ready for winter. Let's take a walk to observe the busy mammals of the forests and ponds. Approx. 1 mile including stairs. Registration required.

29 Forest Friends Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, November 29, 1-4 PM
The West Woods

Looking for something to do? Pay attention to this clue: on a scavenger hunt you will go, to discover wild animal facts you did not know! Rhyming clues lead you to animal shapes of all sizes, find them all to win fun prizes! Fun for the whole family. Drop in anytime during these hours to pick up a scavenger hunt card. All outdoors, so dress accordingly! Two skill levels: 5 and under or 6+. Staff available to assist.

29 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, November 29, 1, 2, 3 & 4 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Held hourly; please register for only one session. Registration required.

29 Full Moon Hike: The Beaver Moon

Sunday, November 29, 6-7 PM
Observatory Park,

Take a naturalist-led night hike to spot autumn's nocturnal wildlife and learn about Nature's super-powered engineers: beavers! Weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. Bring binoculars if you'd like. Registration required.

30 Partial Lunar Eclipse



Monday, November 30, 4-5 AM
Frohring Meadows, Katydid Lodge

Ohio experiences a (very!) partial lunar eclipse in the early-morning hours of November 30. This is a penumbral eclipse, where the edge of the Earth's shadow grazes the Moon. The eclipse begins around 2:30 AM on Monday, and will be end just as the moon begins to set around 7 AM. Join us for the hour of maximum eclipse for moon viewing and a preview of upcoming eclipses. Registration required.

30 Nature Journaling: Woodpeckers

Monday, November 30, 9:30 AM-Noon

Claridon Woodlands, Judge Lester Taylor Lodge

Fee: \$20 in-county/\$24 out-of-county resident. Learn basic journaling techniques to record your nature observations. This month will focus on woodpeckers. We will be outside for part of the program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for this monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Registration required by phone only.

RECURRING PROGRAMS

7 14 Holly Days Artisan Boutique & Mistletoe Market

Saturday, November 7, 10 AM - 4 PM
Saturday, November 14, 10 AM - 4 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Browse a premier selection of Nature-themed holiday decor and gifts for sale by regional artisan. Find unique, handmade items for everyone on your list! Mistletoe Market features items created by young artisans. To observe social distancing, the event will be held two consecutive weekends, each with different featured artisans. Visit one weekend or both! Limited numbers permitted inside; may be a short wait to enter. View lists of vendors in advance on our website.



7 14 15 Geauga Gems Trekking Series Hike

Saturday, November 7, 10-11:30 AM,
Sunnybrook Preserve



Saturday, November 14, 3-4:30 PM,
Observatory Park

Sunday, November 15, Noon-1:30 PM & 2-3:30 PM, Claridon Woodlands
Enjoy a naturalist-led hike over various terrain, conditions and distances depending on park. See website for details. Dress accordingly and bring water. Registration required.

9 13 14 Timbertots: Getting Ready for Winter

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Monday, November 9, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Friday, November 13, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Claridon Woodlands, J. Lester Taylor Lodge
Saturday, November 14, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge

Let's head outdoors to see how Nature is getting ready for winter! Dress for outdoors. All participants must be registered. Registration required by phone only.

10 24 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, November 10, 1-2:30 PM
Headwaters Park, TMHT Parking Lot
Tuesday, November 24, 1-2:30 PM
Observatory Park

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 1/2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2126.

13 27 Earth's Magnetic Field (Virtual Webex Program)

Friday, November 13, 7-7:45 PM
Friday, November 27, 7-7:45 PM

We live on a giant, changeable magnet! Learn how humans have explored the puzzle of Earth's magnetism and how you can study it for yourself. Online presentation via the free software Webex. All you need to do to attend is register and we will send you the link to join in. Registration required.

14 28 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, November 14, 7, 8, 9 & 10 PM
Saturday, November 28, 7, 8, 9 & 10 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for socially distant night-sky viewing! We'll have several telescopes spaced around the Observatory Park plaza. If cloudy, registered participants can join in for an indoor planetarium presentation instead. Sessions hourly; please register for only one session per night. Registration required.

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

5 Backcountry Hike: Swine Creek

Saturday, December 5, 9 AM-Noon
Swine Creek Reservation,
Valley Shelter

Venture off trail to explore the south side of this park. Rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Expect rugged and possibly wet terrain. Wear sturdy footwear. **Registration required.**

5 Greens for Giving

Saturday, December 5,
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Big Creek Park, Meyer Center

Please register for a one-hour session at our annual make-and-GIVE event! We will create 300+ evergreen decorations for Geauga County Department on Aging's home-delivered meals for seniors. All supplies provided. Brighten a senior's holiday season with your thoughtful creation! **Registration required.**

5 Hound Hike

Saturday, December 5, 1-2:30 PM
Frohning Meadows, Katydid Lodge

Parade through the park with your favorite pooch by your side. Dog must be on leash, 8 foot max, fully under control and non-aggressive to people and other dogs. Only one dog per handler. Bring dog towels and a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. **Registration required.**

6 Explore Sunnybrook Preserve

Sunday, December 6, 9-11 AM
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

Join a naturalist on a medium-level hike as we explore these trails. **Registration required.**



7 Geauga Skywatchers Club: Why Mars? (Virtual Program)

Monday, December 7, 6:30-7:30 PM

Discover why and how The Red Planet has fascinated and frightened earthlings for eons! A fun, fact-filled medley of Martian lore, landscape, rovers and riddles. Also learn about the library's new telescope lending program and basics on how to use a telescope to view the moon! **Registration required at** <https://geaugalibrary.libcal.com>.

8 Morning Nature Walk

Tuesday, December 8, 8-9:30 PM
& 10-11:30 AM, The Rookery

Join a naturalist for an early-morning Nature walk to see what the season has to offer. Binoculars recommended. **Registration required.**



8 Geauga Walkers Holiday Lunch

Tuesday, December 8,
Noon - 2:30 PM

The West Woods Nature Center

Active seniors, enjoy your hike, then your annual holiday lunch together, followed by an indoor presentation! Please bring your own lunch; sorry, no potluck this year. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2126.

10 Elderberries: Meet John Muir

Thursday, December 10, 1-2:30 PM
The West Woods Nature Center

Senior, meet John Muir, America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist, a visit from the past to tell his story and share some of his more memorable hands-on experiences with Nature! A collaboration with Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

11 Solstice Science (Virtual Webex Program)

Friday, December 11, 7-7:45 PM

Discover the science behind our seasons. Explore how ancient cultures observed the sun's cycle and how you can track it yourself. Get tips on viewing a rare planetary conjunction this December. Online presentation via the free software Webex. All you need to do to attend is register and we will send you the link to join in. **Registration required.**

12 Hike & Fire

Saturday, December 12,
10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM
Swine Creek Reservation,
Woods Edge

Enjoy a naturalist-led walk around the trails, then return to the shelter for a campfire. **Registration required.**



12 Research in Our Parks: Dragons & Damsels (Virtual Webex Program)

Saturday, December 12,
2:30-3:15 PM

Learn about cool discoveries made during Geauga Park District's dragonfly/damselfly surveys this past spring-fall, as well as the results of the three-year statewide dragonfly/damselfly survey which concluded in 2019. Online presentation via the free software Webex. All you need to do to attend is register and we will send you the link to join in. **Registration required.**

12 Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, December 12,
7, 8, 9 & 10 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for socially distant night-sky viewing! We'll have several telescopes spaced around the Observatory Park plaza. If cloudy, registered participants can join in for an indoor planetarium presentation instead. Sessions hourly; please register for only one session per night. **Registration required.**

13 Coffee with the Birds

Sunday, December 13, 8-9 AM,
9:30-10:30 AM, 11 AM-Noon &
1:30-2:30 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Register for one of four time slots to join Naturalist Renell Roebuck for some close-up bird viewing and identification of winter birds at the feeders while enjoying a hot beverage. Register for one session only. **Registration required.**



19 Birding for Beginners

Saturday, December 19, 9-11 AM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Join other beginning birders in the lobby, where we will practice identifying the winter birds found at our feeders, then head out to see what birds we can find along the Discovery Trail! **Registration required.**

19 Whatever-the-Weather Venture (Ages 8+)

Saturday, December 19, 1-2:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

It may be a bit optimistic, but we're hoping for snow for this one. If conditions are just right for snowshoeing, that's what we'll do. If not, we'll take a cold-weather Nature hike. Whatever the weather, let's get outside! Borrow a pair of our snowshoes or bring your own. **Registration required.**

20 Evergreens Hike



Sunday, December 20,
11 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-3 PM
Claridon Woodlands

Not all evergreen trees are pines. Let's walk the woodlands to observe the differences and enjoy the green of winter. Approx. 1.5 miles. Registration required.

22 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, December 22, 1-2:30 PM
Claridon Woodlands, Judge Lester Taylor Lodge

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 1/2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule, 440-279-2126.

27 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, December 27,
1, 2, 3 & 4 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Held hourly; please register for only one session. Registration required.

28 Nature Journaling: Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 28,
9:30 AM - Noon
Holbrook Hollows, Lodge

Fee: \$20 in-county/\$24 out-of-county resident
Learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month will focus on the Christmas Bird Count. We will be outside for part of the program. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for this monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. Registration required by phone only.

29 Full Moon Hike: The Bear Moon

Tuesday, December 29, 6-7 PM
Observatory Park

Take a naturalist-led night hike to spot winter's nocturnal wildlife and learn about Black Bears. Weather permitting, then observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. You may also bring binoculars to view the moon. Registration required.

30 Nature Explorers: Nature's Clues

(Ages 6-7 & 8-11)
Wednesday, December 30,
9:30-11:30 AM & 1-3 PM
Claridon Woodlands,
Judge Lester Taylor Lodge
Young investigators, view clues in forest and field to identify animals that are active in winter. Drop-off program. Registration required.

RECURRING PROGRAMS



5 6 Holiday Greens Workshop

Saturday, December 5, 9:30-11 AM,
12:30-2 PM & 3-4:30 PM
Sunday, December 6, 9:30-11 AM,
12:30-2 PM & 3-4:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge

Fee: \$15 in-county/\$18 out-of-county resident
Our popular evergreens workshops are a little different this year, but still promise to be a great time! To allow for multiple programs and small groups, we will have a modified class where participants will make festive evergreens centerpieces using their choice of containers and embellishments. Instruction provided. Visit our website's News & Updates page for photos resembling the project. A wide variety of ribbon, evergreens and pine cones will be provided; bring any additional accents you may wish to add, as well as pruners and a plastic bag to protect your car seat from water. Registration required.

6 7 8 Timbertots: Evergreen Artists!

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Sunday, December 6,
11 AM-Noon & 2-3 PM
Monday, December 7,
10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Tuesday, December 8,
10-11 AM & 1-2 PM

Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Discover through fun activities all the reasons why evergreens are excellent, in Nature and at home! We'll use real greens to make a centerpiece to take home, with bows and pine cones provided; bring small decorations if desired, and hand clippers if you have them. Partially outdoors, so dress for the weather. Limited supplies for 3-5 year olds may not be available for older or younger siblings. Register all who are attending! Registration required by phone only.

12 13 Walking in a Winter Wonderland



Saturday, December 12, 1-2:30 PM
Sunday, December 13, 1-2:30 PM
& 3-4:30 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center
Experience the wonders of winter as we hike through the woods to discover signs of the upcoming season. Registration required.

19 20 21 Candle Light on the Longest Nights

Saturday, December 19,
6-8 PM & 8-10 PM
Sunday, December 20,
6-8 PM & 8-10 PM
Monday, December 21,
6-8 PM & 8-10 PM

The West Woods
Register for a time slot to drop by and enjoy a self-guided walk along a beautiful, candlelit trail through the forest while discovering cultural traditions associated the Winter Solstice. Dress for the weather. Please follow all current safety guidelines from state and local health officials. Registration required.



Discover the Beauty of Insects Through Art

Insects have provided inspiration to artists throughout history, both symbolically and physically. From ancient to modern times, people across the world have used the shapes and colors of insects in their jewelry, ceramics, pottery, textiles, paintings, sculptures and even body art like tattoos.

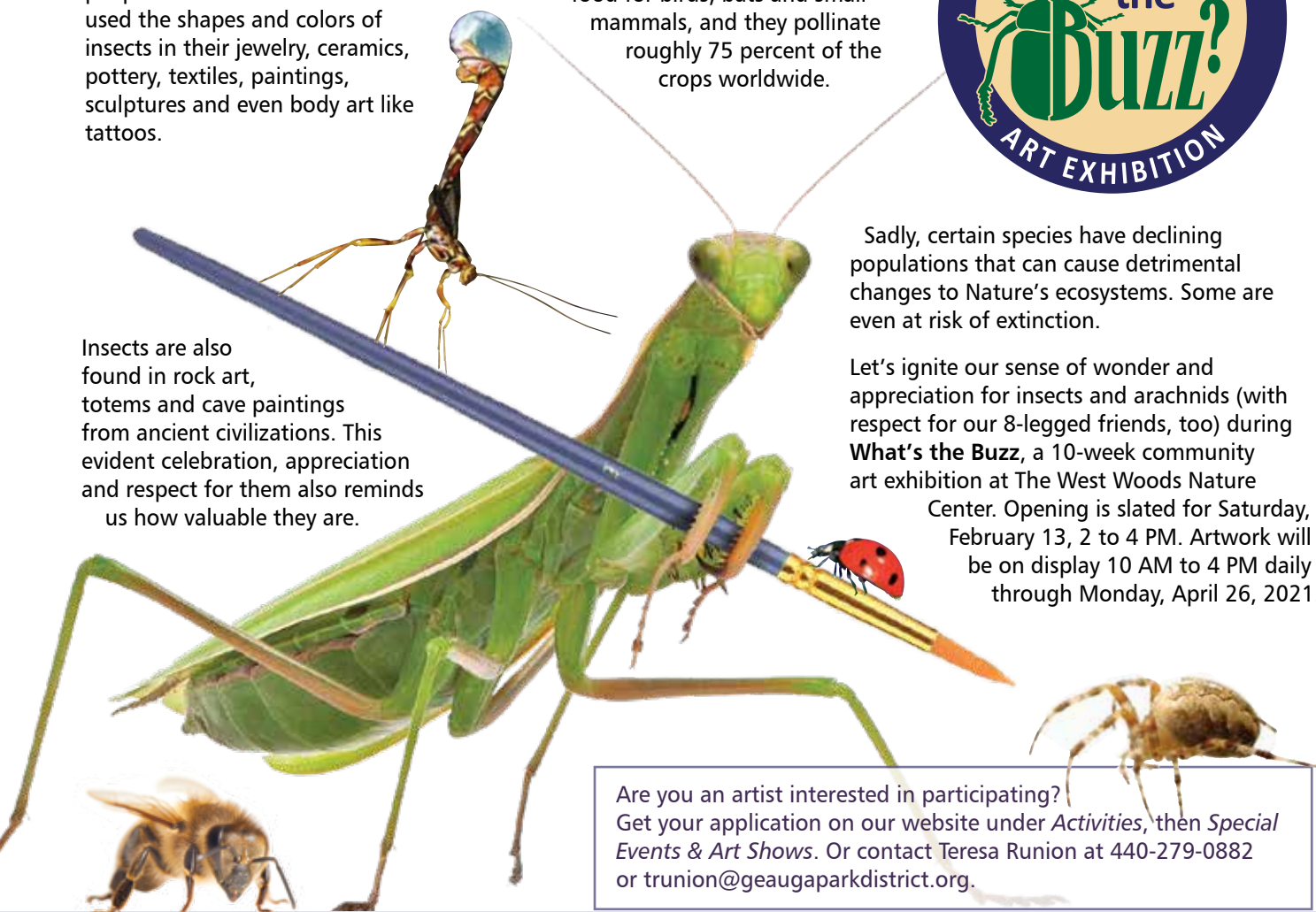
The majority of creatures that live on land are insects, and they benefit many other species, including humans. They provide food for birds, bats and small mammals, and they pollinate roughly 75 percent of the crops worldwide.



Sadly, certain species have declining populations that can cause detrimental changes to Nature's ecosystems. Some are even at risk of extinction.

Let's ignite our sense of wonder and appreciation for insects and arachnids (with respect for our 8-legged friends, too) during **What's the Buzz**, a 10-week community art exhibition at The West Woods Nature Center. Opening is slated for Saturday, February 13, 2 to 4 PM. Artwork will be on display 10 AM to 4 PM daily through Monday, April 26, 2021.

Insects are also found in rock art, totems and cave paintings from ancient civilizations. This evident celebration, appreciation and respect for them also reminds us how valuable they are.



Are you an artist interested in participating? Get your application on our website under *Activities*, then *Special Events & Art Shows*. Or contact Teresa Runion at 440-279-0882 or trunion@geaugaparkdistrict.org.

Did you know...? Some programs have gone *virtual*!

That's right: for those offerings that it serves, our naturalists are now delivering some public programs using their computers. Virtual programs this summer have covered the topics of astronomy, pollinators and invasive species, and the Maple Town Tune Traders have been holding their jam sessions virtually for months!

Our virtual programming utilizes the free software Webex. All you need to do to attend is register and we will send you the link to join in.

To view a current list of virtual options to consider attending, visit our website under *Programs & Events*, enter your ZIP code, then filter by program type Virtual.



Appreciating Generosity



In recent months, I have found myself reflecting on the importance of generosity. We at Geauga Park District are extremely grateful for the generosity and sacrifices of our donors. Each gift is given with heartfelt sincerity and passion. No donation is too big or too small. In the case of our dedicated volunteers, we especially appreciate their selfless act of donating time. Volunteers donate hundreds of hours each year to our parks, helping us serve our residents at naturalist programs and special events. So much of what we do depends on the generosity of these volunteers.

Donors also make gifts of things that resonate directly with our park users. This spring, Judge Tim Grendell and State Representative Diane Grendell sponsored a youth fishing contest,

providing fishing rod & reels for those boys and girls lucky enough to catch a big fish. The contest was well received by our resident anglers. Then, this summer, Park Board Commissioner Howard Bates and wife Patricia Bates sponsored a weekly camping contest. Our residents had a great time displaying photos of their families enjoying Geauga Park District campgrounds. It's been exciting for us to see so many rally around their parks' excellent fishing and camping opportunities.

In still other cases, we are extremely humbled by donations of funds for the betterment of Geauga parks. Geauga Park District regularly receives funds from donors who see fit to support our work, and it is

so gratifying to know that donors support our mission 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 time of the year.

Here's hoping that a day enjoying Nature in one of your Geauga parks will find you, too, reflecting on these donors. We can't thank them enough for their generosity.

John Oros, Executive Director





GET READY FOR NEW HIKES & NEW CHALLENGES IN 2021!

After making a most well received debut in 2020, the **Geauga Gems Trekking Series** will kick off its highly anticipated second year with registration opening January 1 for Geauga residents and January 15 for others. Sign-up is FREE for all Geauga residents, but will cost \$10 for out-of-county residents who did not earn a collapsible trekking pole in 2020. For more information as soon as it becomes available, visit our website under *Activities*, then *Hiking, Walking & Running*.

Park Locations and Amenities

ICONS LISTED AT RIGHT
IN THE ORDER THEY APPEAR

Bass Lake Preserve 11445 Lakeview Road, Munson, 44024 <i>NO TRAILS AVAILABLE; BOATING BY PERMIT ONLY</i>				✓	✓							✓	✓	
Beartown Lakes Reservation 18870 Quinn Road, Auburn/Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.8</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park 7940 Cedar Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.0</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Big Creek Park 9160 Robinson Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.8</i> <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Big Creek Park - Horse Trail 12000 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024					✓		✓	✓	✓					
Big Creek Park - Tupelo Pond 9373 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.9</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve 15681 Old Rider Road, Burton/Newbury, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓						
Chickagami Park 17957 Tavern Road, Parkman, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			
Claridon Woodlands 11383 Claridon Troy Road, Claridon, 44033 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.2</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Eldon Russell Park 16315 Rapids Road, Troy, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.3</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Frohring Meadows 16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.5</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
Headwaters Park 13365 Old State Road, Claridon/Huntsburg, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.3</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Holbrook Hollows 7250 Country Lane, Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.8</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
The Maple Highlands Trail (TMHT) <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 21.1</i> <i>City of Chardon: 1.2 and City of Middlefield: 0.5</i> <i>Access to trail also from Claridon Woodlands, Headwaters Park & Swine Creek Reservation; horses permitted on south section only</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓				
Mountain Run Station - Access to TMHT 12601 Chardon Windsor Road, Hambden, 44024 <i>MILEAGE OF LINK ACCESSING TMHT: 0.4</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				

ADVENTURES in Geocaching



N 41° 37.108
W -81° 12.203

Check out this new cache at
Big Creek Park in Chardon Township

Expires October 1, 2021. Find details on our website under Activities.

Start from the Deep Woods, Meyer Center, or Ruth Kennan Trail parking lot to find this cache.

A triangle of trails box in this cache. Falling water and tree woods are clues to their names. The other is blazed in blue and just a mere 1,400 miles long. Don't look down or towards the sky; this cache is only yay high. It rests within arm's reach in the crook of a multi-trunked tree.

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS • PAVED TRAILS • OPEN SHELTERS • ENCLOSED LODGES • RESTROOMS • PLAYGROUNDS • HIKING
X-COUNTRY SKIING • HORSES • BICYCLES • CAMPING • FISHING • BOATING • SLED HILL

Big Creek Spur - Access to TMHT 9280 Ravenna Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>MILEAGE OF LINK ACCESSING TMHT: 0.6</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓				
Observatory Park 10610 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 Nassau Astronomical Station 10350 Clay Street, Montville, 44064 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.62</i> <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					
Orchard Hills Park 11340 Caves Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.6</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Russell Uplands Preserve 15200 Russell Road, Russell, 44022 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 2.0</i>			✓				✓	✓				✓		
Sunnybrook Preserve 12474 Heath Road, Chester, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.7</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓						
Swine Creek Reservation 16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield, 44062 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 5.8</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
The Rookery 10110 Cedar Road, Munson, 44026 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.4</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Veterans Legacy Woods 14085 Ravenna Road, Newbury/Burton, 44065 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 4.5</i>		✓		✓			✓					✓		
The West Woods 9465 Kinsman Road, Russell, 44072 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 6.7</i> The West Woods - Affelder House 15139 Chillicothe Road, Russell, 44072 <i>Facility reservations are available - call or visit website for details</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve 11620 Ravenna Road, Munson, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.6</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				✓		
Whitlam Woods 12500 Pearl Road, Hambden, 44024 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.1</i>					✓		✓							
Woodin Road Park 12205 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024 <i>NO TRAILS AVAILABLE</i>														

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.

In Nature

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

TUNDRA SWAN

By Chris Mentrek,
Naturalist

Tundra Swans are an autumn arrival you can set your calendar by. The first cold days of each November, they seem to come from nowhere, sweeping through Geauga County skies.

These aptly named birds breed in the arctic, then make a journey of some 2,500 miles to winter havens along Chesapeake Bay and the southeastern coast of the U.S. In between, some stop in Northeast Ohio for a pit stop. They'll gather on lakes and ponds, refueling on the stubble of farm fields.

Adult Tundra Swans have a wingspan between 5 and 7 feet and weigh about much as a Thanksgiving turkey. Unlike the orange-billed Mute Swans that were imported from Europe to decorate ponds, black-billed Tundra Swans are native to North America — and are anything



Tundra Swans resting on Bass Lake
Photo by Chris Parker

but mute!

Some more fun facts about Tundra Swans:

- The Lewis and Clark expedition called them “whistling swans” due to their nasal, flute-like calls. On cloudy days in November and December, you may hear a flock of them pass overhead without ever seeing them.
- Their scientific name, *Cygnus columbianus*, owes half of its name to the Columbia River where Lewis and Clark first encountered them.
- They share the other half of their scientific name with the constellation Cygnus, a long-necked swan who faces southwards along the stripe of the Milky Way.
- The constellation Cygnus first appears on summer evenings, but puts on her best show high overhead on fall evenings, just after sunset. In one of the sky's best local coincidences, that's right when Tundra Swans start to appear here!
- Some parts of Ohio's Lake Erie shore stay mild enough that flocks stick around for the entire winter. However, most Tundra Swans fly over Ohio without stopping, so keep your eyes to the skies to spot them this autumn!

On autumn evenings, the constellation Cygnus beams high overhead and runs diagonally across the sky.





WHY DON'T SOME TREES TURN COLOR AND DROP THEIR LEAVES IN THE FALL?

This season, we think of trees that turn beautiful shades of red, orange and gold. But what about those that don't?

Add the missing letters to the explanation below to solve the riddle at the bottom of the page.

Evergreens, or conifers, actually do lose their needles, just not all at the same time like deciduous (oaples, oaks, etc.) trees do. Overgreens keep their needles for a few years, some even longer. In autumn, older needles change color and fall, leaving the current season's needles still attached. Look at one and you may notice reddish or orange needles that are getting ready to drop.



Although evergreens stay green during the winter, they're basically hibernating. They only use their needles a little bit. A strong, waxy coating covers the needles to help them fight off the cold and keep in some water so they don't dry out.

Make an owl decoration or ornament out of tree stuff!

1. Go for a Nature walk in the woods and be on the lookout for acorns, pieces of tree bark, and little pinecones that have fallen from the trees.

2. Carefully rub off the loose pieces of bark and dirt and, if you want to, break away little pieces to copy the shape of an owl. Also, where the eyes would be, take the tip of a spoon and carve a flattened area for the eyes and beak.



4. Finally, glue your bark owl to a stick. You can make it stand up as a decoration, or tie some thin string or yarn to it and hang it as an ornament.

3. Using craft glue or a glue gun, glue acorns for the eyes and a small pinecone for the beak. A small pebble would work as well. Let the glue dry before proceeding.



Animals such as Wood Ducks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Monarch Butterflies and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have this autumn activity in common. What is it?

Unscramble the circled letters in the explanation at the top of the page to find your answer.

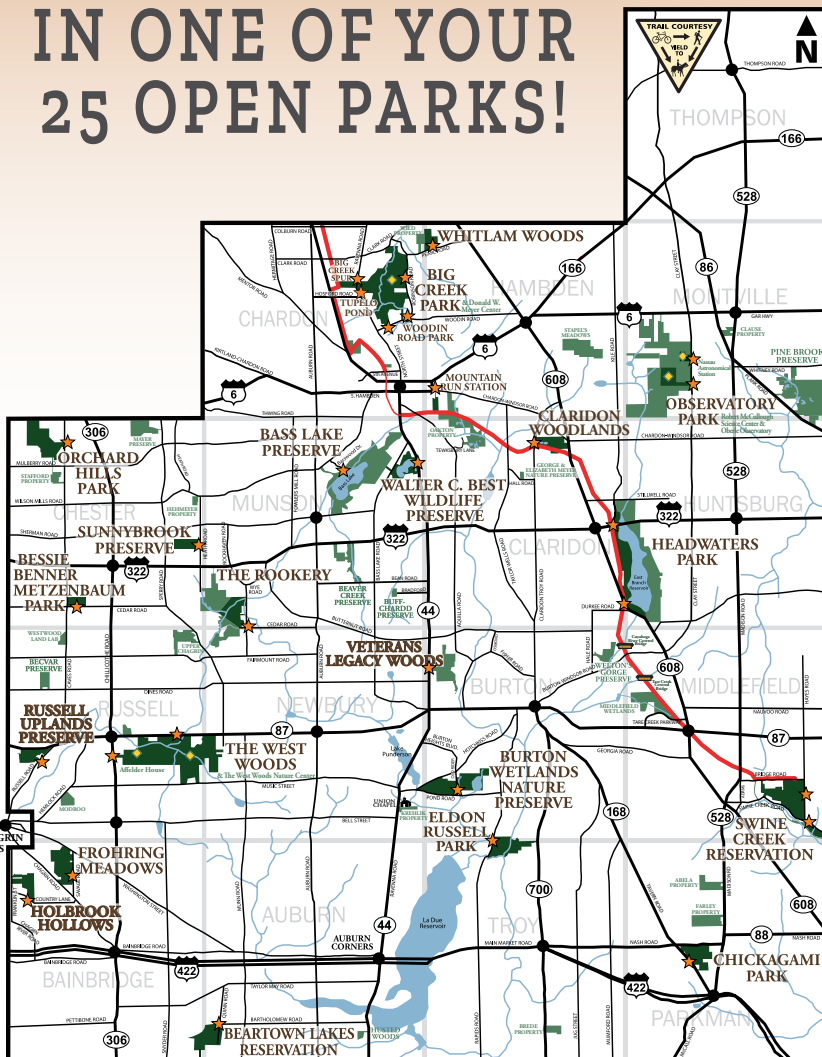




Geauga Park District
9160 Robinson Road
Chardon, OH 44024-9148

FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

IN ONE OF YOUR 25 OPEN PARKS!



www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

440-286-9516



Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4
1-5 PM • Swine Creek Reservation

- Handmade & locally produced items for sale
- Live music • Food vendors
- Horse-drawn wagon rides
- Balloon creations
- Nature scavenger hunt



HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES

More horse-drawn wagon rides (first come, first served) at this park: Oct. 17, 18, 24 & 25 • 1-5 PM

Due to COVID-19, all public programs and special events are subject to change or be cancelled. Please check our website before attending. Face coverings are required for all indoor programs/events as well as all outdoor programs/events when social distancing is not possible.

Letters in order as they appear in the text: I,M,E,G,T,A,R
Letters unscrambled to answer the question: MIGRATE