

# PARK EXPLORER

## GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE



SPRING 2023

*Winter Solstice at the Hills and  
Hills at the Hills*

**4** School-sanctioned fun during field days at Big Creek Park

**6** Adventure ready? Download the Agents of Discovery app!

**18** Following the Baltimore Oriole on its incredible journey

**19** Summer camp offerings for grades 3-10



# UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark your calendars!*



All public programs and special events are subject to change or be cancelled. Please check our website for updates before heading out.



*Let's "reforest the fairways" at Veterans Legacy Woods!*

## Thursday & Friday, April 20 & 21

**Volunteers Needed!** Assemble a group of five people or more to help plant trees and put up protective fencing at this former golf course — ideal for service clubs, company outings, scout troops, etc. Visit our website under Activities, then Special Events, for more information, volunteer applications and available sponsorship packages.

**Saturday, April 22** Details for both programs on page 8

**Earth Day Tree Planting** - Register to plant trees and put up protective fencing with our Natural Resource Management team, learning about trees along the way.

**Earth Day Drive-Through** - Register to pick up free native plants with information about better caring for our Earth.



## Saturday, May 20, 10 AM-2 PM The West Woods

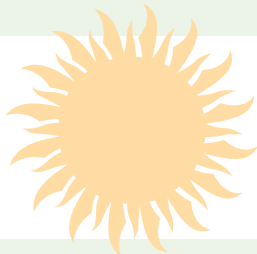
Get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment that Geauga Park District uses to keep your parks in tip-top shape. Details on page 11.

## ROPES & BOATS

Visit website under News & Updates for details & restrictions

**Headwaters Park's kayak/canoe borrowing begins Saturday, May 27**

Watch our website for opening day details about Claridon Woodlands' high ropes course



## Solstice Day Events • Wednesday, June 21

*In celebration of the Summer Solstice, a day of programs will help everyone enjoy the longest day of the year!*

Highlighted in yellow on page 14, find programs from hiking to horseback and a firefly watch in the evening to get the most out of this sun-centric day.

### Music concerts:

**The Swamp Rattlers 6/17**  
Big Creek Park; 7 PM

**Foster Brown 7/16**  
Veterans Legacy Woods; 4 PM

**Jim & Beth (Acoustic) 8/19**  
Big Creek Park; 7 PM

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

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens**  
(PG-13) 6/24

**Disney's Encanto (PG) 7/22**  
**Singin' in the Rain (G) 8/19**



# SPRING PROGRAMS *on pages 7-15 and 19*

- 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**  
Naturalist-led hike recommended to take toward your Trekking Series reward



**Nature's Not To Be Missed**  
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](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)  
[info@geaugaparkdistrict.com](mailto: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 the spring edition of your *Park Explorer*. In this edition, you will find our 2022 Annual Report to you. The report outlines some of our most prominent accomplishments. It is also a portrayal of our stewardship of the lands, parks and finances that you, our resident taxpayer, have entrusted to us. It is an honor to serve you and our communities.

Your parks have grown to 27 in total, touching virtually every township, city and village. While we have expanded over the years, however, we continue to manage and steward our longtime park resources. This has been the case in recent years with improvements at existing parks. We replaced the lodge at Swine Creek Reservation. We improved trails, foot bridges, scenic overlooks and the playground at Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park. We steward your finances by remaining aggressive in pursuing state and federal grants that are available for the stewardship of park lands and ecosystems. At Bass Lake Preserve we completed the stream restoration of Beaver Creek. We also restored a section of Spring Brook, home to one of the last viable populations of native brook trout in the State of Ohio.

As an employee of your Park District for more than 29 years, I personally have watched the goal of having a park within 15 minutes of each Geauga resident become a reality. As I have opportunities to network and collaborate with a variety of business, civic and family-oriented initiatives around the county, I often have the privilege of hearing many compliments about the parks and recreational services that Geauga Park District provides. Staff is proud to represent our county with some of the best parks in our business, and honored to present our 2022 Annual Report. We look forward to celebrating with you in the future. Thanks for your confidence in your Geauga Park District.

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



Howard Bates



Jolene Carnabuci



Ray Guarino



Les LaGatta



Frank Stein

## 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.





*By Amy Hochschild, Teacher of 6th Grade Science/Social Studies at Berkshire Middle School*

Here at Berkshire Local Schools, we have had a very long tradition of sixth-grade camp week each May to end the students' elementary years. Primarily, it was a way to unite our separate elementary building students to form friendships before entering our junior/senior high school in the fall — a very big transition. The pandemic, however, brought all that to a screeching halt. But in keeping with our tradition, in recent years, we have still tried several different options to provide at least a "day camp" experience.

Last May, it was decided to "think outside the box" and try a local park. Big Creek Park filled the needs nicely. Our day was packed with presenters and volunteers coming to work with the students. We had a Nature walk courtesy of Dan Galdun and Dan Best with binoculars, where students did some bird watching and even flipped over the binoculars to see vegetation up close! We also had a stream detectives class with Gail Prunty right in a gently flowing stream bed. Our ESC group provided a challenge class with problem solving and teamwork, and Lisa McMahon, science teacher extraordinaire, held a mystery science class to enhance Nature appreciation. We even had a special and very interesting social media class provided by our resource officer, Deputy Andy Supinski. We needed electricity for this program, and one of the buildings was equipped for that. Finally, of course we had to have a class for fun, playing the game "Ga-Ga" with a parent and a portable enclosure set up in a large open area.

FEATURING PARK FRIENDS

# Having a Field Day!

*By Hallee Habeeb, Teacher of 6th Grade English Language Arts at Chardon Middle School*

In May of the 2021-22 school year, the sixth-grade team at Chardon Middle School was looking for an outdoor space to host an end-of-the-year field day for the students. We decided to reach out and see if Big Creek Park was available, as we felt it would be the ideal outdoor location to host activities for our sixth-graders to enjoy spending time all together outdoors.

The park ended up being the perfect venue for our event, as we required a lot of space to host a variety





Students rotated among the five stations in groups of about 20, so everyone could do all the activities at different times. There was a lot of movement, and a whole lot of fun! Everyone brought their own lunches and water bottles, and at the end we all enjoyed a delicious pizza dinner with added treats! The main pavilion was large enough to accommodate our whole group for this, with its tables and ledges we could use for food. We also concluded our outing with Mike the Magician from Special Occasions in Middlefield, who entertained us with mind-boggling tricks that we still can't explain! We returned home to the school buildings

at around 8:30 p.m. with a very tired but happy group of students!

Big Creek Park was clean and beautiful. We marked trails with Nature-friendly ribbons to show the way for groups to travel, and the trails we used were well maintained and appropriate for all our hikers. The scheduling team at Geauga Park District was very helpful and supportive of our needs. They helped me to reserve the pavilions we needed, and answered all of my zillion questions along the way as we attempted to provide a very different experience for our district. The parking lots were ample and easy for our bus drivers to maneuver

dropping off and picking up our students. And the restroom stalls we utilized were clean. They did not have an "outhouse" feel to them at all!

All in all, I would say our experience was very successful! It was by far, the most economical program we had ever put on, and while it wasn't the overnight stay the students would have preferred from the "old days," it was terrific that we could still schedule so many of our favorite camp activities for the students to enjoy. I would recommend the park for events with groups anytime! 🍀



***To conclude the 2021-22 school year, Big Creek Park was the lucky site of two middle school field days, those of Berkshire and Chardon. Learn why teachers chose the park for this festive experience — and what the kids got into while they were out!***

of activities such as rock painting, meditation/relaxation circles, Nature walks and a kickball tournament. The students traveled throughout these stations with ease and had enough room to enjoy their time without being overcrowded. Big Creek Park's facilities also easily accommodated our nearly 200 students and provided a beautiful backdrop to everything we did.

It is always nice to have a change of scenery after being in the same classrooms, hallways and cafeteria all year, so Big Creek Park was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff and students in attendance last year. In fact, we felt it was such a success that we plan to utilize this space again in the spring when we host another field day to wrap up another school year! 🍀





# Be an Agent of Discovery!

Free app offers a neat new interactive way to discover The West Woods

You've never explored The West Woods like this before!

Beginning in April, we're so excited to offer a full year of virtually guided seasonal explorations using the free **Agents of Discovery** app. It's simple to sign up and suitable for kids and adults alike — you just have to be in the park to play!

With Agents of Discovery, you, park friend, are a secret agent assigned missions to solve mysteries about Nature and wildlife. Tapper the Red-Headed Woodpecker will be your guide as you find and unlock a variety of types of challenges around The West Woods at 9465 Kinsman Road (Route 87) throughout 2023.

To start playing, you'll first need to download the app and create a free account. Then open it up while you're visiting the park to search for available missions. We'll tell you which trails to walk, and as you approach each challenge, it will become available for you to play. Challenges in this park will change each season, so make sure to come back all four seasons to play them all! No data or wifi is required once it is downloaded.

Besides learning fun facts about this park each season, you'll also be competing for prizes and elite leaderboard status. Get details on our website under Activities, then Geocaching & Location-Based Games.



Explore the app now  
by downloading it on  
your smartphone!

Scan this QR code or find it  
in the App Store or Google Play.



See page 7 for a how-to program April 1  
to be led by Naturalist Trevor.

## Introducing New Park Board Commissioners

### Les LaGatta & Frank Stein

Geauga Park District is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Park Commissioners: Les LaGatta of Chesterland and Frank Stein of Burton.

The pair joined existing commissioners Howard Bates, Jolene Carnabuci and Ray Guarino at their January meeting to support Geauga Park District's mission: to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year.

Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge Timothy J. Grendell named the new commissioners and swore them into office for three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 2025.

Both LaGatta and Stein are 40-year Geauga residents.

LaGatta, a retired 50-year police officer, was a lieutenant commander in Cleveland Heights, chief-of-police in Chagrin Falls, and a special deputy in Geauga County. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves and has been married for 42 years, with a blended family of six daughters, all West Geauga grads, and 10 grandchildren. He is currently chaplain and vice president of the Ohio Retired Police Chiefs Association. Stein is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, having proudly served in the Vietnam War. He earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Akron in education, political science and history, and has been married to his wife for 53 years.



 Adventure/Discovery  Arts  Astronomy  Kids  Seniors

## 1 Snipe Hunt & Hike

Saturday, April 1, 8-9:30 AM  
Frohning Meadows

Ever been fooled into a snipe hunt? Never been to see a real snipe? Let's turn this practical joke into the real deal. Witness the aerial courtship displays of Wilson's Snipe for a memorable rite of spring. **Registration required.**



## 1 Scout Day: "Webelos Walkabout"

Saturday, April 1, 9 AM-Noon  
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center

Join us for the Walkabout Core Adventure! Complete requirements 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Program indoors and out with a 3-mile hike. Dress for the weather. Register scouts only, but adult must attend. **Registration required.**

## 1 Scout Day: Daisy Girl Scouts "Trail Adventure"

Saturday, April 1, 1-2:15 PM  
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center

Join us to work on the Trail Adventure badge and learn to plan and prepare for a Nature hike! Dress for the weather, as the program includes a hike. Register scouts only, but adult must attend. **Registration required.**

## 1 The Big Hike at Frohning Meadows

Saturday, April 1, 1-4 PM  
Frohning Meadows

Are you ready to hike 4-5 miles through forests and fields? This is the perfect hike for you! Hike as many trails at this park as possible, stopping for Nature observation. Adults only. **Registration required.**



## 1 Agents of Discovery: How To

Saturday, April 1, 1-2 PM & 2:30-3:30 PM, The West Woods

An introduction to our new digital Nature walks using the free Agents of Discovery app on your smartphone, with Tapper the Red-headed Woodpecker as your field guide! We'll download the app and visit eight points of interest along the trail. **Registration required.**

## 2 Welton's Gorge Spring Trail Hike

Sunday, April 2, 10-11:30 AM  
Welton's Gorge

Hike with a naturalist to discover the sights and sounds of spring. Must be able to hike at least 2 miles over rolling hills. Held rain, snow or shine; dress for the weather. Hike will not go into the gorge; trail hike will enjoy gorge views from above. **Registration required.**



## 2 Wildlife Egg-Stravaganza

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 AM-1 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center

Go on an indoor/outdoor adventure to discover local wildlife and the eggs they lay. Scavenger hunt prizes awarded upon completion. Drop in anytime during program hours. **Registration required.**

## 2 Warbler Warm-up

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

Noted local birders Matt Valencic and Kelly Stanek present techniques for ID'ing using color patterns, habitat, behaviors and song. For novice to intermediate birders. Special attention this year is to the common warbler species. Handouts emailed upon request. A collaboration with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. **Registration required.**

## 3 Geauga Skywatchers: A Trace of Space

Monday, April 3, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Gauga County Public Library, Chardon Branch

A light-hearted, whirlwind journey through 6½ decades of space spin-offs, ranging from the mundane to monumental. Learn the amazing impact of space exploration on our everyday lives! Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can join. **Registration required** at [https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page\\_id=41076](https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page_id=41076). Presented in cooperation with the Gauga County Public Library.

## 5 Morning Talk & Walk

Wednesday, April 5, 9-10:30 AM  
Claridon Woodlands

Meet in the lodge for a cup of coffee or tea and chat with old friends or make new ones. Followed by a leisurely walk past meadows, forests and ponds 0.6 miles on a paved trail. **Registration required.**



## 6 Homeschool Days: Amphibian Awakening

(Ages 5-7 & 8-12)  
Thursday, April 6, 1:30-3 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center  
Enjoy an indoor/outdoor exploration to discover the habits, habitats, adaptations and life cycles of these amazing creatures which have awakened to greet the spring. All attending must register. Dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

## 6 Full Moon Hike: The Spring Peepers Moon

Thursday, April 6, 8:30-9:30 PM  
Observatory Park

A 1.5-mile hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about Nature's nighttime noise-makers. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.**

## 7 Basket Weaving for Kids

(Ages 10-15) Friday, April 7, 9 AM-Noon  
Holbrook Hollows

Fee: \$15 Geauga resident, \$18 out-of-county

Kids ages 10-15, try your hand at weaving a small basket! Your finished product will measure 4" x 6" x 6". Register children only, but adult must attend. **Registration required.**

## 13 Early Morning Walk

Thursday, April 13, 8-9 AM

Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve, Sunset Shelter

Join a naturalist for an early morning walk around the lake. **Registration required.**



## 14 April Evening Adventure

Friday, April 14, 7:30-9 PM  
Eldon Russell Park,

Horwath's Shelter

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



## 15 Family Campfire Safety

Saturday, April 15, 2-3:30 PM  
Sunnybrook Preserve, Lodge

Campfire safety is important for everyone in the family. We'll discover how to properly build, maintain and extinguish fires, then watch a few fire-building demos and roast a marshmallow or two. **Registration required.**

## 16 Bald Eagle Hike

Sunday, April 16, 10 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-4 PM, Headwaters Park  
Rt. 608 entrance

Learn amazing facts about Bald Eagles and hike to an active nest, rain or shine, hopefully to observe eagle activity! Must be able to hike 2.5 miles over rolling terrain. Wear sturdy footwear. **Registration required.**



## 16 Nature Journaling: Woodcocks & Snipes Revealed

Sunday, April 16, 7-9:30 PM  
Frohning Meadows, Katydid Lodge

Fees apply; see description

Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month our inspiration will be woodcocks & snipes. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. Fees, which include the purchase of a new journal, pen and other supplies, are as follows: first-time participants pay \$20 (Gauga residents) or \$24 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended before, but not within the calendar year, pay \$10 (Gauga residents) or \$12 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended within the calendar year pay nothing. **Registration required** by phone only at 440-286-9516.



Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

## 20 Elderberries: Nature Photography

Thursday, April 20, 11:30 AM-2 PM  
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge  
Seniors, explore spring through Nature photography using your cell phone or digital camera. Learn tips and tricks in the lodge over a meal at 11:30 AM, provided by Heather Hill, then put your new skills to the test through a Nature photography scavenger hunt. After, learn how your photos can be used to help scientists thorough iNaturalist. In collaboration with the Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

## 21 Nature Night Lecture Series: Amphibians

Friday, April 21, 7-8:30 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center  
From the American Toad found in your backyard to the Spotted Salamanders that form large spring breeding migrations, more than 20 species of amphibians call Geauga County home. Enjoy this presentation about all things amphibian! **Registration required.**

## 22 Geauga Gems Bird Walk

Saturday, April 22, 8-9:30 AM  
Welton's Gorge  
Bring a pair of binoculars and let's see what species of bird gems we find on this Geauga Gems hike along the Gorge Overlook and Dogwood trails. Dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

## 22 Bald Eagle Van Trip

Saturday, April 22, 8 AM-1 PM  
The West Woods  
Learn amazing facts about Bald Eagles as we drive to various eagle nests and hotspots around Geauga County. We'll depart from The West Woods and be in and out of the van, so please be prepared for unpredictable spring weather. Bring binoculars, lunch, and a spotting scope if you have one. **Registration required.**

## 22 Earth Day Tree Planting

Saturday, April 22, 9-10:30 AM  
Veterans Legacy Woods  
Join our Natural Resource Management team to learn about and help plant trees in celebration of Earth Day, plus put up protective fencing. If possible, please bring your own shovel and gloves. **Registration required.**

## 22 Earth Day Drive-Through

Saturday, April 22, Noon, 12:15 PM, 12:30 PM, 12:45 PM, 1 PM, 1:15 PM, 1:30 PM & 1:45 PM, Veterans Legacy Woods  
Choose a time to get free native plants and information about caring for our Earth from wildlife and conservation experts. **Registration required** for your vehicle, not the # of people inside. Come during your registered 15-minute session only.

## 22 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, April 22, 7-11 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; check our website or social media for notice.

## 23 Buckeye Trail LONG Haul Hike! (16.6 Miles)

Sunday, April 23, 8 AM  
Headwaters Park, TMHT  
Parking Lot Near Rt. 608  
The Buckeye Trail winds nearly 1,444 miles around Ohio. Hike some Park District parks that follow the Blue Blazes. This is a shuttle service for a self-guided 16.6-mile hike along the Buckeye Trail. For experienced hikers looking for big miles on paved and gravel trails. Meet at Headwaters Park. Get dropped off at the starting point at Big Creek Park. From there, you will walk back to your car, estimated hike time 6-8 hours. Held rain or shine so dress accordingly and bring water and food. **Registration required.**

## 23 Salamander Search

Sunday, April 23, 1-3 PM  
Big Creek Park, Maple Grove  
The cooler, wet weather of early spring sparks increased salamander activity. Explore the ravines, streams and forests for these creatures along with other amphibians and reptiles. Wear sturdy hiking boots and dress for the weather conditions. Register all attending; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**

## 23 Nature Explorers: All About Birds

(Ages 6-11 w/adult)  
Sunday, April 23, 1-3 PM  
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge  
Explorers and their adults, join naturalists on a quest to find migratory birds returning to their spring/summer homes, play bird games and other activities. Program indoors and out, so dress for the weather. Register all attending; children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**

## 25 Waterfowl Watch

Tuesday, April 25, 8-10 AM  
Headwaters Park, Boathouse  
Take an opportunity to view migrating waterfowl on the tranquil waters of this beautiful lake. Bring binoculars. **Registration required.**

## 27 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, April 27, 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 an audience member. **Registration required.**

## 29 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock

Saturday, April 29, 9-11 AM  
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge  
Hike with a naturalist 2 miles over hilly terrain to Ansel's Cave to discover its history written in rock – a rare opportunity to go into this restricted area! Dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear. **Registration required.**

## 29 Hound Hike

Saturday, April 29, 1-2:15 PM  
Big Creek Park, Deep Woods  
Dogs and their humans, enjoy a 1-mile hike along medium-level trails. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share some helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler; must be able to fully control dog, on leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. **Registration required.**

## 30 Lesser Celandine, An Undesirable Beauty

Sunday, April 30, 1-2 PM  
Orchard Hills Park, Lodge  
Lesser celandine is an invasive, aggressive menace to wildflowers, gardens and lawns in your neighborhood. Learn how to get rid of this plant, benefit your local wildlife, and help spread the word among your neighbors. **Registration required** (register separately for hike that follows, description below).

## 30 Wildflowers & Invasives Backcountry Hike

Sunday, April 30, 2-4:30 PM  
Orchard Hills Park  
Hike off-trail into rugged, wet woodland ravines to enjoy native spring wildflowers and view the invasive, aggressive lesser celandine that threatens to choke out the native flowers. Must be able to hike several miles on and off trail. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear that can get wet/muddy. Walking stick recommended. **Registration required.**

## 30 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, April 30, 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.**



## RECURRING PROGRAMS

### 4 18 Geauga Walkers

Tuesdays, 1-2:30 PM  
April 4, Holbrook Hollows  
April 18, Headwaters Park, Rt.322  
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long.  
Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for  
full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration  
required.**

### 5 19 Lunch & Learn: Amphibian Awakening

(Virtual) Wednesdays,  
April 5 & 19, Noon-1 PM   
Join Naturalist Karie during your lunch  
break to learn about amphibians like Spring  
Peepers, Wood Frogs, Spotted Salamanders  
and more! **Registration required.**

### 7 8 Basket Weaving: Caddy Basket

Friday, April 7, 1-6 PM &  
Saturday, April 8, 1-6 PM,  
Holbrook Hollows  
Fee: \$35 Geauga residents, \$40 out-of-county  
Weave a caddy basket for your basket  
supplies, garden tools or whatever you need  
to carry around. **Registration required.**

### 12 16 Timbertots: Amazing Amphibians

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)  
Wednesday, April 12, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM  
& Sunday, April 16, 1-2 PM & 3-4 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center  
Spring has sprung and the amphibians have  
awakened! Experience the sights and sounds  
of these cool creatures with fun activities  
and an outdoor walk. Dress for the weather.  
Register all attending including parents and  
siblings. **Registration required.**

### 13 15 Backcountry Hike: Ravines, Rocks & Ledges

Thursday, April 13, 1-4 PM &  
Saturday, April 15, 2-5 PM  
The Rookery   
Join a naturalist for an off-trail adventure into  
some of the rock ledges, streams and ravines  
of the protected preserve portion of this park.  
Must be able to hike several miles of rugged  
off-trail terrain. Dress for the weather with  
boots or shoes with good traction that can get  
wet and muddy. **Registration required.**

### 14 28 Measure Your Sky's Darkness

Friday, April 14, 7-8 PM,  
Observatory Park   
Friday, April 28, 7-8 PM   
Virtual program  
Count the stars to find how dark your sky is!  
We'll explore the Globe At Night project to re-  
connect everyone with the night sky. Followed  
by night sky viewing, weather permitting.  
April 28 is online via Zoom; register for  
the program and receive a link to join.  
**Registration required for both sessions.**

### 14 15 28 29 Night Sky Viewing

Friday, April 14, 8-11 PM  
Saturday April 15, 7-11 PM  
Friday, April 28, 8-11 PM  
Saturday, April 29, 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.



### 15 28 Nature Trek Fitness Hike

Saturday, April 15, 4:30-6 PM  
Sunnybrook Preserve &  
Friday, April 28, 7-8 PM, Claridon Woodlands  
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 3  
miles Details at registration about trail terrain.  
Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and  
bring water. **Registration required.**



### 16 23 30 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series

Sundays, 7:30-9:30 AM   
April 16, Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve  
April 23, Frohring Meadows  
April 30, The Rookery  
See a variety of birds as they return to prime  
breeding habitat during spring migration.  
Experienced leaders will assist participants with  
observation and identification. Dress for the  
weather; bring binoculars and bird guide.

### 25 29 Wildflower Wander

Tuesday, April 25, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Headwaters Park, Rt. 322 entrance  
Saturday, April 29, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge   
Wander along the trail with a  
naturalist in search of early spring  
wildflowers to learn their natural history and  
folklore. Details at registration about trail  
lengths and terrain. **Registration required.**

# MAY

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

### 1 Geauga Skywatchers: Inflatable Planetarium

Monday, May 1, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Gauga County Public Library,  
Gauga West Branch  
Come check out an inflatable planetarium!  
Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can  
join. Registration starts April 15 at [https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page\\_id=41076](https://divi.geaugalibrary.net/?page_id=41076).  
Presented in cooperation with the Geauga  
County Public Library. **Registration  
required.**

### 4 Art Workshop: Intro to Woodcarving

Thursday, May 4, 6-8 PM  
The West Woods, Affelder House  
Fee: \$45 Geauga residents, \$50 out-of-county  
Learn the basics of woodcarving from award-  
winning carver Robert Stadtlander in this  
two-part class, May 4 and May 11, 6-8 PM both  
days. The class will cover project layout, using  
knives and gouges, and detailing and finishing,  
while carving a small pine tree. Supplies and  
tools are provided, but you may bring your  
own if you have them. Tools also available for  
purchase directly from the carver if desired.  
Ages 18+. **Registration required.**

### 5 Howard Marsh Birding Van Trip

Friday, May 5, 6 AM-6 PM  
The West Woods   
Fee: \$10 Geauga residents, \$15 out-of-county  
Join us for a trip to this birdwatching  
hotspot to witness the spring spectacle of  
bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie.  
We'll provide transportation and a naturalist  
to assist with bird identification; bring your  
own binoculars, water and sack lunch.  
**Registration required.**

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

## 5 Full Moon Hike: The Whippoorwill Moon

Friday, May 5, 8:30-9:30 PM  
Observatory Park

A naturalist-led hike of 1.5-miles over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about creatures that are active at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.**

## 6 Let's Go Birding!

Saturday, May 6, 8-10 AM  
Headwaters Park, Rt. 608 Parking Lot  
Warblers, orioles, vireos and more – bird migration in May is not to be missed! Grab your binoculars and meet us for a morning of birding in the parks. **Registration required.**

## 6 Scout Day: Brownie Girl Scout "Eco Friend"

Saturday, May 6, 9-11:30 AM  
The West Woods, Nature Center

Learn more about outdoor spaces and how to treat them with kindness as you complete all requirements for this badge. Dress for the weather, program includes a hike. Register scouts only, but adult must attend. **Registration required.**

## 6 Wildflowers & Wetlands of the Upper Chagrin Preserve

Saturday, May 6, 10 AM-Noon  
Upper Chagrin Preserve

A challenging backcountry hike to see wildflowers carpeting the wetlands and vernal pools filled with aquatic life. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy, waterproof footwear for muddy paths and stream crossings. Parking directions provided to registrants closer to date. **Registration required.**

## 6 Native Fish Day

Saturday, May 6, 9 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM, Holden Arboretum, Kirtland

Learn about Ohio's native fish and how to identify them, as well as stream sampling techniques. Hosted by the Ohio Chapter of the Native Fish Coalition (NFC) and Geauga Park District. Prepare to get wet and bring waders if you have them; required for the electrofishing session. Other equipment provided. Parking directions provided to registrants closer to date. **Registration required.**

## 6 Scout Day: Tiger Cub Scouts "My Tiger Jungle"

Saturday, May 6, 1-2:30 PM  
The West Woods, Nature Center

Head indoors and out to explore Nature in your own jungle! Dress for the weather. Register scouts only, but adult must attend. **Registration required.**

## 7 Holbrook Heron Hike

Sunday, May 7, 1-4:30 PM  
Holbrook Hollows

Take a hike, 6-7 miles out and back, to the Chagrin River site of a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons, enjoying spring birds, wildflowers and Nature lore along the trail en route to the river floodplain. Bring water and snacks. **Registration required.**



## 7 Bilingual Chinese/English Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 7, 2-3 PM  
The West Woods

双语野花远足 Get to know the surprising variety of Ohio's native spring wildflowers while also learning some Mandarin Chinese as we translate from English to Mandarin. We'll walk less than 2 miles over uneven terrain. Dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

## 9 Magee Marsh Birding Van Trip

Tuesday, May 9, 6 AM-6 PM  
The West Woods

Fee: \$10 Geauga residents, \$15 out-of-county  
Join us for a trip to one of the best birdwatching spots in the country to witness the spring spectacle of bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie. We'll provide transportation and naturalists to assist with bird identification; bring your own binoculars, water and sack lunch. **Registration required.**

## 11 Birding at Headland Dunes State Nature Preserve

Thursday, May 11, 8-10 AM  
Headland Dunes State Nature Preserve, Mentor

Experience one of the best birdwatching spots in Northeast Ohio to witness the spring spectacle of bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear for sandy trails and beach. Bring binoculars. **Registration required.**

## 11 Winging It & Wine Bird Walk

Thursday, May 11, 6:30-9 PM  
Laleure Winery

Explore the bird diversity on the Laleure Winery property, situated in the Grand River watershed. Laleure has a variety of pristine habitats that are beneficial to migratory birds. We'll start off with a bird walk and end at the winery's tasting room. Wine and soft drinks available for purchase; bring your own snacks. More information/directions provided to registrants. **Registration required.**

## 12 Meet the Artists:

**Melissa Harris & Daria Nosova**

Friday, May 12, 7-9 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Join us to view the works of these two artists. Melissa's collection, "The Lay of the Land," includes plein air and studio landscapes, while Daria's collection includes a range of Nature-inspired work. Artwork on display through July 28.

## 13 World Migratory Bird Day Bird Sit

Saturday, May 13, 6:30-11:30 AM  
Sunnybrook Preserve

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day with a bird sit. Come anytime between 6:30 and 11:30 AM and sit on the observation deck with a naturalist for as little or as long as you'd like. We'll record all the birds we see or hear during this time period. Bring binoculars, a chair, a camera and whatever else you need to be comfortable. Dress for the weather. Cancelled in the event of heavy rain or storms.

## 13 Welton's Gorge Spring Trail Hike

Saturday, May 13, 9-10:30 AM  
Welton's Gorge

Hike with a naturalist to discover the sights and sounds of spring. Must be able to hike at least 2 miles over rolling hills. Held rain, snow or shine, so dress for the weather. Note this hike will not go down into the gorge; rather, we'll stay on trail and enjoy views of the gorge from above. **Registration required.**

## 13 Tea & Wildflowers

Saturday, May 13, 10-11:30 AM  
Headwaters Park, Boathouse

Celebrate spring with a fun and informative talk on wildflowers while you enjoy a variety of teas and pastries, then head out for a short hike to look at the wildflowers in bloom. Held rain or shine. **Registration required.**





## 13 Hound Hike

Saturday, May 13, 1-2 PM  
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve,  
Sunset Shelter

Dogs and their humans, join us for a 1.3-mile hike along easy trails. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share some helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler; must be able to fully control dog, on leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. **Registration required.**

## 14 Nature's Blooms Hike

Sunday, May 14, 1-3 PM  
Swine Creek Reservation,  
Woods Edge



As spring wildflower season winds down, take a stroll through Swine Creek to see what flowers are still blooming. Prepare for hilly terrain. **Registration required.**

## 14 Nature Journaling: Warbler Migration

Sunday, May 14, 3-5:30 PM  
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge

Fees apply; see description

Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month our inspiration will be migrating warblers. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. Fees, which include the purchase of a new journal, pen and other supplies, are as follows: first-time participants pay \$20 (Geauga residents) or \$24 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended before, but not within the calendar year, pay \$10 (Geauga residents) or \$12 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended within the calendar year pay nothing. **Registration required by phone only at 440-286-9516.**

## 17 Toddler Time: Sensing the Spring

(Ages 1-2 w/adult)

Wednesday, May 17, 10-11 AM  
Beartown Lakes Reservation, North Point

Enjoy experiencing Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch springtime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome. Register all attending including parents and siblings. **Registration required.**

## 18 Elderberries: Fishing!

Thursday, May 18, 11 AM-1:30 PM  
Beartown Lakes Reservation, North Point  
Seniors, explore Beartown Lakes through a hike, fishing and hands-on Nature activity. Fishing poles and bait provided. Ohman Family Living at Holly will provide lunch at 11 AM. In collaboration with Geauga County Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

## 20 Touch a Truck!

Saturday, May 20, 10 AM-2 PM  
The West Woods

Get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment of Geauga Park District! The tractors, trucks of all sorts, and construction equipment that are used to keep the parks in tip-top shape will be parked for hands-on discovery for kids of all ages. Parking onsite and shuttles will run from overflow parking at ASM International, 0.6 mile east of The West Woods on Rt. 87.

## 20 Mid-Morning Trek

Saturday, May 20, 10-11:30 AM  
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve, Sunset Shelter



Enjoy a leisurely walk on a 1.5-mile paved trail past pond and meadow as we experience Nature in the springtime. **Registration required.**

## 20 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, May 20, 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; check our website or social media for notice.

## 21 Take Me to the Migration Van Trip

Sunday, May 21, 8 AM-4 PM  
The West Woods



May in Ohio means bird migration! We'll point the van in the direction of the best local bird reports, migrant traps and any rare bird that shows up in our local area. Bring a sack lunch and binoculars, and dress warm in case we end up along Lake Erie. Adults only. **Registration required.**



## 21 Horseback Trail Ride

Sunday, May 21,  
10 AM-12:30 PM & 1-3:30 PM  
Holbrook Hollows

Take a naturalist-led trail ride, enjoying spring woodlands and the connection to Cleveland Metroparks from a seat in the saddle at a leisurely pace in the company of other riders. Helmets recommended. Anticipate varied terrain, stream crossings, bridges, a boardwalk and a short stretch of roadside riding. Must trailer your own horse and bring a shovel to clean up in the parking lot. Register for one or both rides with a lunch break between. **Registration required.**

## 21 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock

Sunday, May 21, 10 AM-Noon  
& 1-3 PM, The West Woods



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

## 25 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, May 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 an audience member. **Registration required.**

## 28 Blackbrook Audubon IBA Bird Walk

Sunday, May 28, 8-10 AM  
Orchard Hills Park

Join Blackbrook Audubon Society on our Important Bird Area (IBA) bird walks on the fourth Sunday of each month, free and open to all! These citizen science bird walks are good for beginners and experienced birders, and group birding is a fun way to learn more bird identification tips firsthand. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Details: [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org).

## 28 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, May 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.**

# MAY

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

 Adventure/Discovery  Arts  Astronomy  Kids  Seniors

## RECURRING PROGRAMS

**2 16 30**

### Geauga Walkers

Tuesdays, 1-2:30 PM

May 2, Big Creek Park, Maple Grove  
May 16, Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park  
May 30, The West Woods, Affelder

Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

**3 17** Lunch & Learn:

### Wings of Spring

(Virtual)

Wednesdays, May 3 & 17, Noon-1 PM

Join Naturalist Karie for a virtual program during your lunch break to learn about spring bird migration. **Registration required.**

**7 8** Timbertots:

### Colors in Nature

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Sunday, May 7, 1-2 PM & 3-4 PM

Headwaters Park, Boathouse

Monday, May 8, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM

Big Creek Park, Deep Woods

Join Nora the Explorer on an adventure to discover the wonderful colors found out in Nature! Program outdoors, so dress accordingly. Register all attending including parents and siblings. **Registration required.**

**7 14 21** Annual Spring

### Bird Walk Series

Sundays, 7:30-9:30 AM

May 7, Eldon Russell Park

May 14, Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove


May 21, Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

See a variety of birds as they return to prime breeding habitat during spring migration. Experienced leaders will assist participants with observation and identification. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and bird guide.




**12 26** Lewis & Clark's  
Nine Stars

Friday, May 12, 7-8 PM

Observatory Park 

Friday, May 26, 7-8 PM

Virtual program 

Lewis and Clark carried a list of nine special stars on their expedition to help put their explorations "on the map." Learn how navigators of their day used certain stars to determine their latitude and longitude, followed by night sky viewing, weather permitting. May 26 is online via Zoom; register for the program and receive a link to join. **Registration required** for both sessions.

**12 13 26 27**

### Night Sky Viewing



Friday, May 12, 8-11 PM

Saturday May 13, 9-11 PM

Friday, May 26, 8-11 PM

Saturday, May 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.  

# JUNE

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

**3** Backcountry Hike


Saturday, June 3, 9 AM-Noon  
Holbrook Hollows



Go off trail to explore areas not typically seen by the public. Expect hills, mud, other obstacles and a lot of fun as we traverse the forest. Please pack any food or water you will need during this hike. Ages 7+. **Registration required.**

**3** Astrotots XL: The  
Right Stuff (Ages 6-11 w/adult)

Saturday, June 3, 9:30-10:45 AM  
Observatory Park


Do you love space, adventure and way-cool clothing? Would you enjoy floating in a spaceship where every day is a bad hair day? Discover if you might have "the right stuff" to become an astronaut someday. Be ready to engage in out-of-this-world challenges. Handcraft a far-out fashion accessory. Register children ages 6-11 only. **Registration required.** 

**3** Campfire Cooking:  
Pie Irons

Saturday, June 3, 6-8 PM


Headwaters Park, Crystal Lake Shelter

Fee: \$4 Geauga residents, \$6 out-of-county

Learn a new outdoor skill and get inspired for your next camping adventure! Practice making personal pulled pork sandwiches with mac-n-cheese and baked bean sides. All made over campfire using pie irons and Dutch ovens. **Registration required.** 

**3** Full Moon Hike:  
The Strawberry Moon


Saturday, June 3, 9-10 PM  
Observatory Park

Join us for this 1.5-mile naturalist-led hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about spring strawberries and to experience Nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.** 

**4** Practical Knots  
for Camping

Sunday, June 4, 10 AM-12:30 PM

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.** 

**4** Buckeye Trail  
Highlight Hike

Sunday, June 4, 2-4 PM

Orchard Hills Park


The Buckeye Trail winds nearly 1,444 miles around Ohio. Let's visit a Geauga Park District park that follows the Blue Blazes. Must be able to hike about 3.5+ miles paved/ gravel surfaces. Held rain or shine so dress accordingly and bring water. Ages 10+ with adult. **Registration required.**



**5** Geauga Skywatchers:  
International Women's Air  
& Space Museum

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

Burton Public Library

Join us for a presentation given by the International Women's Air and Space Museum. Designed for grades 6-12, but anyone can join. **Registration required** at [www.burtonlibrary.org/calendar/month](http://www.burtonlibrary.org/calendar/month). Presented in cooperation with Burton Public Library. 

**10** Basic Learn to Canoe

Saturday, June 10, 9 AM-Noon

Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Learn basic canoe-handling techniques for safe canoeing on flat water. Wear close-toed shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring water and a change of clothes in case the canoe overturns. No private canoes or unregistered people. Ages 10+ with an adult. **Registration required** by phone only beginning June 2 at 10 AM.

**10** Searching for Snakes

Saturday, June 10, 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. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**



## 10 Basic Learn to Kayak

(Ages 10+ w/adult)  
Saturday, June 10, 1-4 PM  
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. Please no private kayaks or unregistered people. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy, and bring water and a change of clothes in case the kayak overturns. Ages 10+ with an adult. **Registration required** beginning June 2 at 10 AM.

## 11 Geauga Gems Trek

Sunday, June 11, 9-10:30 AM  
Whitlam Woods

Explore Whitlam Woods with a naturalist on this 1.2-mile, medium-level hike. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear. **Registration required.**



## 11 Dragonflying Van Trip: Triangle Bog

Sunday, June 11, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM  
The Rookery

Let's take the park van on a trip to Portage County! Together we'll visit unique bog habitats, which often yield unique plant/animal life, at Triangle Bog State Nature Preserve and Kent Bog in search of dragonflies, damselflies and interesting plants. **Registration required.**



Photo by Tami Gingrich

## 11 Hound Hike

Sunday, June 11, 1-2 PM  
Whitlam Woods

Dogs and their humans, join us for a 1.5-mile hike along medium level trails. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share some helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler; must be able to fully control dog, on leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. **Registration required.**

## 11 Backcountry Hike: Preserved Property

Sunday, June 11, 1-4 PM  
Chesterland

Join staff from Geauga Park District and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for a strenuous off-trail hike over rugged terrain includes hills, ravines, obstacles like logs, stream crossings and other challenges onto local preserved property, discovering wildlife and exploring habitat while learning the importance of protected lands for biodiversity. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes that can get wet and muddy. Directions to Chesterland location provided to registrants closer to date. **Registration required.**



## 13 Geauga Walkers Summer Picnic

Tuesday, June 13, Noon-2:30 PM  
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Bring a dish to share to this annual picnic and we'll eat after our naturalist-led hike. Call Geauga Department on Aging for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

## 15 Elderberries: Stream Exploration

Thursday, June 15, 9 AM-12:30 PM  
The West Woods, Affelder House

Seniors, let's explore the Affelder stream with a naturalist and search for insects, crayfish and more! We'll be walking in the water over obstacles like rocks and downed trees, so wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Burton Healthcare will provide breakfast at 9 AM. In collaboration with the Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

## 15 Bass Lake Kayak

Thursday, June 15, 9-11 AM  
Bass Lake Preserve

Spend a morning on these tranquil waters enjoying the wildlife and beautiful surroundings. Basic kayaking skills required; instruction not given. Life vests required. Held rain or shine, except in event of thunderstorm. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen and change of clothes in case of capsize. Ages 10+ with an adult. **Registration required** beginning June 8 at 10 AM.

## 16 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1-2 w/adult) Friday, June 16  
10-11 AM & 11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve

Experience Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch early summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome. Register all attending including adults and siblings. **Registration required.**

## 17 Lake Kelso Kayak

Saturday, June 17, 10 AM-Noon  
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve

Spend the morning on these tranquil waters, enjoying the wildlife and beautiful surroundings. No private boats please. Basic kayaking skills required; instruction not given. Life vests required. Held rain or shine, except in event of thunderstorm. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen and change of clothes in case of capsize. Ages 10+ with an adult. **Registration required** beginning June 10 at 10 AM.

Fully Accessible

Nature Scopes



Photo by Holly Sauder

## 17 Nights Out in the Parks: The Swamp Rattlers

Saturday, June 17, 7-8:30 PM  
Big Creek Park, Amphitheater

Join us to hear The Swamp Rattlers, a high-energy, classic blues-rock band! Their repertoire of tunes crosses boundaries between and blends rock, blues and country. Referring to their namesake, they describe their music as "blues with a bite"! Held in the Cherry Room if inclement weather.

## 17 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, June 17, 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; check our website or social media for notice.

## 18 Horseback Trail Ride

Sunday, June 18, 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM, Observatory Park

Join a naturalist for this trail ride to enjoy summer woodlands from a seat in the saddle, at a leisurely pace in the company of other riders. Must trailer your own horse and bring a shovel to clean up in the parking lot. Helmets recommended. Register for one or both rides with a lunch break between. **Registration required.**

## 18 Nature Journaling: Pond and Stream Fishes

Sunday, June 18, 2:30-5:30 PM  
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge  
Fees apply; see description

Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month our inspiration will be pond and stream fishes. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. Fees, which include the purchase of a new journal, pen and other supplies, are as follows: first-time participants pay \$20 (Gauga residents) or \$24 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended before, but not within the calendar year, pay \$10 (Gauga residents) or \$12 (out-of-county residents); those who've attended within the calendar year pay nothing. **Registration required** by phone only at 440-286-9516.

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

## Summer Solstice Day:

### 21 Sunrise Walk

Wednesday, June 21, 6-7:30 AM  
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Start your longest day of the year with a walk along the Planetary Trail at sunrise. **Registration required.**

### 21 Horseback Trail Ride Connecting the Parks

Wednesday, June 21, 10 AM-2 PM  
Holbrook Hollows

Bring 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. Must trailer your own horse to Holbrook Hollows. Helmets recommended. Please bring a shovel to clean up in the parking lot. **Registration required.**

### 21 Solar Noon Watch

Wednesday, June 21, 1-2 PM  
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Observe the highest noon-time sun of the year! We'll investigate how the sun's height appears to change over the year, and how the noon sun can be used as a compass, a calendar, and even a GPS! **Registration required.**

### 21 Solar Crafts

Wednesday, June 21, 1-2:30 PM  
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Celebrate the solstice with a variety of crafts and activities using solar power! We'll work with solar ovens and solar print paper to harness the energy of the sun on this longest day of sunshine. **Registration required.**



### 21 Discovery Hike

Wednesday, June 21, 4-5:30 PM  
Sunnybrook Preserve

Discover signs of the summer season along the forested trails of Sunnybrook Preserve. Hike approximately 1.5 over hilly terrain. Held rain or shine. **Registration required.**



### 21 Firefly Frolic

Wednesday, June 21, 8:30-10 PM  
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

End the longest day with a magical hike that will reveal an array of lightning bug species identifiable by their colors, flash patterns and flight paths. We'll offer a short introduction on the natural history of these amazing insects, then watch the solstice sunset from the plaza, then head out to look at fireflies. Nets provided. **Registration required.**



### 22 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, June 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 an audience member. **Registration required.**

### 24 Bald Eagle & Osprey Kayak

Saturday, June 24, 10 AM-Noon & 1-3 PM, Headwaters Park, Boat Launch

Join us for a float on this beautiful lake as we search for Osprey and Bald Eagles and learn cool facts about these amazing birds of prey! Previous kayaking experience required. Bring a snack, water and sunscreen. Total distance 2-3 miles. Ages 10+ with adult. **Registration required** beginning June 17 at 10 AM.

### 24 Movie Night: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"

Saturday, June 24, 8:30-11:30 PM  
Observatory Park

Let's watch "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (PG-13) at this International Dark Sky Park! Movie shown at dusk, approximately 9:30 pm. Bring your own blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments. Movie shown indoors if inclement weather.



### 25 Blackbrook Audubon IBA Bird Walk

Sunday, June 25, 8-10 AM  
Orchard Hills Park

Join Blackbrook Audubon Society on our Important Bird Area (IBA) bird walks on the fourth Sunday of each month, free and open to all! These citizen science bird walks are good for beginners and experienced birders, and group birding is a fun way to learn more bird identification tips firsthand. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Details: [www.blackbrookaudubon.org](http://www.blackbrookaudubon.org).



### 25 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Gorge Exploration

Sunday, June 25, 2-4:30 PM  
Welton's Gorge

Take a strenuous off-trail hike into a rocky woodland ravine to discover deep rock ledges, cool streams, salamanders and other unique features. Must be able to hike 2 miles unassisted off-trail in rugged terrain including slippery stream bottoms, steep grades and other obstacles. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction that can get wet. Bring a walking stick or we will provide you with one. Held rain or shine. **Registration required.**



### 25 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, June 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.**



### 27 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, June 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: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**



### 29 Grandparents in the Park: Summer Fun

Thursday, June 29, 10-11:30 AM  
Holbrook Hollows

Grandparents and grandchildren, enjoy a morning of all-ages fun including a really neat Nature-based play area! Mostly outdoors, so dress for the weather with comfortable shoes; sandals and flip flops not recommended. Snacks provided. **Registration required.**



## RECURRING PROGRAMS

### 2 3 **Astrotots: We're Hiring Astronauts**

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Friday, June 2, 9:30-10:30 AM,  
11 AM-Noon, 1-2 PM

Saturday, June 3,  
11:30 AM-12:30 PM, 1-2 PM

Observatory Park, Robert  
McCullough Science Center

Discover what it takes to get ready for a  
job in outer space! Interview an astronaut.  
Make-n-take a cosmic craft. Lots of fun  
and photo ops. Register children ages 3-5  
only. **Registration required.** ♿

### 8 11 **Timbertots: Forest Explorers**

(Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Thursday, June 8, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM  
Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Park

Sunday, June 11, 1-2 PM & 3-4 PM  
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge

Explore the life of the forest to discover  
the amazing things that call a forest  
home! Register all attending including  
parents and siblings. **Registration  
required.**

### 9 23 **The Universe In 10 Stars**

Friday, June 9, 7-8 PM  
Observatory Park ♿

Friday, June 23, 7-8 PM  
Virtual program

Explore 10 particular stars that contain the  
history of the entire universe! Followed  
by night sky viewing, weather permitting.  
June 23 is online via Zoom; register for  
the program and receive a link to join.  
**Registration required** for both sessions.

### 9 10 23 **Night Sky Viewing**

Friday, June 9, 8-11 PM  
Saturday, June 10, 9-11 PM  
Friday, June 23, 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.* ♿

### 19 20 **Odds & Ends Baskets**

Monday, June 19, 6-9 PM &  
Tuesday, June 20, 6-9 PM

The West Woods, Affelder House

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

Use your creativity! A basic pattern will  
be provided, then you'll design and  
weave your basket. Some experience  
recommended. **Registration required.** ♿

### 23 25 **River Exploration & Monitoring at the Upper Chagrin Preserve**

Friday, June 23, 9 AM-Noon &  
Sunday, June 25, 1-4 PM  
Upper Chagrin Preserve,  
Russell Twp.



Take a backcountry hike and enter the  
Chagrin River to catch and identify  
stonefly larvae, water pennies and other  
invertebrates. We'll also find rainbow  
darters and stream fish, indicators of  
water quality as determined by ODNR's  
Scenic Rivers Program. Dress for the  
weather with sturdy, hiking footwear  
that can get wet in possible knee-deep  
water. Parking directions provided to  
registrants. **Registration required.**



## ARCHERY FOR EVERYONE

All archery programs in this spring are  
at Chickagami Park's Archery Range

### **Introduction to Archery for Families**

Wednesday, June 7, 2:30-4 PM &  
Saturday June 17, 10:30 AM-Noon

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

### **Introduction to Archery for Adults**

Wednesday, June 7, 4:30-6 PM &  
Saturday, June 17, 1-2:30 PM

Adults, learn the basics of target archery together!  
Must wear close-toed shoes. **Registration required.**

### **Archery Games for Adults**

Wednesday, June 7, 6:30-8 PM  
Saturday, June 17, 3-4:30 PM  
Wednesday, June 28, 1:30-3 PM

The next step in improving your aim through archery  
games. Attendees must have participated in a previous  
Introduction to Archery program. Arrive 15 minutes  
early to walk the 0.25 miles to the archery range and  
complete paperwork. **Registration required.**

### **Introduction to Archery for Kids**

Sunday, June 11, 2-3:30 PM & 4-5:30 PM

Ages 9-16, learn the basics of target archery. Must be  
50" or taller and wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration  
required** for children only, but adult must attend.

Thank You  
to All of Our  
Generous  
Donors

Donations to  
Geauga Park District  
November 2022  
through  
January 2023

Alexandra Klusmann	Bench plaque in honor of Tim & Jacquie Cogan	\$500.00
Brad Salmon	Donation in memory of William Salmon	\$160.00
Christopher & Valerie Doersen	Bench plaque in memory of Teri Drushel	\$600.00
Cleveland Foundation	Lewis & Ruth Affelder Fund	\$499.25
Danielle Susevich	Bench plaque in memory of Mark Hamilton	\$500.00
Edward N. Carrol	K9 Fund	\$75.00
Jennifer Kless	Bench plaque in memory of Beth Magersupp	\$600.00
Foundation for Geauga Parks	Observatory Park signs	\$437.12
Foundation for Geauga Parks	Nature Scopes program 2022-23	\$32,668.40
Foundation for Geauga Parks	Frohing Pollinator Play Area	\$98,615.65
Gauga Walkers	Donation for naturalist programs	\$100.00
Louise Foster	K9 Fund	\$250.00
Margaret Shipp	Bench plaque in memory of Dr. Ernest & Sally Scott	\$600.00
One Tree Planted	Reforestation of Veterans Legacy Woods	\$5,300.00
Petersen & Petersen	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00
Jolene Carnabuci	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00

# Let Nature Inspire Your Writing

## Enter Geauga Park District's 28th Annual Nature Writing Contest

POETRY & PROSE • 3 AGE CATEGORIES • GET PUBLISHED! • WIN \$ PRIZES!

Saturday, April 22, is Earth Day — and the deadline for writers of all ages to submit Nature-inspired poetry, prose or both to this annual contest. Get your application online at <http://bit.ly/gpdnwc2023> or at The West Woods Nature Center, Big Creek Park's Meyer Center, or

your favorite Geauga library. In addition to cash prizes, winners are published in our Nature Writer's Chapbook and online, and get invited to a special winners coffeehouse celebration at Claridon Woodlands. Good luck!



## 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 &amp; 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° 27.320  
W -81° 18.268

Check out the new geocache  
at The West Woods in Russell Twp.

Expires January 1, 2025. Find details on our website under Activities.

Let's try something new, a bit out of the blue.  
It might seem a bore just sitting on the forest floor,  
but this cache is locked up, and soon you will find  
that a twist here and there will open it with time.  
A clue you will read to find the right key.  
Hope you had fun by the time you are done!

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: 4.68</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.

# A Bird's Year

The Baltimore Oriole is a favorite species for many people. Brightly clad in orange, black and white, it sings a pleasing song welcoming spring's return to Geauga County. But where is the oriole when it isn't here?

We only see Baltimore Orioles in spring and summer, so where are they the rest of the year? Orioles are part of a diverse suite of bird species called **neotropical migrants** that overwinter in central and South America and breed in the United States and Canada. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and hummingbirds are others. But for now, let's follow a Baltimore Oriole journey during the course of a year.

Our story begins in late August, when baby orioles have fledged and are becoming independent. Shortening days trigger a response to start moving south, kicking off a fall migration that takes two or two-and-a-half months. By early September, most Baltimore Orioles have shifted west to the Great Plains, south to Texas, and the first birds start to appear in southern Mexico. This shift to Mexico and Central America is rapid throughout September, and by mid-October only a few stragglers remain in Texas. By early November, the fall migration is complete, and all the orioles are on their wintering grounds, from southern Mexico to Columbia and Venezuela.

Once in the tropics, Baltimore Orioles will flock up with other neotropical migrants and some resident birds. These mixed flocks move through the forests together in search of food — which, for our orioles, is nectar, fruit and insects. Other wildlife they may encounter are toucans, parrots, monkeys and sloths: a decidedly



different collection of wildlife than they encounter in Ohio! They will stay on wintering grounds until late April, when spring migration starts, at which point the first few birds will begin reaching Texas.

In the spring, Baltimore Orioles need to migrate thousands of miles, stake out a territory, find a mate, and raise their young. They are motivated to move. Compared to their relatively slow pace in the fall, spring migration only lasts about one month, winding up by late May. In that one month,

they will have moved from central and South America to the northern parts of the United States and southern Canada! June through August, they nest, raise babies, and enjoy our long days of summer. Then, in September, the migration cycle begins again.

It is imperative that neotropical migrants like our Baltimore Oriole have intact habitats on their breeding and winter grounds, and along their migration route. As more lands become developed, these green spaces become oases to birds. Geauga Park District offers excellent stop-over habitat for birds on migration as well as high-quality breeding habitats. This spring, when you see a Baltimore Oriole, possibly on one of our naturalist-led bird walks, take a moment to think about the incredible journey that little bird has experienced!







## Create a Simple Spring Tree Painting

You will need: black/brown, blue, red and white craft paint, a brown paper bag (one that is bigger and made of thicker paper), cotton balls, cotton swabs

We'll create one of these for each season in 2023, so by this fall you'll have a set of four to display!



First, take a spring hike to look up at the tree branches. Observe how new leaves and blossoms grow from the branches.

1. Cut a square/rectangle from a big paper bag; it's made of nice, thick paper and often easy to find around the home. Crinkle it up a bit to create some texture in the paper. Use a cotton ball to smear light blue paint from edge to edge for the background. Let dry.

2. With black or brown paint, use a cotton swab to draw a straight, thick line from top to bottom. You can do it right through the center or off to one side. Then create a few thick lines diagonally and extend them to the paper's edge. Let dry.

3. Extend some thinner lines out from the diagonal lines. You can even draw some from the main thick vertical line. Let dry.

4. Use the green paint and a cotton swab to dab dots along the sides of the lines for small spring leaves. You can also take some pink or yellow paint and dab dots for spring blossoms.

5. Finally, let the paint dry completely. If you'd prefer to flatten your painting out, place between two sheets of paper and put inside a thick book.

## 2023 summer camps

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED** for all camps at 440-286-9516. Required waivers and other details will be sent prior to camp. Campers bring lunch, water and a raincoat in a backpack each day. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also recommended; all other equipment is included in the fee and provided. Financial assistance is available. Please call for details.

## Have some fun outside!

### Nature Explorer Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 3-4 — 2 sessions)

Mon - Fri, July 10-14; August 7-11  
9 AM - 3 PM daily; at The West Woods, Affelder House  
Fee: \$150 Geauga residents, \$175 out-of-county residents

Ready to explore? Sign up for an exciting week of exploring streams, ponds, and forests to search for and learn about insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, astronomy and more! Campers will spend their day both on and off trail at this park. Drop off and pick up each day at Affelder House.

### Junior Naturalist Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 5-7 — 2 sessions)

Mon - Fri, June 5-9; July 24-28  
9 AM - 3 PM daily, at Swine Creek Reservation  
Fee: \$150 Geauga residents, \$175 out-of-county residents

Ready to learn how to be a naturalist? Join this exciting week of exploring streams, ponds and forests. Search for and learn about insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, astronomy and more! Campers will spend their time both on and off trail at this park. Drop off and pick up each day at the lodge.

### X-TREME Cuyahoga Kayak Challenge

(Teens entering grades 8-10)

Wednesday, July 26, 9 AM - 3 PM at Eldon Russell Park  
Fee: \$30 Geauga residents, \$35 out-of-county residents

The wilds of the Upper Cuyahoga River are home to a wondrous variety of birds and beasts. Join camp staff on this "X-TREME" adventure as we paddle our way, discovering plants and wildlife in and along the river. Bring supplies in a waterproof bag and wear shoes to get wet or muddy.

### Nature Adventure Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 5-7 — 4 sessions)

Mon - Fri, June 12-16; June 26-30;  
July 17-21; July 31 - August 4

(Teens entering grades 8-10 — 2 sessions)

Mon - Fri, June 19-23; July 10-14

All sessions 9 AM - 3 PM daily  
Fee: \$150 Geauga residents,  
\$175 out-of-county residents

Are you ready to explore!? If so, join Geauga Park District for an exciting week of exploring through nature discovery and recreational activities. We will bike, kayak, try archery, explore nature and more! Campers will begin (get dropped off) and end (get picked up) each day at various parks: Claridon Woodlands Monday and Tuesday, Headwaters Park on Wednesday, Observatory Park on Thursday, and Chickagami Park on Friday.

### X-TREME Evening Adventure

(Teens entering grades 8-10)

Wednesday, August 2, 5-11 PM, at Observatory Park  
Fee: \$30 Geauga residents, \$35 out-of-county residents

This evening adventure features a craft, astronomy, a campfire, a night hike and more! Participants should bring a lunch and water bottle in a backpack, as well as insect repellent that can be applied on-site if needed.



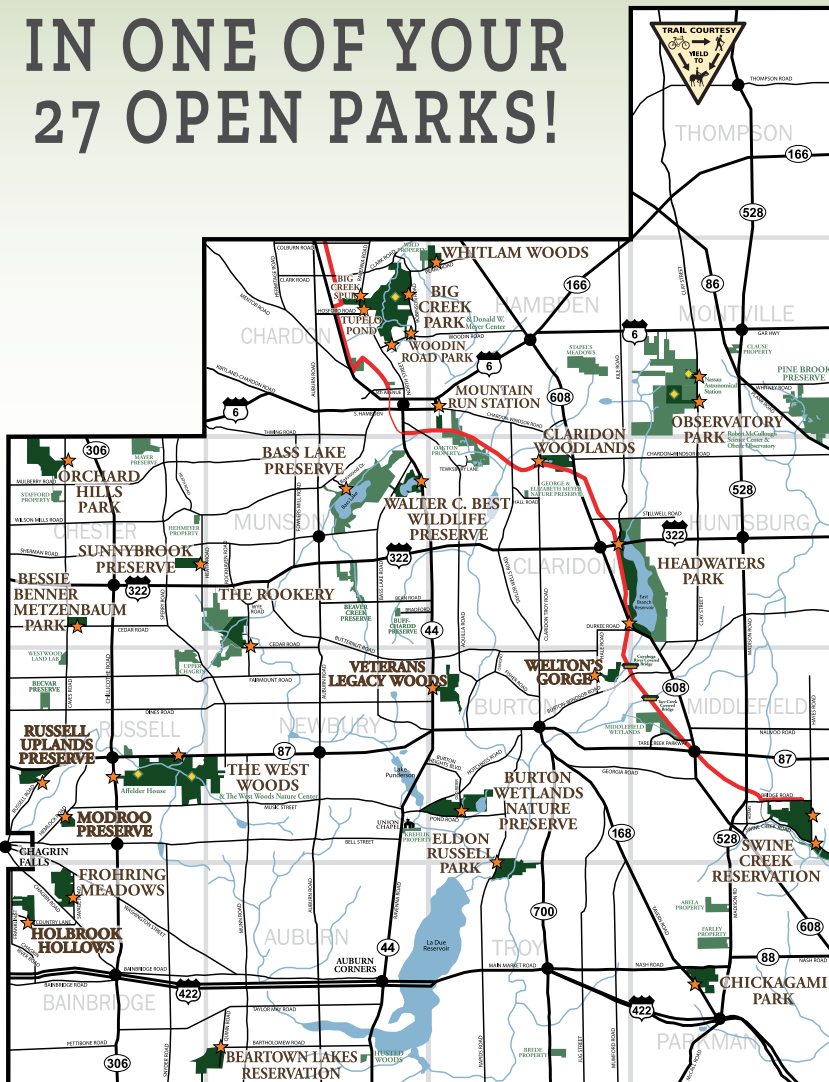
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Chardon, OH 44024-9148

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# FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

## IN ONE OF YOUR 27 OPEN PARKS!



Get up-close with the  
vehicles and equipment  
of Geauga Park District!

**Saturday, May 20,  
10 AM - 2 PM  
at The West Woods**

Details on page 11



Parking onsite with shuttles  
running from overflow parking at  
ASM International, 0.6 mile east of  
The West Woods on Rt. 87.



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[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)  
440-286-9516

