

PARK EXPLORER

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE



Photo by Lindsay Russell

SUMMER 2022

4 What a dedicated park means to one Geauga County veteran

7 You think your dog is OK off leash in the parks? Think again...

18 Winners of the 27th Annual Nature Writing Contest

19 Introducing a race coming this fall that's out of this world!

UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*



All public programs and special events are subject to change or be cancelled. Geauga Park District will continue to follow current state guidelines for COVID-19 safety. Please check our website for updates before heading out.

★ **Nights Out** ★ **in the Parks**

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

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

Big North Band 7/9
Erie Heights Brass Ensemble 8/20

Jurassic Park (PG-13) 7/23
Raya and the Last Dragon (PG) 8/13

Nature & Arts Fest

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7 • 10 AM - 4 PM **The West Woods**

Nature Exhibits, Activities, Interactive Booths & Hikes, Featuring an Indoor/Outdoor Juried Art Show with Nature-Inspired Artwork For Sale!

Moths & Meteors Overnight Event

Friday, August 12, 9 PM - Saturday, August 13, 6 AM **at Observatory Park**

Spend a night under the stars and take in the Perseid Meteor Shower, plus get an up-close view of night-flying moths attracted to our black light & mercury vapor lamps.



Registration required, and don't delay — only 200 people can attend!

THE GREAT **GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR** *Celebrating 200 Years!*

Wednesday, August 31 – Monday, September 5 • 11 AM - 7 PM

Visit the Park District's building in the Natural Resources Area to meet the Monarch Butterfly and learn what's new in Geauga Park District. Daily live Monarch program & taggings at 3 PM if butterflies are available.



Enjoy a sunset this summer in one of your parks...Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve is known to have some good ones.

Photo by Lailey Morton

SUMMER PROGRAMS *on pages 8-17*

- 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.



Geauga Gems Trekking Series Program
Fulfills one of the naturalist-led requirements toward your Trekking Series reward



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



Virtual Program
Register and receive a login to participate from home



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

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
info@geaugaparkdistrict.com

Phone: 440-286-9516
 Fax: 440-214-3032

From the Desk of THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director
 John Oros

Dear Geauga County Friends & Neighbors,

Welcome to summer in Geauga County! As we gear up for another exciting season, Geauga Park District is proud to highlight some of our recent collaborations. These partnerships make us stronger, make you stronger, and ultimately strengthen our Geauga County communities at large.

One such collaboration can be seen mentioned multiple times in this issue's program pages: opportunities offered through our partnership with the Geauga County Department on Aging. Look for senior-centric programs like Geauga Cyclists Weekly Rides (on The Maple Highlands Trail), Geauga Walkers, and Elderberries (also with UH Geauga Medical Center). All of these enable us to more effectively reach this community, helping residents outdoors for exercise and experiences with Nature.

It's always enjoyable for me, personally, to see anglers of all ages and abilities out fishing for Rainbow Trout. And with a partnership we established this spring, it's now even easier to catch this beautiful species at Beartown Lakes Reservation. On Earth Day 2022, the ODNR's Division of Wildlife graciously stocked Lower Bear Lake with 601 Rainbow Trout, supporting our mission to provide outdoor recreational experiences to residents of every age and ability at all times of the year. I encourage you to grab your rod and reel and give it a shot!

And these community partnerships are just a few of many. Park lodges and shelters are widely popular as meeting spaces for our local business and community partners. It's rewarding to see the variety of school, church and non-profit organizations that utilize our facilities to further their own missions and collaborations.

This season, we hope you also take the opportunity to form new partnerships in – and with – your Geauga Park District. Our facilities and trails across 27 parks and 10,000 acres are perfect places to partner with friends, family and community to enjoy the wonders of Nature. We hope you have a great summer. Enjoy your parks.

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



Howard Bates



Jolene Carnabuci



Ray Guarino



Mario Innocenzi



Pat Preston

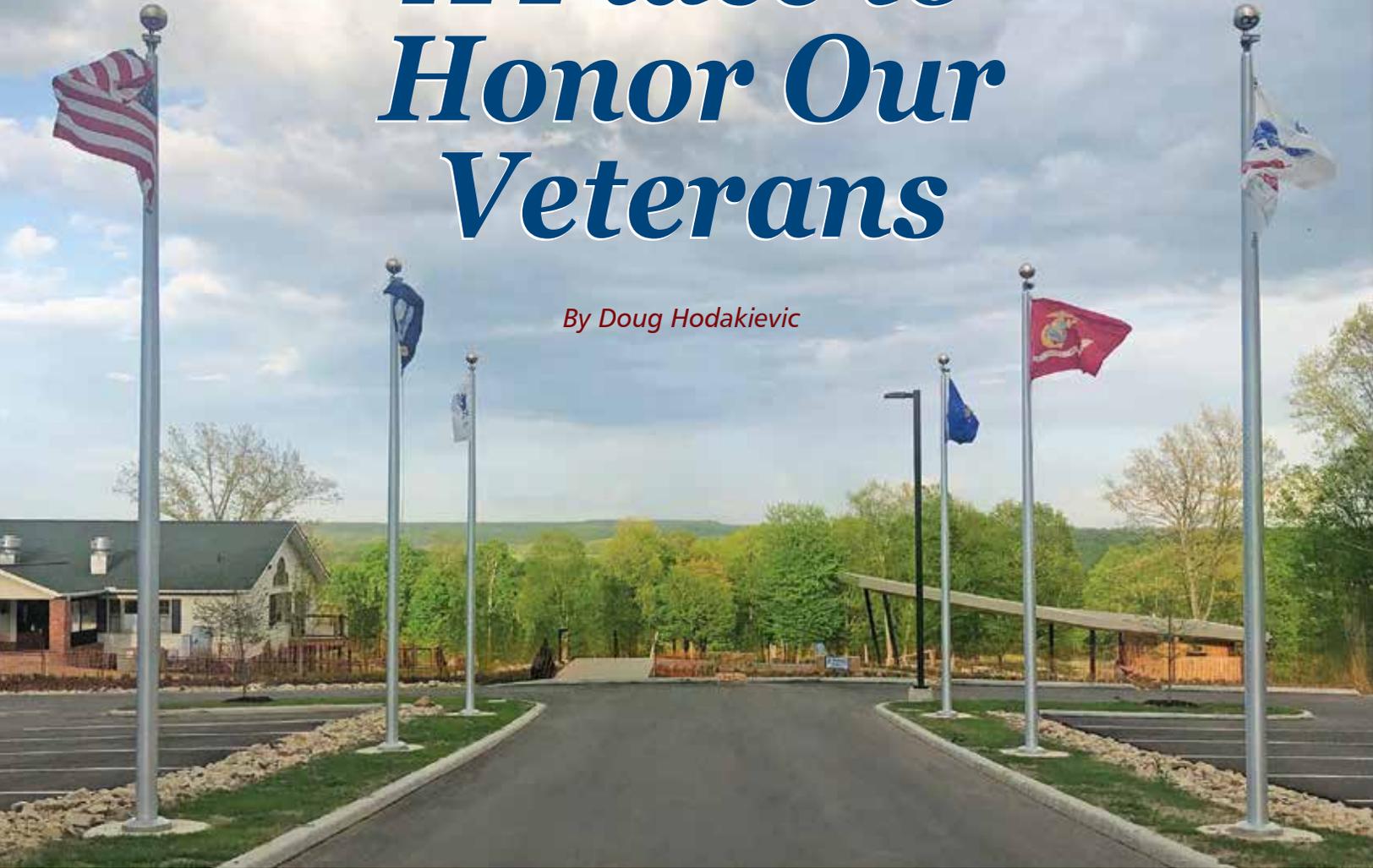
Park Board Meetings

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 Place to Honor Our Veterans

By Doug Hodakievic



Doug aboard the USS Groton at Diego García, located in the Indian Ocean, in 1980 while serving in the U.S. Navy

The former Wicked Woods golf course will be formally dedicated as Veterans Legacy Woods on June 30, 2022. It stands as a living memorial to all the men and women who have so unselfishly served our great nation. In addition to this park dedication, in the near future the section of state Route 44 that passes its entrance is scheduled to be renamed Veterans Highway.

As you enter the parking lot, you will pass through the Avenue of Flags, where each branch of service's flag is flown, as well as our national flag. Entering the park then leads you to pillars representing each branch of service as well.

This park is different from other memorials in that it is a place where veterans can share their service experience with family and friends while also enjoying many different natural habitats on the property. These include several ponds where frogs, turtles and fish can be spotted, and hiking paths that travel over various terrains where visitors can witness various birds and wildlife. All the sights and sounds of Nature can be experienced here on your own, and you can also attend informative programs offered by Geauga Park District that are led by one of its many knowledgeable naturalists.

Veterans Legacy Woods also provides a place to remember and reflect on those who served this great nation and are no longer with us. We should never forget and never fail to pass on the accomplishments of our veterans, both living and dead, to our younger generation.

Another thing that will set this park apart is the opportunity, coming soon, to be able to have a tree planted in honor of a veteran, which will be a living, growing memorial to whomever is so honored. This park stands out from other memorials as it is a living, breathing testament to honor the service of all veterans.



I can't wait to take my granddaughter, Peighton, to the newly created playground, or to enjoy a picnic in the new shelter. I'll take her on a hike in the spring to see wildflowers, in the summer to watch Monarch butterflies stopping at the flowers, then in the fall to see all the wonderful colors as the leaves change. On these hikes, I can share stories of three generations of service in the US Navy: my own, those of my son, her Uncle Brian, and those of my father, her Great Grandpa, who served during WWII. Although my father has passed on, he will live on through the stories that I will share with her.

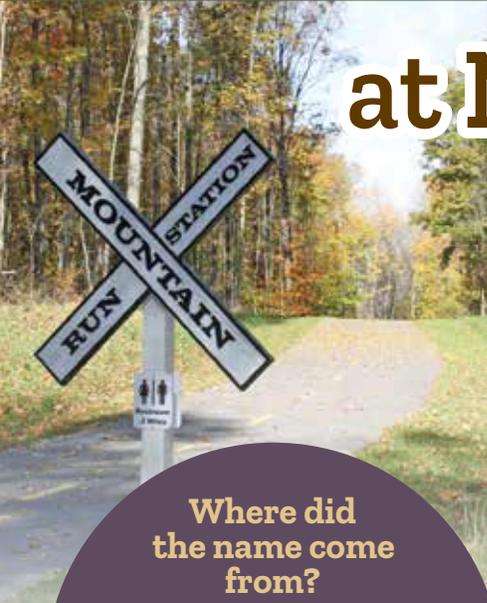
All this said, I encourage you to come on down and enjoy this great memorial park. Who knows, while you are walking through the woods, you just might find the golf ball you lost years ago! Veterans Legacy Woods is now yours to discover. 🍀

About the Author

I am a US Navy veteran who served aboard the fast attack submarine USS Groton (SSN 694). I am a member of the Chardon VFW Post 6519, the Chardon American Legion Post 167, and the US Submarine Veterans Cod Base. I am currently serving as a commissioner for the Geauga County Veterans Services office. Along with my wife Jan, daughter Sarah, and son-in-law Matt, I am also an active volunteer for Geauga Park District, and have been for six years. Jan and I live in Chardon Township.



Spend Some Time at Mountain Run Station



Mountain Run Station is named for the rich history of the railroad line now transformed into The Maple Highlands Trail. The line was originally built by the Painesville and Youngstown (P&Y) Railroad to haul coal from mines in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to Fairport Harbor, where it would be shipped to various ports on the Great Lakes. It was also used to deliver incoming iron ore for the Mahoning Valley steel industry. P&Y was a narrow gauge line. When it began to struggle financially, it was purchased in 1886 by the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad and converted to a standard gauge line. The 60-mile-long stretch through Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties was known as the Lake Branch, but the decline of rail traffic, along with industry closings, slowly led to the shutdown of the rail system, and the tracks were removed in 1982.

Where did the name come from?

The hilly terrain of the Lake Branch reaches its peak near Chardon Station. Thus, this section became known as the "mountain run" — no matter where you were heading from, either Fairport or Youngstown, it was all uphill till Chardon.



FIELD NOTES:

THIS PROPERTY — PRIMARILY LAWN AREA, WITH ACCESS TO THE MAPLE HIGHLANDS TRAIL — IS CONSIDERED "GOOD EDGE HABITAT," ATTRACTING A VARIETY OF NESTING SONGBIRDS AND SMALL MAMMALS SHELTERED BY THE THICKETS. THE LINK TRAIL PROVIDES A NICE, OPEN NATURE WALK AMONG TALL MAPLES THAT IS WELCOMING IN EVERY SEASON.

This 32-acre park provides easy access to the central section of The Maple Highlands Trail via a short (.36-mile) asphalt trail. It is a great meeting point and offers a quiet, scenic picnic area. Chardon Rotary Shelter is reservable for gatherings and small parties. With plenty of parking and restrooms, and a free-to-use bicycle repair station donated by the Cleveland Touring Club, Mountain Run Station is simply a nice destination for any recreationist heading out for an adventure on the 21.1-mile trail.



An Obligation to Obey Leash Laws



It's important that we often revisit the leash law that governs Geauga Park District's 27 open parks. Enforced through the Ranger Department for the wellbeing of all park visitors and habitats, the law requires dogs to be kept on leash at all times during their visits to the park.

Keeping dogs on leash is also a matter of respect. Park users regularly post on social media and call to complain of dogs off leash. As a dog owner, you may know that your dog is friendly to other dogs and humans; however, everyone coming to the park should have the right to occupy their own space, and some are not comfortable when dogs are introduced into that space. Please understand this is not an insult to you or your dog, but a preference that deserves respect.

The natural beauty and delicate ecosystems of your parks are another reason to take the leash law seriously. Studies have shown that the presence of dogs in woodlands leads to a 35-40 percent reduction in bird diversity and abundance, and less activity of small mammals such as squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and mice within 165 feet of a trail where dogs walk. Free-roaming dogs are also likely to find coyote dens from January to June and accidentally provoke them. There shouldn't be any problem as long as your dog is on a leash and can't wander around to find them.

Follow the law and your dog will follow suit. According to dog trainers, being on a leash is a completely trainable behavior. Dogs don't think like humans, nor do they share their owners' thoughts about leashes, as some people think they do. Consider using no-pull harnesses and head halters to humanely keep your dog under control while he or she learns leash manners. Your fellow park visitors, and the park's wild residents, will thank you.

Why Keep Your Dog On a Leash?

- **It's the Law** – Leash laws are in effect for the safety of your dog and those around them. This can be the most compelling reason to leash your dog; it's simply required.
- **Lawsuits** – More than \$850 million in dog bite claims were paid out in 2021.
- **Loss Prevention** – Dogs who accompany their people on leashes are less likely to get lost.
- **Prevents the Spread of Disease** – Some dogs like to eat other animals' "leavings," and those can carry disease. Such dining is less likely to happen if your pet is leashed.
- **Cars** – It's a devastating moment for all involved when a dog gets hit by a moving vehicle. Even well-behaved dogs may suddenly run in the path of a moving car or not be seen by someone backing up in a parking lot. Parking lots, sidewalks and roadside excursions are so much safer with a leash.

DOG WALKERS, PLEASE NOTE



All dogs must remain on leash while visiting the park. This isn't just a courtesy – IT'S THE LAW.

Also, abandoned waste can spread disease. For yourself and others, please take pride in your parks and come fully prepared to pick up after your dog.

Note signs posted throughout the parks.



Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

2 Stream Hike

Saturday, July 2, 1-2:30 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve

Salamanders, minnows, crayfish – there’s so much life to discover in our streams, and of course getting in the water helps beat the summer heat! Ages 7+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear creek-walking shoes. Nets provided. **Registration required.**

3 Nature Exploration Kayak

Sunday, July 3, 9:30-11 AM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Discover an amazing diversity of plants and animals during a leisurely afternoon kayak. Ages 12+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must have kayaking experience. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsiz. **Registration required** beginning June 27.

3 Searching for Snakes

Sunday, July 3, 10 AM-Noon
The Rookery

Snakes! Why did it have to be snakes? Because snakes are amazing creatures that are an important part of the environment! Bring a sense of adventure as we explore likely habitats to find snakes and other reptiles and amphibians. **Registration required**; children must be accompanied by an adult.

5 Drop-in Nature Craft: Nature Wall Hanging

Tuesday, July 5, 1-3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Drop in during program hours to create a wall hanging with natural materials and learn fun Nature facts. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult. ♿

8 Chickagami Trek

Friday, July 8, 3-4:30 PM
Chickagami Park, Overlook Shelter

Come out to this unique park to walk 1.5 miles of trails through campgrounds, forests and open areas. Rain or shine. **Registration required.**

8 Measure Your Sky’s Darkness

Friday, July 8, 7-8 PM, Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Learn how to measure the darkness of your sky and fight back against light pollution. Learn to use the Globe at Night method, sensors and smartphone apps – a terrific way to learn more about the stars! (Virtual version of this program on June 22) **Registration required.** ♿

8 Campground Adventure

Friday, July 8, 7-9 PM
Chickagami Park, Pine Grove Shelter

Bring the kids or the kid-in-you for this fun night outdoors! We’ll walk the trails of this campground/park and check off what we find on a scavenger hunt, followed by stories, songs and a s’more by the campfire. **Registration required.**



9 Hound Hike

Saturday, July 9, 1-2:30 PM
Welton’s Gorge

Dogs and their humans, take a 2-mile hike along the Gorge Overlook and Dogwood trails at one of our newest parks! One dog per handler. Must be on leash and under control. Bring water and bowl, scoop and bag for cleanup, and towel for muddy paws. Aggressive behavior or excessive barking will result in participants being asked to leave. **Registration required.**

9 Nights Out in the Parks: Big North Band

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

Traditional country music from the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s! The Big North Band pays tribute to Waylon, Merle, Johnny and a smorgasbord of other Nashville, Texas, and Bakersfield legends. Tasteful and twangy – just the way you like it! Held inside if inclement weather. ♿

10 Basic Learn to Kayak

Sunday, July 10, 8-10 AM
Headwaters Park, Boat Launch Area

Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsiz. **Registration required** beginning July 1.

10 Buckeye Trail Highlight Hike

Sunday, July 10, 1-3:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Tupelo Pond Parking Lot

The Buckeye Trail winds nearly 1,444 miles around Ohio. Let’s hike through a park that follows the Blue Blazes. Ages 7+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must be able to hike about 4.2 miles with rolling terrain and stream crossings. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water. **Registration required.**



10 Nature at Night Bike Ride

Sunday, July 10, 8-10 PM
Headwaters Park, Route 322 Parking Lot
From birds to bats to bugs, discover wildlife along The Maple Highlands Trail on this 6-mile bike ride between Headwaters 322 parking lot and Tare Creek parking lot. Bring your own bike. Ages 12+ that can ride, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**

11 Geauga Skywatchers: The Mercury 13

Monday, July 11, 6:30-7:30 PM
Gauga County Public Library, Gauga West Branch

A presentation from the International Women’s Air & Space Museum about the women who trained for the Mercury astronaut program in the 1960s. Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can join. **Registration required** at https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page_id=41076 for this program, presented in cooperation with the Gauga County Public Library. ♿

12 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1-2 w/adult)
Tuesday, July 12, 9-10 AM & 11 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Enjoy experiencing Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome! All who are attending must register including parents and siblings. **Registration required.** ♿

13 “A Walk in the Woods” Painting Workshop

Wednesday, July 13, 6:30-8:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Fee \$35 Geauga residents, \$40 out-of-county residents
Join artist Carol Agnew and use acrylic paints to create your version of “A Walk in the Woods.” Learn paint mixing techniques and brush strokes in this guided workshop. All supplies provided. **Registration required.** ♿

13 Union Chapel Bat Count

Wednesday, July 13, 8:30-9:30 PM
Newbury Union Chapel, State Rte 44

Union Chapel is home to Gauga Park District’s “Bat Condo,” a nursery roost for Big and Little Brown Bats and their offspring. Help a naturalist with our annual bat survey by counting bats as they exit their daytime roost and head out to feed for the evening. We’ll use click counters to keep track of their numbers as they exit. Directions to site will be sent before program. **Registration required.**



13 Full Moon Hike: The Green Corn Moon

Wednesday, July 13, 9-10:30 PM
Observatory Park

July brings green corn, fireflies and bats! Join us on a 1.5-mile hike over level terrain to enjoy nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.**

16 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock

Saturday, July 16, 10 AM-Noon
The West Woods



Hike to Ansel's Cave to discover its history written in rock – a rare summer opportunity to go into this restricted area! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear to hike 2 miles over hilly terrain with a stream crossing. **Registration required.**



16 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, July 16, 9-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau
Astronomical Station

Stop in to discover this awesome facility and join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society taking in the wonders of the night sky using our restored telescope! A limited number of people will be permitted inside the building at a time, which may result in a wait to enter. Cancelled if cloudy.

17 Polliwog Paddle Family Canoe (Ages 5+ w/adult)

Sunday, July 17, 1-3 PM
Eldon Russell Park, Horwath's Landing

Families with kids ages 5+, take an easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsizes. **Registration required** by phone only beginning July 10.

19 Nature Explorer's: Welton's Gorge Backcountry Ravine Exploration (Ages 6-11 w/adult)

Tuesday, July 19, 9 AM-11:30 AM
Welton's Gorge

Let's venture off-trail into the rocky woodland ravine to discover deep rock ledges, cool streams, salamanders and other stream life! Rugged off-trail terrain includes slippery rocks, steep grades, downed trees and stream crossings. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction. **Registration required.**

21 Elderberries: Paddling & Peddling in the Park

Thursday, July 21, 9 AM-Noon
Headwaters Park, Boathouse

Join the Geauga County Department on Aging, University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center and Geauga Park District to explore Headwaters Park. We will offer three sessions of kayaking, a guided bike ride, and EZ Go Cart tours, followed by a picnic lunch. All activities are optional – visit the park at your own pace! Sign-ups for kayaking will occur at the event (bring a change of clothes in case of capsizes), and please BYOB (bring your own bike). **Registration required.**

22 Measure Your Sky's Darkness

Friday, July 22, 7-8 PM 
Virtual program

See description for July 8. This is the same program but a virtual version using Zoom. Register then receive a link to join the program. **Registration required.**

23 Fern Identification Workshop

Saturday, July 23, 9 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Nature Center

Adults are invited to discover the lush diversity of ferns found in Northeast Ohio during this introductory identification session followed by a hike to find fern species. In collaboration with the Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio. **Registration required.**

23 Practical Knots for Camping

Saturday, July 23, 9-11:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Campsite A

Camping is a great family activity. Join us to learn some useful knots used around the campsite! We'll practice 6+ knots, from bowline to taut-line hitches on basic tarp shelters and more. **Registration required.** 

23 Introduction to Archery for Families

Saturday, July 23, 10:30 AM-Noon & 1-2:30 PM, Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station

Families with children ages 9+, learn the basics of target archery together! Participants must be 50" or taller, wear closed-toe shoes and be accompanied by an adult if under 18. **Registration required.**

23 Introduction to Archery for Adults

Saturday, July 23, 3-4:30 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau
Astronomical Station

Adults, learn the basics of target archery together! Participants must wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required.**

 Fully Accessible  Nature Scopes

23 Movie Night: "Jurassic Park"

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

Watch "Jurassic Park" under the stars (PG-13) at this International Dark Sky Park! Movie shown at dusk. Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments. Movie shown indoors if inclement weather. Sorry, we will not provide lemonade or popcorn this season.



24 Summer Exploration Kayak

Sunday, July 24, 10-11:30 AM & 1:30-3 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Enjoy a peaceful float on this beautiful lake as we experience the sights and sounds of summer. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must have kayaking experience. Bring a snack, water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsizes. **Registration required** beginning July 17.

24 Monarch Rearing 101

Sunday, July 24, 2-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Learn tips and tricks for successfully rearing Monarch butterflies from eggs to adult. **Registration required.** 

24 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, July 24, 2-2:45 PM & 3-3:45 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough
Science Center

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Sessions are 45 minutes each; please register for only one session. **Registration required.** 

25 Bouldering for Beginners (Ages 10-17)

Monday, July 25, 1-2:30 PM & 3-4:30 PM
Claridon Woodlands, Boulder Wall

Wondering how to climb our boulder wall? Young people ages 10-17 can come out to this introductory class to learn some beginner grips and types of rock holds. No special gear required – just a good pair of tennis shoe. A completed and signed waiver will be required to attend. **Registration required.**

26 Drop-in Nature Craft: Yarn Birds

Tuesday, July 26, 1-3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Drop in during program hours and design your yarn bird while learning some fun bird facts. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

27 Grandparents in the Park Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 27, 11:30 AM-1 PM
Veterans Legacy Woods

Grandparents and grandchildren, enjoy a day in the park together with a picnic and Nature activities for all ages. In collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging. Food and beverages provided. **Registration required.**

28 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, July 28, 7:00-9:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians take turns presenting tunes as others join in. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing, or simply enjoy as audience. **Registration required.**

30 Lake Kelso Kayak

Saturday, July 30, 9-11 AM & 1-3 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Paddle along the tranquil waters of Lake Kelso, enjoying beautiful surroundings. Ages 10+, no younger children please; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Basic skills required; instruction not given. Life vests provided. Held rain or shine, except thunderstorms. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy. Bring water, sunscreen, and change of clothes in case of capsiz. **Registration required beginning July 23.**

30 Veteran's Legacy Woods Discovery Hike

Saturday, July 30, 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM
Veterans Legacy Woods

Discover what's happening in Nature in this new park! Hike approximately 2 miles over hilly terrain. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. **Registration required.**



30 Dragon Hunting at Orchard Hills

Saturday, July 30, 1:30-3:30 PM
Orchard Hills Park, Pondside Shelter

Learn about the amazing dragonflies that inhabit these wetlands, observe their interesting behaviors, and try your hand at catching some! Nets provided; bring your own binoculars, camera, sunscreen and water, wear sturdy walking shoes. **Registration required.**

31 Prairie Blooms Hike

Sunday, July 31, 10-11:30 AM
Frohning Meadows

Summer is perfect to visit a prairie when flowers are at their peak bloom. This easy hike will explore the park's grasslands to view and identify many of their flowers and grasses, as well as pollinators that depend on these plants. **Registration required.**

31 Backcountry Big Creek Stream Hike

Sunday, July 31, 1-4 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center Parking Area

Discover Rainbow Darters, Salamanders, crayfish and the diversity of life found in Big Creek on this rugged stream adventure. Ages 8+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. This hike will take us off-trail, on-trail and into a stream. Bring a water bottle, dress for the weather, and wear shoes that can get wet and provide secure footing in possible knee-high water. **Registration required.** - Volunteers needed

RECURRING PROGRAMS

6 13 20 27

Gauga Cyclists Weekly Ride

Every Wednesday May through October, (July 6, 13, 20 & 27) 3-4:30 PM
Meet offsite

Seniors ages 55 and up, bring your bike, helmet and water to the Park Avenue trailhead parking area behind Marc's in Chardon to join the Geauga Cyclists for an escorted ride along The Maple Highlands Trail! To receive cancellation notices, call Sandy McLeod at 440-279-2137.

AUGUST

1 Geauga Skywatchers

Monday, August 1, 6:30-7:30 PM
Gauga County Public Library, Bainbridge Branch

Hone your astronomy knowledge with Marty Mullet of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society. Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can join. **Registration required** at https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page_id=41076 for this program, presented in cooperation with the Geauga County Public Library.

2 A Day in the Park: Insect Exploration!

Tuesday, August 2, 10:30 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Celebrate the summer by exploring the pond, a meadow and the forest as you look for beetles, bugs and more! Dress for possible wet/muddy conditions. **Registration required.**

3 Nature Explorers: Bass Lake Canoe

(Ages 6-11 with adult(s))
Wednesday, August 3, 6-8 PM
Bass Lake Preserve, Lodge

Children ages 6-11 and at least one adult with canoe experience will join naturalists for a paddle in search of wildlife, dragonflies, birds, aquatic plants and other Nature. All Explorers must have a registered adult in their canoes. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsiz. **Registration required beginning July 20 at 10 AM.**

4 Drop-in Nature Craft: Paper Mushrooms

Thursday, August 4, 1-3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Drop in during program hours to create a recycled paper mushroom with natural materials and learn fun-gi facts. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



6 Monarch Egg Collecting Hike



Saturday, August 6, 10 AM-Noon
Orchard Hills Park

Hike with a naturalist to help collect Monarch eggs from milkweed plants, which will be reared and eventually displayed as adult butterflies at The Great Geauga County Fair. Hike will be up to 2 miles on rolling terrain, held rain or shine. **Registration required.**

6 9 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Ravine Exploration



Wednesday, July 6, 9-11:30 AM
Saturday, July 9, 9-11:30 AM
Welton's Gorge

Take a strenuous off-trail hike into a rocky woodland ravine with deep rock ledges, cool streams, wildflowers, and stream life. Ages 10+, no younger children please; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must be able to hike unassisted over rugged terrain including slippery rocks, downed trees, steep slopes and stream crossings. Held rain or shine; dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction even in wet conditions. Long pants recommended. **Registration required.**

8 9 22 Night Sky Viewing

Friday, July 8, 9-11 PM,
Saturday, July 9, 9-11 PM
Friday, July 22, 9-11 PM, Observatory Park
Observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Planetarium presentation if cloudy.

10 11 Timbertots: Firefly Friends (Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Sunday, July 10, 1-2 PM & 3-4 PM
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
Monday, July 11, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Discover some of the amazing things about these luminous critters! Program outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

12 26 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, July 12, 1-2:30 PM
Whitlam Woods
Tuesday, July 26, 1-2:30 PM
Russell Uplands Preserve
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 1/2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

13 27 After-Work Walk

Wednesday, July 13, 6-7:30 PM
Wednesday, July 27, 6-7:30 PM
Welton's Gorge
Join a naturalist for a 2-mile evening hike at Welton's Gorge along the Gorge Overlook and Dogwood trails. **Registration required.**



17 22 Horseback Trail Ride Connecting the Parks

Sunday, July 17, 10 AM-2 PM
Friday, July 22, 10 AM-2 PM
Holbrook Hollows
Trailer your horse for this naturalist-led trail ride from Holbrook Hollows to Cleveland Metroparks' South Chagrin Reservation. Bring a lunch and water bottle for a mid-ride break. Expect gravel trails, bridges, boardwalk, stream crossings, river crossings, a ride along a road and bicycles. Helmets recommended. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. **Registration required.**

20 21 Odds & Ends Baskets

Wednesday, July 20, 6-9 PM
Thursday, July 21, 6-9 PM
The West Woods
Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county residents
Use your creativity! A basic pattern will be provided, then you will design and weave your own basket. Some experience recommended. **Registration required.**

24 25 Nature Journaling: Welton's Gorge

Sunday, July 24, 1-3:30 PM
Monday, July 25, 9:30 AM-Noon
Welton's Gorge
Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county residents
Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques and record your Nature observations. Our inspiration this month will be Welton's Gorge, observed during a rugged and strenuous hike off-trail with slippery rocks, crossing of streams and downed trees. Must be able to walk without assistance off-trail in rugged terrain. Taking photos is optional. Held rain or shine; dress for the weather and wear shoes with good traction even in wet conditions. One-time registration fee includes a journal, pen and pencil. **Registration required** by phone only.



6 Stream Hike

Saturday, August 6, 1-2:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Maple Grove
Salamanders, minnows, crayfish – there's so much life to discover in our streams, and of course getting in the water helps beat the summer heat! Ages 7+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear creek-walking shoes. Nets provided. **Registration required.**

7 Nature & Arts Fest

Sunday, August 7, 10 AM-4 PM
The West Woods
Spend a day at The West Woods discovering Nature and Nature-inspired artwork! This year's show will feature Nature exhibits and activities outside, including interactive booths, hikes and live animals, while artists indoors and outdoors will display and sell their Nature-inspired art.

7 Celebrating National S'more Day

Sunday, August 7, 1-2 PM, 2-3 PM & 3-4 PM, Chickagami Park, Amphitheater
Roast a marshmallow to build a delicious s'more for National S'more Day! Also learn some s'more history and how this campfire treat became so popular. **Registration required.**

8 Beartown Lakes Water and Woodlands Hike

Monday, August 8, 3-4:30 PM
Beartown Lakes Reservation, North Point
Hike approximately 1.75 miles with a naturalist along these beautiful trails, discovering forest, ponds and streams. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

9 Introduction to Archery for Kids

Tuesday, August 9, 1-2:30 PM
Chickagami Park, Archery Range
Young people ages 9-16, learn the basics of target archery! Must be at least 50" tall, wear closed-toe shoes and be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required** for child only.

9 Introduction to Archery for Adults

Tuesday, August 9, 3-4:30 PM
Chickagami Park, Archery Range
Adults, learn the basics of target archery together! Participants must wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required.**

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

11 Full Moon Hike: The Sturgeon Moon

Thursday, August 11, 8:30-10 PM
Observatory Park

Join us for this naturalist-led hike to experience Nature at sunset and learn about Ohio's largest fish: the lake sturgeon! Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.**

12 Moths & Meteors Overnight Event

Friday, August 12 through
Saturday, August 13,
9 PM-6 AM, Observatory Park



Bring a tent and camp out overnight to enjoy the Perseid Meteor Shower and night-flying moths attracted by our black light and mercury vapor lamps! Participants must show registration receipt at entrance to attend. Best meteor viewing 1-3 AM. Naturalist on site from sunset to sunrise. Tents only please; no trailers, grills, open fires or alcoholic beverages. Set up after 4 PM and remove tent the following day by 9 AM. Cancelled in case of inclement weather. **Registration required.**

13 Basic Learn to Kayak

Saturday, August 13, 8-10 AM
Headwaters Park

Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsizement. **Registration required beginning July 30.**

13 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock



Saturday, August 13, 9-11 AM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge Shelter

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

13 Hound Hike

Saturday, August 13, 1:30-3 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve

Dogs and their humans, take a 1.5-mile, medium-level hike at Sunnybrook Preserve! One dog per handler. Dog must be on leash and under control. Bring water and bowl, scoop and bag, and towel for muddy paws. Aggressive behavior or excessive barking will result in participants being asked to leave. **Registration required.**

13 Movie Night: "Raya and the Last Dragon"

Saturday, August 13,
8:30-11:30 PM
Observatory Park

Watch "Raya and the Last Dragon" (PG) under the stars at this International Dark Sky Park, including free treats from an ice cream truck while supplies last! Movie shown at dusk. Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments. Movie shown indoors if inclement weather. Sorry, we will not provide lemonade or popcorn this season.



14 Landscaping for Wildlife: Meadow Meander

Sunday, August 14, 9:30-11 AM
Observatory Park

Let's walk to view amazing displays of meadow and prairie plants established here, as well as some wildlife, including pollinators, that benefit from these plantings. Followed by an indoor presentation (separate registration required) explaining how to establish a meadow. **Registration required.**

14 Landscaping for Wildlife: Plant Your Own Meadow

Sunday, August 14, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Learn how you can start your own meadow to benefit wildlife, including pollinators, and look amazing, too, during this indoor presentation. Prior to this talk, an outdoor walk (separate registration required) will showcase meadow and prairie plants established at Observatory Park. **Registration required.**

16 Summer Gems Walk

Tuesday, August 16,
8:30-9:30 AM
Whitlam Woods



Join Naturalist Renell for an early morning walk on Whitlam Woods' primitive trail with steep hills to see what the season has to offer. **Registration required.**

18 Elderberries at Camp!

Thursday, August 18, 9 AM-Noon
Chickagami Park

Join us for a morning of traditional camp fun, including archery, camp crafts and more! A collaboration with Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**



19 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1-2 w/adult)
Friday, August 19, 9-10 AM &
11 AM-Noon

Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park
Enjoy experiencing Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome! Please register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

19 Meet the Artists: Geauga Arts Council Juried Art Show

Friday, August 19, 7-9 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Meet local artists representing their works in this annual juried art show, now in its 16th year. Artwork on display through early October.

20 Nature Break: Women's Retreat

Saturday, August 20, 8:30 AM-1 PM
Chickagami Park, Pine Grove Shelter

Fee: \$8 Geauga residents,
\$10 out-of-county residents

Take a break to relax in the park! Enjoy yoga, archery, hiking and a Nature-related lesson and activity! Continental breakfast and lunch provided. Bring a mat or beach towel for yoga, and dress in layers with comfortable clothes for being outside. **Registration required.**

20 Astrotots XL: Daystar!

Ages 6-11 w/adult)
Saturday, August 20, 9:30-10:30 AM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Explore sunrise, sunset, solar flares, solar storms, solar wind and EVERYTHING "under the sun" during this sunny session! We'll also view recent satellite images of the sun and observe the sun, weather permitting, through Geauga Park District's special solar telescope. Please register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

20 Nights Out in the Parks: Erie Heights Brass Ensemble

Saturday, August 20, 7-8:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Amphitheater

Enjoy a variety of different types of songs performed by the Erie Heights Brass Ensemble under the stars! This ensemble consists of two trumpets, horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba – a unique British brass band sound. Held inside if inclement weather.



20 Singing Insects Evening Concert

Saturday, August 20, 7:45-9:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

The summer insect ensemble resounds on warm August nights. Learn how to distinguish the songs of these insect musicians! **Registration required.**

20 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, August 20, 9-11 PM
Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station

Stop in to discover this awesome facility and join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society taking in the wonders of the night sky using our restored telescope! A limited number of people will be permitted inside the building at a time, which may result in a wait to enter. Cancelled if cloudy.

21 Backcountry Hike

Sunday, August 21, 1-3:30 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Take an off-trail hike in a mature woodland to enjoy views along Affelder Stream and Silver Creek. Must be capable of several miles of strenuous off-trail hiking including muddy, wet woodlands with some steep ravine slopes. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy boots. **Registration required.**

24 Nature Exploration Kayak

Wednesday, August 24, 7-8:30 PM
Bass Lake Preserve

Adults, enjoy a peaceful float on this beautiful lake as we experience the sights and sounds of summer. Must have kayaking experience. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsizes. **Registration required beginning August 17.**

25 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, August 25, 7-9:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Singers and musicians take turns presenting tunes as others join in. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing, or simply enjoy as audience. **Registration required.**

26 Homeschool Days: Family Learning Fair

Friday, August 26, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-3:30 PM, The West Woods

Homeschoolers and their families, drop in anytime during program hours to participate in fun activities and gather information from Geauga County organizations that offer educational opportunities for homeschool students. Allow an hour or more to participate. Please register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

26 Superheroes in the Sky

Friday, August 26, 7-8:PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Avengers, assemble! Meet the superheroes that have been placed in the sky by cultures ancient and modern. From Thor to Hercules, Maui to Hawkeye, we'll find Earth's mightiest heroes in this planetary presentation. **Registration required.**

27 Bass Lake Kayak

Saturday, August 27, 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM, Bass Lake Preserve

Spend an afternoon on these tranquil waters enjoying the wildlife and beautiful surroundings. Must have kayaking experience. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Held rain or shine, except in event of thunderstorm, so dress accordingly. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsizes. **Registration required beginning August 20.**

27 Trail Horse Nature Challenge

Saturday, August 27, 10 AM-3 PM
The West Woods

Challenge yourself and your horse on a 1-2 hour challenge course with natural trail obstacles and Nature questions along the way. Expect hills, gravel, mud, streams, bicycles, hikers and other challenges. Awards and certificates given in youth and adult divisions. Helmets recommended. Trailer your horse to The West Woods shelter parking lot. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. **Registration required.**

27 Nature at Night Hike

Saturday, August 27, 8-9:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Route 322
Parking Lot

Walking through a forest in the dark is a unique experience. Katydid and tree crickets serenade us as faintly glowing larval lightning bugs cross trails, and all our senses become enhanced as we hike without the use of lights. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**



28 Ohio's Top Dog: The Coyote

Sunday, August 28, 2-3:30 PM
Orchard Hills Park, Pondsider Shelter

Coyotes have taken over the role of the top wild predator in Ohio since wolves were wiped out nearly 200 years ago. They have been embraced by some and persecuted by others – so let's separate fact from fiction, then take a hike to search for coyote signs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**

28 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, August 28, 2-2:45 PM & 3-3:45 PM, Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Sessions are 45 minutes each; please register for only one session. **Registration required.**

31 The Great Geauga County Fair

Wednesday, August 31, 11 AM-7 PM
Gauga County Fairgrounds, Natural Resources Area

Visit our building to meet the Monarch Butterfly and see what's new with Geauga Park District! Daily live Monarch program and taggings at 3 PM if butterflies are available.

AUGUST

Registration begins at 10 AM on June 20 for Geauga residents and June 27 for others. Sign up online or by calling 440-286-9516.

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

RECURRING PROGRAMS

3 10 17 24 31

Geauga Cyclists Weekly Ride

Every Wednesday May through October, (August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31) 3-4:30 PM Meet offsite

Seniors ages 55 and up, bring your bike, helmet and water to the Park Avenue trailhead parking area behind Marc's in Chardon to join the Geauga Cyclists for an escorted ride along The Maple Highlands Trail! To receive cancellation notices, call Sandy McLeod at 440-279-2137.

9 23 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, August 9, 1-2:30 PM Claridon Woodlands

Tuesday, August 23, 1-2:30 PM Chickagami Park

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 1/2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. Registration required.

10 24 After-Work Walk

Wednesday, August 10, 6-7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 24, 6-7:30 PM Observatory Park, Cygnus Shelter

Join a naturalist for an easy 2-mile hike along the Nassau Connector and Woodland Loop trails. Registration required.



14 16 Timbertots: Camp Day

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Sunday, August 14, 1-2 PM & 3-4 PM Chickagami Park, Overlook Shelter

Tuesday, August 16, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM Big Creek Park, Campsites A&B

Enjoy this preschool version of big kid camp with activities, crafts and s'more! Outdoors; dress for the weather. Please register all attending including adults and siblings. Registration required.



SEPTEMBER

6 Early Morning Hike

Tuesday, September 6, 8-9:30 AM Veterans Legacy Woods

Take an early morning hike to get your heart pumping in this beautiful setting. We'll move at a good pace over very hilly terrain. Registration required.

9 Chagrin River Bird Quest Birding Challenge

Friday, September 9, 4-6 PM The West Woods, Nature Center

Calling all bird enthusiasts: a 24-hour birding marathon awaits you! The Chagrin River Bird Quest Birding Challenge takes place Friday to Saturday, September 9 to 10. Assemble a team and get yourselves registered with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland at www.clevelandaudubon.org by clicking on the Bird Quest button. Then come into The West Woods for team check-in and final registration, where you can also pick up maps, checklists and T-shirts and talk strategy with teammates and naturalists. All materials and activities are free. Registration required.

9 Migrations & the Sky

Friday, September 9, 7-8 PM Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Does the sun tell Monarch Butterflies when to migrate? Can dung beetles really use the Milky Way to find their way? Explore how animals use the skies to help with their migrations. Followed by night sky viewing, weather permitting. (Virtual version of this program on September 23)

Registration required.



Photo by Sue Lundstrom

10 Horseback Riders: Amish Buggy Training & Trail Ride

Saturday, September 10, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM Swine Creek Reservation

Bring your own horse to meet and experience a stationary and moving Amish horse and buggy in a non-threatening way courtesy of Rhoda Wengerd. You and your horse will learn to safely share the trail with buggies till 11 AM. Then join a naturalist-led trail ride on the Wagon, Meadowlark and Gray Fox trails. Finally, at 12:30 PM, bring your lunch to share time with other riders at Woods Edge Shelter. Expect hills, gravel, mud, streams, bicycles and Amish buggies. Helmets recommended. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. Registration required.

10 Hound Hike

Saturday, September 10, 2-3:30 PM Orchard Hills Park

Explore the trails of Orchard Hills Park with your dog as we search for Monarch Butterflies in the meadow! Bring dog towels, a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. Only one dog per handler. Dog must be on leash and under control. Aggressive behavior or excessive barking will result on participant being asked to leave. Registration required.

10 Chagrin River Bird Quest Celebration

Saturday, September 10, 4-7:30 PM The West Woods, Nature Center

The 24-hour Chagrin River Bird Quest ends with a celebration! Turn in your bird checklists for judging at The West Woods, then enjoy hearty refreshments, awards and door prizes. Details at www.clevelandaubbun.org.

10 Night Hike & Campfire

Saturday, September 10, 7:30-9:00 PM Orchard Hills Park, Lodge

Gather around a campfire, warm up with some hot chocolate, take a hike into the darkness to experience the magical world of Nature at night, then return to the campfire for a sweet treat! Registration required.

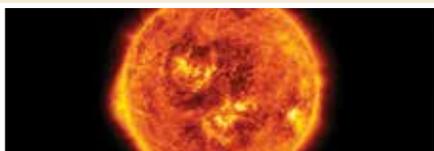
10 Full Moon Hike: The Pawpaw Moon

Saturday, September 10, 8-9:30 PM Observatory Park

Join us for this naturalist-led hike to learn about September's pawpaw fruits and experience Nature at sunset. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. Registration required.



Fully Accessible Nature Scopes



19 20 Astrotots: Our Super Sun

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Friday, August 19, 9:30-10:30 AM,
11 AM-Noon & 1-2 PM
Saturday, August 20,
11:30 AM-12:30 PM & 1-2 PM
Observatory Park, Robert
McCullough Science Center

Discover what makes the sun so very special to us earthlings, learn and sing a sunny song, practice sun safety, and make-and-take a handheld sun painted by a budding artist: YOU! Please register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

21 22 Nature Journaling: Field Study

Sunday, August 21, 2:30-5 PM
Monday, August 22, 9:30 AM-Noon
Holbrook Hollows, Lodge

Fee: \$20 Geauga residents,
\$24 out-of-county residents

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month we will learn some different ways to record field observations. Mostly outdoors, so dress for the weather. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee for the monthly series includes a journal, pen and pencil. **Registration required** by phone at 440-286-9516.

26 27 Night Sky Viewing

Friday, August 26, 9-11 PM
Saturday, August 27, 9-11 PM
Observatory Park

If skies are clear, observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Planetarium presentation if cloudy.



SEPTEMBER

11 Nature Trek Fitness Hike



Sunday, September 11, 9-10:30 AM
Orchard Hills Park

Let's move it, people! Burn off those calories on this fitness hike, learning some cool Nature facts along the way. Must be able to hike at least three miles on hilly terrain. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water. **Registration required.**

11 Thompson Ledges Backcountry Hike



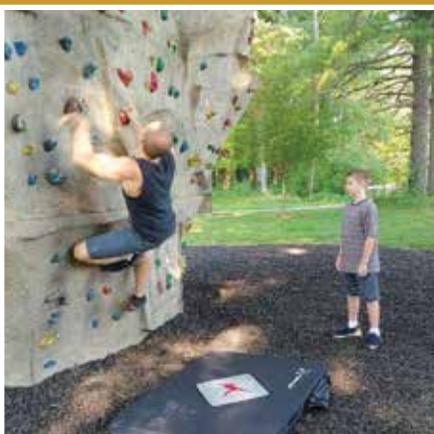
Sunday, September 11, 10 AM-Noon
Offsite, Thompson Ledges
Township Park

Explore the magnificent Thompson Ledges oak and hemlock forests and unique plant and bird life on and off trail. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must be capable of hiking several miles on rocky, uneven terrain with some steep slopes. Wear sturdy footwear that can get wet and muddy. **Registration required.**

11 Bouldering for Beginners

(Ages 10-17)
Sunday, September 11, 1-2:30 PM
& 3-4:30 PM, Claridon Woodlands,
Boulder Wall

Wondering how to climb our boulder wall? Young people ages 10-17 can come out to this introductory class to learn some beginner grips and types of rock holds. No special gear required – just a good pair of tennis shoe. A completed and signed waiver will be required to attend. **Registration required.**



12 Geauga Skywatchers

Monday, September 12, 6:30-7:30 PM
Gauga County Public Library,
Chardon Branch

Create a watercolor nebula with Naturalist Renell. Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can join. Registration required at https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page_id=41076 for this program, presented in cooperation with the Geauga County Public Library.

13 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1-2 w/adult)
Tuesday, September 13, 9-10 AM
& 11 AM-Noon
Orchard Hills Park, Lodge

Enjoy experiencing Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome! All attending must register including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

15 Elderberries: Astronomy Night

Thursday, September 15, 6:30-9:30 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough
Science Center

There's so much to see in the sky! Join us for a special Elderberries Astronomy Night. We'll have two groups rotating between a planetarium show and night sky viewing, weather permitting, to peer deep into the night sky to see planets, nebula and other celestial features. Hot dog picnic provided. A collaboration with Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

17 A Berry Good Bird Walk

Saturday, September 17, 8-10 AM
Eldon Russell Park

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

17 The Big Hike at Big Creek



Saturday, September 17, 9 AM-Noon
Big Creek Park, Maple Grove Shelter

Are you ready to hike 6-7 miles on muddy trails with stream crossings and big hills? If you answered yes, then this is the perfect hike for you! Let's hike as many of this park's trails as possible. Meet at the Maple Grove area and a shuttle will take us to our starting place. Adults only; no children please. Bring water and a snack. **Registration required.**

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

17 Polliwog Paddle

Family Canoe (Ages 5+ w/adult)
 Saturday, September 17,
 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM
 Eldon Russell Park, Horwath's Shelter
Families with kids ages 5+, take an easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsize. Registration required by phone only beginning September 10.

17 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, September 17, 8-11 PM
 Observatory Park, Nassau
 Astronomical Station
Stop in to discover this awesome facility and join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society taking in the wonders of the night sky using our restored telescope! A limited number of people will be permitted inside the building at a time, which may result in a wait to enter. Cancelled if cloudy.



18 Tree ID Hike

Sunday, September 18, 9-11 AM
 Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Discover the diversity of trees along the Trillium Trail and learn to identify them by their bark and leaves. Hike approximately 1 mile over hilly terrain. Come prepared for the variable weather. Registration required.

18 Introduction to Archery for Families

Sunday, September 18,
 10:30 AM-Noon & 1-2:30 PM
 Chickagami Park, Archery Range
Families with children ages 9+, learn the basics of target archery together! Participants must be 50" or taller, wear closed-toe shoes and be accompanied by an adult if under 18. Registration required.

18 Introduction to Archery for Kids

(Ages 9-16 w/adult)
 Sunday, September 18, 3-4:30 PM
 Chickagami Park, Archery Range
Young people ages 9-16, learn the basics of target archery! Participants must be at least 50" tall, wear closed-toe shoes and be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for child only.

20 Cuyahoga Kayak

Tuesday, September 20, 1-3 PM
 Eldon Russell Park, Horwath's Shelter
Paddle the wilds of the Upper Cuyahoga River discovering a wondrous variety of birds, plants and other wildlife. Must have kayaking experience. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsize. Registration required beginning September 13.

21 Introduction to Archery for Adults

Wednesday, September 21, 1:30-3 PM,
 3:30-5 PM & 6-7:30 PM
 Chickagami Park, Pine Grove Shelter
 Archery Range
Learn the basics of target archery. Participants will need to wear closed-toe shoes. Registration required.

22 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, September 22, 7-9:30 PM
 The West Woods, Nature Center
Singers and musicians take turns presenting tunes as others join in. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Come to play, sing, or simply enjoy as audience. Registration required.

23 Migrations & the Sky

Friday, September 23, 7-8 PM 
 Virtual program
See description for September 9 (page 14) This is the same program but a virtual version using Zoom. Register then receive a link to join the program. Registration required.

24 Backcountry Hike

Saturday, September 24, 9 AM-Noon
 Observatory Park
Let's get off trail for some intense exploration! The terrain is mostly flat but will be wet. Bring water, snacks and taller waterproof boots. Ages 12+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

24 Scout Day: Brownie Girl Scouts "Outdoor Art Creator"

Saturday, September 24, 9-11 AM
 The West Woods, Nature Center
Brownie Girl Scouts, join us for a fun morning celebrating art in Nature while working on your Outdoor Art Creator Badge. We'll cover requirements 1, 2, 3 and 4. Register scouts only. Registration required.



24 A Passion for Pawpaws

Saturday, September 24, 10 AM-Noon
 Big Creek Park, Maple Grove
Discover why the pawpaw has been called American's forgotten fruit and how it is making a comeback, then hike through a pawpaw patch. Registration required.

24 End of the Summer Kayak

Saturday, September 24,
 10:30 AM-Noon
 Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
Enjoy a float on this unique lake as we experience the beauty of Nature and say farewell to the summer. Must have kayaking experience. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a snack, water bottle, sunscreen, and a change of clothes in case of capsize. Kayaks provided; no personal kayaks permitted. Registration required beginning September 17.



24 Scout Day: Webelos "Earth Rocks"

Saturday, September 24, 1-3:30 PM
 The West Woods, Nature Center
Webelos, work toward your Earth Rocks Elective Adventure. Indoors and outdoors, so dress for the weather. Register scouts only. Registration required.

24 Geauga Gems Trekking Series Hike

Saturday, September 24, 2-3:30 PM
 Whitlam Woods 
Let's hike 1.5 miles over hilly and wet terrain. Bring water and wear sturdy foot gear. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly. Ages 8+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Fully Accessible Nature Scopes

25 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Ravine Exploration



Sunday, September 25, 9-11:30 AM
Welton's Gorge

A strenuous off-trail hike into a rocky woodland ravine with rock ledges, cool streams, wildflowers, and stream life. Ages 10+, no younger children please, and under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Must be able to hike unassisted over rugged terrain including slippery rocks, downed trees, steep slopes and stream crossings. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction even in wet conditions. **Registration required.**



25 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, September 25, 2-2:45 PM & 3-3:45 PM, Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Sessions are 45 minutes each; please register for only one session. **Registration required.**

25 Campfire Cooking: Dutch Ovens

Sunday, September 25, 3:30-5:30 PM

Big Creek Park, Lodge

Learn a new skill and get inspired for your next camping adventure! Together we'll create some camping cuisine over a campfire in dutch ovens, then roast a marshmallow or two. Hopefully we'll inspire some great ideas for your next outdoor adventure. **Registration required.**



11 18 Monarchs & Meadow Insects



Sunday, September 11, 12:30-4 PM
Frohning Meadows

Sunday, September 18, 12:30-4 PM
Orchard Hills Park

Drop in any time during program hours to net Monarch Butterflies and a variety of grasshoppers, katydids and other native insects that call the meadow home. Nets provided or bring your own. Sun protection and long pants recommended. No insect collecting for removal from park. Monarchs will be tagged in hopes of recovery along migration route or in Mexico wintering area.

16 17 Timbertots: Spider Explorers

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Friday, September 16, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Holbrook Hollows

Saturday, September 17, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

Discover spiders and all the amazing things about them with indoor and outdoor activities. Dress for the weather. Please register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

16 17 Weave a Williamsburg Basket

Friday, September 16, 12:30-5:30 PM

Saturday, September 17, 12:30-5:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge

Fee: \$25 Geauga resident, \$28 out-of-county resident

Learn the basic art of basket weaving! You will use rattan reed to create your own Williamsburg basket with handle. **Registration required.**

25 26 Nature Journaling: Grasshoppers, Katydid & Crickets

Sunday, September 25, 2:30-5 PM

Monday, September 26, 9:30 AM-Noon
Frohning Meadows, Lodge

Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county residents

A monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques and record Nature observations. Our inspiration this month will be grasshoppers, katydids and crickets. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. A one-time registration fee includes a journal, pen and pencil. **Registration required by phone only.**



RECURRING PROGRAMS

1 2 3 4 5

The Great Geauga County Fair

Thursday, September 1 through
Monday, September 5, 11 AM -7 PM

Geauga County Fairgrounds,
Natural Resources Area

Visit our building to meet the Monarch Butterfly and see what's new with Geauga Park District! Daily live Monarch program and taggings at 3 PM if butterflies are available.

7 14 21 28 Geauga Cyclists Weekly Ride

Every Wednesday May through October,
(September 7, 14, 21 & 28) 3-4:30 PM
Meet offsite

Seniors ages 55 and up, bring your bike, helmet and water to the Park Avenue trailhead parking area behind Marc's in Chardon to join the Geauga Cyclists for an escorted ride along The Maple Highlands Trail! To receive cancellation notices, call Sandy McLeod at 440-279-2137.

6 20 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, September 6, 1-2:30 PM
Welton's Gorge

Tuesday, September 20, 1-2:30 PM
Frohning Meadows

Hikes for active seniors 2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

7 21 After-Work Walk

Wednesday, September 7, 6-7 PM

Wednesday, September 21, 6-7 PM
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park

Join a naturalist for a 1.5-mile hike along the steep trails at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park. **Registration required.**

7 14 The Bird Tornado Strikes Again!



Wednesday, September 7, 7-8:30 PM

Wednesday, September 14, 7-8:30 PM
Burton Square Gazebo

Witness a cyclone of hundreds of Chimney Swifts swirling, then plummeting into an old chimney used as a migratory motel on their journey to South America. Bring a chair and sit in the parking lot for an unforgettable spectacle! **Registration required.**

9 23 24

Night Sky Viewing

Friday, September 9, 8-11 PM

Friday, September 23, 8-11 PM

Saturday, September 24, 8-11 PM
Observatory Park

If skies are clear, observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Planetarium presentation if cloudy.

Nature Writing Contest Winners

Congratulations to all 27 talented winners of our **27th Annual Nature Writing Contest!**

To enjoy their winning works and learn more about this year's judges, please visit our website under **News & Updates**.

Child Poetry

1stOpal Deliere
2ndLiam Gorris
3rdBo Brauer
HMMorgan Nelson
HMAurielle Armstrong

Child Prose

1stLayla Haufe
2ndPresley Burkholder
3rdJake Zhang
HMMira Patel
HMChysanthi Constantinou

Adolescent Poetry

1stJaiden Burkholder
2ndCharlotte Broadbent
3rdEmma Chelbezan
HMEmily Allen

Adolescent Prose

1stNate Broadbent
2ndNatalie Gerstenberger
HMEmma Chelbezan

Adult Poetry

1stTamara Cabrera-Perrine
2ndJane O'Brien
3rdJudith Zelis
HMZachary Space
HMNancy MacDermott

Adult Prose

1stSuzanne Ondrus
2ndMarilyn Seguin
3rdAnna Westfall
HMAmber Veverka
HMCarol Weitzman

Eldon Russell Park's Boat Launch is back!

We're pleased to announce the following improvements that were finalized this spring at Eldon Russell Park's popular boat launch. A portion of the cost was funded through a \$75,000 paddling enhancement grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Please feel free to utilize the new launch this year for quick and easy access to the Upper Cuyahoga River!



- Paved parking lot providing improved circulation and connection from the entry drive to the launch, plus a rain garden to manage stormwater runoff and water quality along the water's edge
- Turfstone pavers at the launch to minimize soil erosion from previously bare soil (and improve the user experience), and river's edge stabilization
- New restroom, improved pedestrian access to Horwath's Shelter and the river, benches for seating and updated signage

INTRODUCING A RACE THAT IS *Out of This World!*



Mark your calendars to *BLAST OFF* at a brand new event on Saturday, October 1, at Observatory Park!

Here's how this one will work: as the sun goes down, run, jog or walk as many course laps as you can in our two-hour race time frame. Each completed lap will equate to some amount of travel through our solar system — for example, one .85-mile lap takes you to Mercury, four laps and you've arrived on Mars, 10 laps gets you to Pluto, and so on. In this way, you will actually be racing *yourself* to see how far *out of this world* you can go! All who complete at least one lap will earn a Space Race medal, and when you "land" (finish), you'll receive a ribbon recognizing how far you went and which planet you reached.

Get ready for a race like no other...

Details and registration information coming soon!



*Thank You
to All of Our
Generous
Donors*

Donations to
Geauga Park District
November 2021
through
January 2022

Genoefa Goodman Chagrin Valley Herb Society	Honorarium for Presentation	\$25.00
Cleveland Foundation	Hanes Family Foundation	\$5,500.00
Cleveland Foundation	Lewis & Ruth Affelder Fund	\$499.25
Foundation for Geauga Parks	2021 invasive plant spraying	\$2,348.54
Charles Patton	Memorial Bench Plaque	\$500.00
Beverly & Dennis Christine	Donation in memory of Karen Downs	\$50.00
Kurt Bernardo & Cheri Desotell	Donation in memory of Karen Downs	\$100.00
Foundation for Geauga Parks	First quarter reimbursement for pollinator garden at Frohring Meadows	\$2,500.00
Tracy Engle	Donation in memory of Dick Hoopes	\$30.00
Sandy Woolf	Donation in memory of Dick Hoopes	\$25.00
Leah Baker	Memorial Bench Plaque	\$500.00
Rebecca Hart	Donation in memory of Rhonda Yaxley	\$100.00
Cleveland Foundation	Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Fund Mr. & Mrs. George B.P. Haskell	\$2,000.00
Independence Excavating Inc.	Donation in memory of Karen Downs	\$500.00
Susan Hoopes	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$200.00
Wayne Braden	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$25.00
Julie Plante	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$50.00
Gustino Lanese	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$25.00
Bonnie Fish	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$50.00
Matthew Valencic	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$50.00
Rachel McKinney	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$20.00
David English	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$50.00
Anonymous	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Dick Hoopes	\$150.00
Steve Windland	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Zachary Finch	\$265.00
Angele Peterson	Memorial Bench Plaque - In memory of Zachary Finch	\$235.00
Donate a Tree to the World	Donation for tree fencing for trees planted at Veterans Legacy Woods	\$2,521.38

2022 summer camps

Registration filled fast for many of our summer camps this year! Here are those that still had space when this guide went to print. Check current availability on our website.

Nature Adventure Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 5 - 7)

Mon - Fri, August 1 - 5

(Teens entering grades 8 - 10)

Mon - Fri, July 11 - 15

All sessions 9 AM - 3 PM daily

Fee: \$150 residents, \$175 out-of-county

Let's bike, kayak, try archery, explore Nature and more! Campers begin and end Monday/Tuesday at Claridon Woodlands, Wednesday/Thursday at Headwaters Park, and Friday at Observatory Park.

X-TREME High Ropes Adventure Challenge

(Teens entering grades 8 - 10)

Wednesday, July 20, 9 AM - 3 PM, at Claridon Woodlands

Fee: \$30 residents, \$35 out-of-county

Ready for an adventurous day with camp staff? Meet us at Claridon Woodlands to explore the high ropes course, towering 32 feet high and featuring 10 exciting challenge elements and a 100-foot-long zipline finish!

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 - Access to TMHT 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>			✓		✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	
Frohning Meadows 16780 Savage Road, Bainbridge, 44023 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 3.5</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
Headwaters Park - Access to TMHT 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>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓				

View the current fee schedule on our website under Reservations. All enclosed lodges, but not all open shelters, are equipped with electricity.

ADVENTURES in Geocaching



N 41° 26.601
W -81° 11.222

Check out this new geocache at Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve in Burton/Newbury Twps.

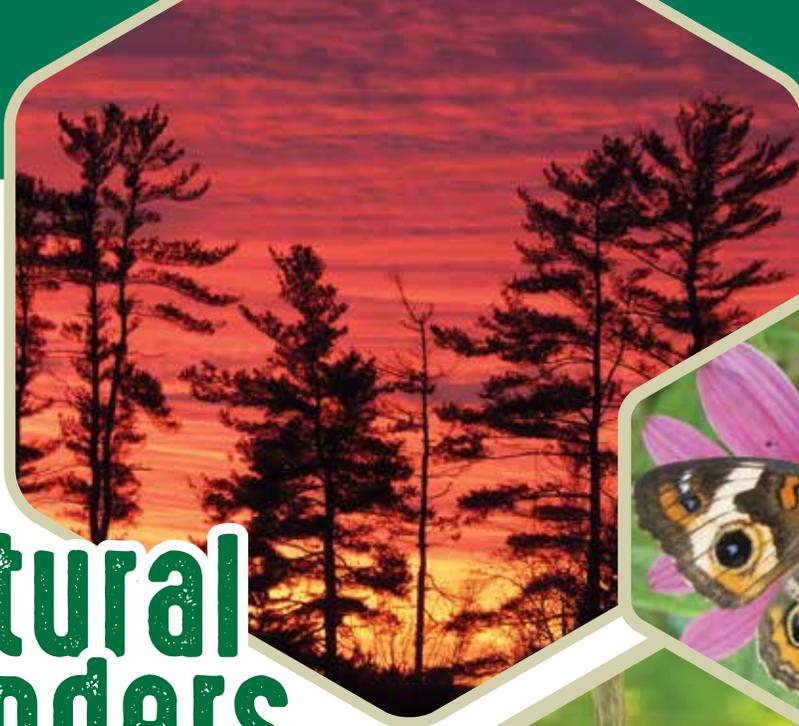
Expires July 1, 2023. Find details on our website under Activities.

Though you walk on this kettle,
it's not made of metal.
No way you can fail
heading northwest on this trail.
Was once a live cherry, but now to the
contrary.
This cache can be found
four feet off the ground.
Like it or not, it's in a tree knot.

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>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			
Modroo Preserve 15695 Hemlock Road, Russell, 44072 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 0.8</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 - Access to TMHT 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>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Welton's Gorge 13973 Hale Road, Burton, 44021 <i>TOTAL TRAIL MILEAGE: 1.8</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>											

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.



Natural Wonders

By John Kolar, Chief Naturalist

Over many years of educating people about Nature and actively engaging with the natural world, I have discovered that the more I learn about the world around us that there still is so much more to learn — and as a naturalist for Geauga Park District, I thoroughly enjoy opening people's eyes to the wonders of Nature. Nature continues to provide me with new surprises and new adventures that I am sure will keep me young in spirit for my entire life. I simply cannot get enough of the wonders that can be found in the Great Outdoors. Nature is a part of me, and I am forever a Nature explorer!



Heading into the wild lands of our beautiful county is always a rejuvenating and awakening experience. Summer is a perfect time to get outside and experience the wonders of Nature. A treasure chest full of sights, sounds and smells awaits us in the natural world. Dragonflies dashing around the pond, crickets and katydids filling the night air with their wonderful music, red efts on a rainy day, magnificent summer wildflowers, beautiful butterflies, birds of every color and kind, frogs splashing in the pond, fantastic fungus, spectacular sunsets...an endless supply of discoveries await the curious Nature observer!

Geauga Park District preserves, conserves and protects a wide variety of natural areas and offers our patrons more than 70 miles of trails to get out and experience all these natural wonders firsthand. We also host countless educational and engaging naturalist-led programs for all ages and abilities. Overseeing the Naturalist Department, as we create new and exciting programs for the public, is a real honor for me. We truly do have something for everyone.

You need not be a trained naturalist to appreciate and experience the wonders of Nature. Take a walk in the parks and see what you can discover. It truly does not matter whether you cannot identify everything you see along the trail. More so, what matters is that you just take the time to notice and appreciate the simple beauty that is before you. You will also realize that the more things you discover along the trail, the more there is still yet to discover. Nature's wonders are endless, healing to mind, body and spirit. So get outside, Nature explorers, and enjoy!





BLUE *in Nature*

If you were asked to go out in Nature and fill up a box with the most colorful things you find, would there be anything blue in it?

Most of the blue in Nature isn't something we can pick up on a walk. Aside from wildflowers, there is the blue sky and blue water, but those are blue because of how sunlight is reflected. There are blue birds and butterflies, but their color, too, is just an illusion because of how light reflects off their feathers or wings, which are not actually blue!



Less than 10 percent of the 280,000 species of flowering plants produce flowers that appear blue.

This appearance — seen in bluebells as kind of blue-purple — is most often caused by a red pigment known as **anthocyanin**, as well as differences in soil pH, a mix of other pigments, and reflected natural light. Plants also don't get to benefit from energy-rich blue light when they reflect it, but because pollinators are such fans, it's worth it for some plants to sacrifice.



Nature's colors come from pigments with different chemical structures, such as the green **chlorophylls** in plants and the yellow **carotenoids** and red **anthocyanins** that give flowers and food their colors. With a few very rare exceptions, blue seen in Nature is not actually due to a blue pigment.

Blue tones in bird eggs, like these robin's eggs, actually do come from a pigment. The bile pigment **biliverdin** is responsible for these blues; the shell is formed just before the egg is laid.



Use these clues to unscramble the words as you think of some other things in Nature that look blue!

W
O
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M
B
L
E

- REULBYREB a small blue fruit _____
- OEHNHR a large bird that nests high up in trees in a colony called a rookery _____
- AULBJEY a jay bird commonly found in our backyards _____
- RISI the colored part of the eye, also a wildflower _____
- NEOCA most of Earth is covered by this _____
- TGFERO-EM-TNO a small bluish flower to remember you by _____
- KWRPIELENI a pretty light purple-blue color, also a wildflower _____
- GRFNDAYLO a species of this insect is called a Blue Dasher _____
- DNOIGI the name for the deep blue-purple color in the rainbow _____
- RZAEU a light purple-blue color found in the name of a butterfly _____
- TFREUBYLT an insect named a Red-spotted Purple with blue wings _____
- HRASPEIP a deep blue precious gemstone _____
- CAKPOEC the body of this large male bird is bright blue and its tail feathers spread like a giant fan _____
- LSBELLUBE wildflowers that look like little bells _____
- PNUENTE the last planet in our solar system, which looks blue because of the methane gas in its atmosphere _____
- UOTRQSIEU an aqua color, also an opaque mineral and gemstone _____



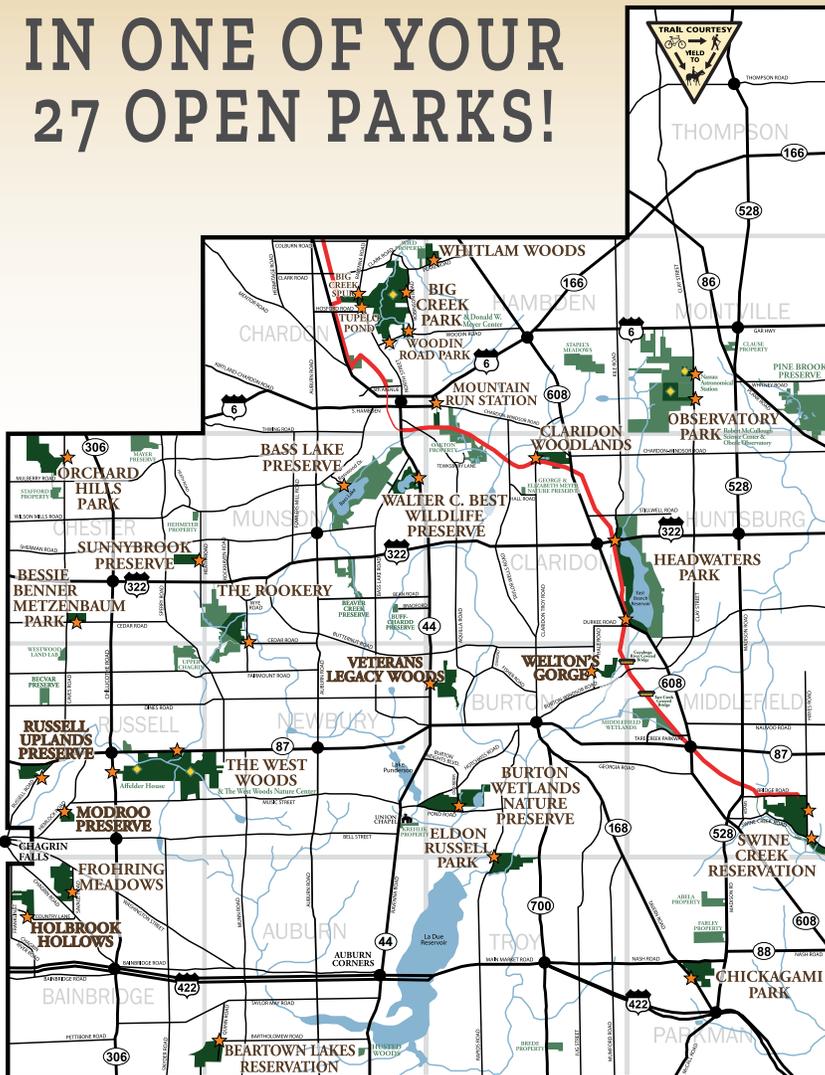
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 Inspired By It

Nature & Arts Fest

SUNDAY
August 7, 2022
10 AM - 4 PM

**Returning to
 The West Woods**
 9465 Kinsman Rd. in Russell Twp.

- ◆ Nature Exhibits & Activities
- ◆ Interactive Booths, Nature Hikes & Live Animals
- ◆ Indoor/Outdoor Juried Art Show Featuring Nature-Inspired Artwork For Sale & On Display by Regional Artists

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Answers to Word Unscramble: blueberry, heron, bluejay, iris, ocean, forget-me-not, periwinkle, dragonfly, indigo, azure, butterfly, sapphire, peacock, bluebells, Neptune, turquoise