

PARKEXPLORER

GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT ACTIVITY GUIDE



*Naturalist-led canoe program
at Headwaters Park
Drone photo by Lake Erie Video*

SUMMER 2023

4 The making of a mountain bike trail & a new adventure

7 On the way to our goal of planting 1,000 trees at Veterans Legacy Woods

18 Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual Space Race

19 Announcement of next year's community art show

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.

★ Nights Out ★ in the Parks

Music concerts

Foster Brown 7/16
Veterans Legacy Woods at 4 PM
Jim & Beth (Acoustic) 8/19
Big Creek Park at 7 PM

*Outdoor movie nights at Observatory Park;
movies begin at dusk*

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

Nature & Arts Fest

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 • 10 AM - 4 PM **The West Woods**

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

Moths & Meteors Overnight Event

Friday, August 11, 9 PM - Saturday, August 12, 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 and mercury vapor lamps.

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



THE GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR

Thursday, August 31 - Monday, September 4 • 11 AM - 7 PM

Visit our 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.

August sunset at Frohring Meadows - Photo by Jim Marquardt

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.



Gaugua 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
info@geaugaparkdistrict.com

Phone: 440-286-9516
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From the Desk of THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director
John Oros

Dear Geauga County Friends & Neighbors,

Welcome to the summer edition of your *Park Explorer*. As I write this greeting, the beautiful spring weather has finally arrived. The Geauga County Maple Festival has come and gone, allowing us to usher in sunny days, temperatures in the 60s and 70s, and the opportunity to get caught up on spring chores. Now that summer has arrived, I hope you and your family get the opportunity to visit one of your 27 parks. Geauga Park District has so much to offer.

Now is the time to enjoy the neo-tropical songbirds that call Northeast Ohio home. With Lake Erie just to our north, this area of Ohio booms with songbird activity each spring and fall as many of our migratory species rest up prior to making their way to Canada and the northern forests. Let's also remember those species that call Geauga County home prior to making the trip back to South America. Truly there is no better way to experience these wonderful creatures than to hone your birding skills. Download a bird app to your phone; there are many to choose from. Apps from the National Audubon Society, or Merlin Bird ID by The Cornell Lab, are as close as a Google search to help you realize your potential as an amateur birder.

As the 2023 construction season kicks off, watch for improvements to your existing park lands, including the mountain bike trail at Big Creek Park in partnership with the volunteer collaborative CAMBA. Be sure to check out their lead article in this edition. Additional improvements will soon be underway at Veterans Legacy Woods (trail improvements), Swine Creek Reservation (new asphalt) and Holbrook Hollows (additional parking, restroom and shelter amenities).

I hope Geauga Park District inspires you to rediscover Nature and rediscover *you* this summer. Immersing oneself in Nature is incredibly therapeutic, whether you're birding, biking, taking a leisurely morning walk with a friend, or anything else your parks have to offer. Regardless of your adventure, we hope to see you in your Geauga parks this summer.

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.

FEATURING PARK FRIENDS

ADVENTURE AWAITS

The Making of a Mountain Bike Trail at Big Creek Park

By Michael Ryba

First, about me (Michael Ryba) & CAMBA...

In 2001, the Cleveland Area Mountain Biking Association was just being formed. I joined the group, got active in trail building, and became their treasurer. I have been active in both those roles ever since.

I really enjoy being outside and contributing to the enjoyment of the outdoors for others. Some years, I spend more time working on trails and supporting CAMBA than I do riding trails. But that's OK. I also enjoy trail running and cross-country skiing.

Myself and dozens of CAMBA volunteers have been trained on trail construction and maintenance techniques through our affiliation with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA).

CAMBA's partnership with all the area parks is a great example of what can be accomplished when citizens form a group, and that group works with area land managers to achieve mutual goals. We all want accessible, environmentally sustainable, enjoyable trails.



Geauga Park District

Geauga Park District approached CAMBA in August 2019 asking for our assistance in building a mountain bike trail at Big Creek Park. After discussions, a plan was formed to use a “hybrid” approach to building the trails there. This means it would be a combination of volunteer and in-house Geauga Park employees building the trail. A few other experienced volunteers and I hiked the park several times to get a vision of what kind and how much trail was possible. Experience has shown that a mountain bike trail must be at least four to five miles long to get significant use and be worth the investment of resources.

Another goal was to make the trail “fun at 5 and fun at 15.” That means users would enjoy the experience whether they were going slow (5 mph) or fast (15 mph). It was clear that the natural beauty of the terrain would be its biggest draw. I visited the park many times last winter to “tweak” the trail so that it would be great in either direction any time of year.

Park management reviewed the prospective trail to make sure it met their goals and would be environmentally sound. In June of 2020, construction by Geauga Park District started in earnest, and many thanks to their professional crew who worked through some very hot days. My career in education allowed me the time to work side by side with them a number of days.

In 2021, additional mileage (.75) was added per the master plan. CAMBA volunteers and a paid contractor did most of the work.



Then, in 2022, volunteers, a paid contractor and the Park District added an additional two miles of trail. The Park District contributed a substantial amount of supplies and professional services. And as of the fall of 2022, a 4.5-mile loop was complete and open to the public.

This year, the Park District is stepping up in terms of providing more professional services, a kiosk and trailhead facilities. An additional 1.2 miles of trail will be built at the park this summer to complete the last phase of its mountain bike trail system. Trail mileage will total around six miles. A mountain bike race is scheduled to run there in July. 🍁



Spend Some Time at Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve

Its bridge like a real-life setting in a Claude Monet *Waterlilies* painting, Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve is a gem found south of Chardon Square along Route 44. Donated in memory of Walter C. Best, founder of the nearby Best Sand Corporation, who built its 30-acre lake because of his interest in waterfowl, this 101-acre park is home to a rich diversity of plant and animal life.

More than 150 kinds of birds have been sighted at this park. Many are migratory visitors like waterfowl that visit during spring and fall migrations. The marshy meadows, thickets and wooded stream corridor harbor an outstanding variety of nesting songbirds.

A tall grass prairie is an attractive nectar source for hummingbirds, many kinds of butterflies and other fascinating insects. Wildflowers also surround the edges of the lake, where these critters are a common sight to summertime walkers.

Fishing is a popular activity here; fishing platforms are located around the lake.



These provide easier access to deep-water areas. Gamefish include Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Channel Catfish, Bluegill and other sunfish. You'll even see some folks ice-fishing throughout the winter.

Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve has three trails totaling 1.6 miles that provide a variety of experiences. All trails are paved and wheelchair accessible. Goldenrod Trail circles the prairie. Waterfowl Walkway takes Nature watchers to the wildlife observation blind, providing a unique vantage point to relax without disturbing feeding and resting waterfowl. And the Cattail Trail takes visitors all the way around the lake to experience scenic views of this beautiful Nature preserve.

Appropriately named, Sunset Shelter is available for reservations to host gatherings and small parties, offering a nice view of the setting sun — a perfect option for warmer-weather months. 🍁

FIELD NOTES:

AT ONE MILE, CATTAIL TRAIL IS A MUST-DO HIKE AROUND THE LAKE. RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT BEING NEAR WATER HAS A CALMING EFFECT ON OUR MINDS. PLAN YOUR VISIT IN THE EVENING WHEN CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT FOR THE ADDED BENEFIT OF EXPERIENCING A SPECTACULAR SUNSET.



EARTH DAY 2023

Geauga Park District's new 1,000 Trees Earth Day initiative to reforest Veterans Legacy Woods began April 20 and finished with planting on Earth Day, April 22 — and the stats below show what wonderful success was enjoyed by this expansive park, formerly Wicked Woods Golf Course. Regional excitement continues to build around this project, and you can learn more on our website about plans to plant more toward our 1,000-tree goal (and how you can help) this October 12 and 13. **HUGE THANKS** to all who have helped to date!



Planting Stats for Earth Day Weekend 2023

- 310 3-to-6-foot Ohio native trees/shrubs & 40 bare root saplings planted by volunteers
- 141 volunteers planted on Thursday
- 76 planted on Friday
- 57 planted on Saturday (despite the rain)
- 16 incredible sponsors & 3 in-kind sponsors

Potted trees and shrubs planted this Earth Day were all grown from local native Ohio seed and stood roughly three to six feet tall.

"These trees will be great wildlife habitat within just a few short years," said Park Biologist Paul Pira, "providing excellent food and habitat to countless songbirds, insects and other wildlife"

Furthermore, Natural Resource Management staff once again raised (also from locally collected seeds) and distributed more than 600 free native wildflowers (milkweed, coneflower, etc.) to very happy park patrons during our 3rd annual Earth Day drive-through event. Special thanks to Kent State University's Geauga campus for the continued use of its greenhouse toward this special cause.



RED OAK SPONSOR
\$3,000

supporting 133 trees



ONETREEPLANTED



SUGAR MAPLE SPONSOR
\$1,500

supporting 67 trees



Western Reserve
Land Conservancy
land • people • community



DOGWOOD SPONSOR
\$250

supporting 11 trees



TULIP POPLAR SPONSOR
\$500

supporting 22 trees



Also, thanks to the National Wild Turkey Federation for donating trees, Sage's Apples for donating 100 apples for the day, and Sunrise Springs for donating plenty of water to keep the worker bees hydrated.

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

1 Nature Night Lecture Series: Freshwater Mussels

Saturday, July 1, 7–8:30 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Our streams, rivers and lakes are full of native freshwater mussels. Learn about these fascinating creatures that are also some of the most imperiled animals in Ohio.

Registration required. ♿

1 Paracord Survival Bracelets

Saturday, July 1, 10 AM–11 AM & 11 AM–Noon, The West Woods,

Nature Center

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

Choose two awesome paracord colors and learn how to braid your own unique survival paracord bracelet. Bracelet clip includes a whistle, compass and more. Registration required. ♿

1 Nature Trek Fitness Hike

Saturday, July 1, 2–4 PM, Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge Parking Lot

Take a fast-paced hike with cool Nature facts along the way. Must be able to hike at least 4.5 miles on hilly trails. Held rain or shine. Dress accordingly and bring water. Registration required.

3 Full Moon Hike: The Green Corn Moon

Monday, July 3, 9–10:30 PM

Observatory Park

Take a 1.5-mile hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about ripening corn and experience Nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. Registration required.

5 Drop-in Nature Craft: Nature Prints

Wednesday, July 5, 1–3 PM

The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Drop in during program hours to create a Nature print wall hanging and learn fun Nature facts. This craft uses acrylic paints, so dress for a mess. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult. ♿

6 Early Morning Hike

Thursday, July 6, 8–9:30 AM,

Observatory Park, Nassau Astronomical Station

Take an early morning up-paced hike through the field and forest of this beautiful park. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Registration required.

8 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Gorge Exploration

Saturday, July 8, 1–3:30 PM

Welton's Gorge

Take a strenuous off-trail hike into a rocky woodland ravine to discover rock ledges, cool streams, and unique plants and animals. Must be able to hike 2 miles without assistance off-trail in rugged terrain including slippery stream bottoms, steep grades and obstacles. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction. Bring a walking stick or we will provide one. Held rain or shine. Registration required.

9 Hound Hike

Sunday, July 9, 8:30–10 AM

The Rookery

Dogs and their humans, let's take a roughly 3-mile hike along the easy Interurban Trail. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler and on a leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. Registration required.

9 Polliwog Paddle Family Canoe

(Ages 5+ w/adult)

Sunday, July 9, 1–3 PM, Eldon Russell Park Families, take an easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River! Bring water bottle, sunscreen and changes of clothes in case of capsize. Ages 5+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. Registration required by phone only beginning July 2 at 10 AM.

11 Streamlife Exploration for Families

Tuesday, July 11, 1–3 PM

The West Woods

Venture into a forested stream to discover wildlife such as crayfish, salamanders and crane fly larva. Held outdoors, even in light rain, so dress accordingly. Wear shoes or boots for wading in a rocky stream; no sandals. Waiver required. Registration required.



12 After-Work Hike

Wednesday, July 12, 6–7:30 PM

The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Take a 2-mile hike along hilly trails.

Registration required.

12 Union Chapel Bat Count

Wednesday, July 12, 8:30–9:30 PM

Newbury Union Chapel on State Route 44

Union Chapel is home to Geauga 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. Directions to site will be sent before program. Registration required.

13 Inclusive Experience: Wetlands & Reptiles

Thursday, July 13, 10:30–11:30 AM

The Rookery

A special program for adults in the developmental disability community! Join a naturalist to meet some reptile friends, followed by a walk along the wetlands to discover more. Registration required.

16 Family Afternoon in the Park

Sunday, July 16, 2–4 PM

Veterans Legacy Woods

Enjoy an afternoon of family fun with outdoor games and Nature activities, no registration required! Then pack a picnic and stay for the concert at 4 PM. Held indoors if inclement weather.

16 Nature Journaling: Butterflies

Sunday, July 16,

3–5:30 PM,

Frohring Meadows

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

Learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month our inspiration will be butterflies. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. Registration required by phone only.



16 Afternoon Out in the Park: Foster Brown

Sunday, July 16, 4–5:15 PM

Veterans Legacy Woods

Our traditional "Nights Out" becomes a Sunday "Afternoon Out" with this special concert of original Nature songs by Foster Brown! Foster accompanies himself with guitar, banjo, fiddle, dulcimer and various percussion instruments. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, pack a picnic, and enjoy an afternoon of family fun! Held under cover if inclement weather.

18 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1–2 w/adult) Tuesday, July 18,
9–10 AM & 11 AM–Noon
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge
Experience Nature with your little one as we
see, smell and touch summertime in the park.
Strollers and carriers welcome. **Registration
required** for all attending including siblings
and adults. ♿

18 Drop-in Nature Craft: Leaf Feathers

Tuesday, July 18, 1–3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge
Drop in during program hours to create a
feather out of a pressed leaf and learn fun
feather facts. Craft available while supplies
last. Children must be accompanied by an
adult. ♿

18 Geauga Walkers

Tuesday, July 18, 1–2:30 PM
Russell Uplands Preserve
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long.
Moderate level. Limited parking; carpooling
recommended. Naturalist led. Call Geauga
Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167.
Registration required.

20 Elderberries: Kayaking & More

Thursday, July 20, 9 AM–12:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Seniors, enjoy a morning of kayaking and
hiking, plus a hands-on Nature activity! The
Ohman Family Living at Briar will provide
a light breakfast at 9 AM. In collaboration
with the Geauga County Dept. on Aging and
UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration
required.**

22 Stream Hike

Saturday, July 22, 1–2:30 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve
Salamanders, minnows, crayfish: there is so
much life to discover in our streams! Bring
your creek-walking shoes, we'll bring nets,
and we'll hike together down to the stream
to discover what lives there. Ages 7+, no
younger children; under 18 requires an adult.
Registration required.

22 Movie Night: "Encanto"

Saturday, July 22,
8:30–11:30 PM
Observatory Park
Join us for a screening of
Disney's "Encanto" (PG)
at this International Dark
Sky Park! Movie shown
at dusk, approximately
9:30 PM. Bring blankets,
lawn chairs and
refreshments. Shown
indoors if inclement
weather.



22 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, July 22, 9–11 PM
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!
Cancelled if cloudy; check our website or social
media for notice.

23 Important Bird Area Walks

Sunday, July 23, 8–10 AM
Orchard Hills Park
Join Blackbrook Audubon Society on our
Important Bird Area (IBA) bird walks on the
fourth Sunday of every month. Good for
beginners and experienced birders. Group
birding is a fun way to learn more bird
identification tips firsthand. Free and open to all.
Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Learn
more at www.blackbrookaudubon.org. ♿

23 Nature Exploration

Kayak (Ages 12+ w/adult)
Sunday, July 23, 9–10:30 AM
Bass Lake Preserve
Discover an amazing diversity of plants and
animals during a leisurely morning kayak. Ages
12+, no younger children; under 18 requires
an adult. Basic kayaking skills required as
instruction is not given. Bring a water bottle,
sunscreen and change of clothes in case of
capsize. **Registration required** beginning
July 16 at 10 AM.



23 Prairie Blooms Hike

Sunday, July 23, 1–2:30 PM
Orchard Hills Park
Take an easy hike to explore the park's grasslands
to view the flowers in peak bloom and identify
many of the grasses and the pollinators that
depend on these plants. **Registration required.**

24 Grandparents in the Park Summer Picnic

Monday, July 24, 11:30 AM–1 PM
Orchard Hills Park, Lodge
Grandparents and grandchildren, enjoy a day in
the park together with a picnic (food/beverages
provided) and fun activities for all ages! In
collaboration with the Geauga County Dept. on
Aging. **Registration required** for all attending.

25 Scout Day: Astronomy Merit Badge Workshop

Tuesday, July 25, 7–10:30 PM
Observatory Park
Gauga Park District is pleased to offer this
badge at our International Dark Sky Park. Pre-
work will be required for certain requirements;
details emailed with registration. An astronomy
Merit Badge Counselor will be on site.
Registration required.

27 Geauga Gems Trek

Thursday, July 27, 9–10:30 AM
Holbrook Hollows
Explore Holbrook Hollows on a 2.5-mile,
medium-level hike. Dress for the weather and
wear sturdy foot gear. **Registration required.**

27 Nature Explorers: Bass Lake Canoe

(Ages 6–11 w/adult)
Thursday, July 27, 6–8 PM
Bass Lake Preserve, Lodge
Join naturalists for a paddle exploring Bass Lake
in search of wildlife, dragonflies, birds, aquatic
plants and more! (registered adult preferably has
some canoe experience) **Registration required**
by phone only beginning July 13 at 10.

27 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, July 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.** ♿

28 Indigo Shibori Dyeing

Friday, July 28, 6:30–9 PM
The West Woods, Deer Run Shelter
Fee: \$45 Geauga residents, \$50 out-of-county
Join artist Deb Berkebile to learn Shibori dyeing
techniques. Learn to mix your own vat of
indigo dyes, plus folding, twisting and clamping
techniques. Class includes a scarf and one
yard of cotton fabric to use. Dress for mess.
Registration required. ♿

29 Dragon Hunting at Orchard Hills

Saturday, July 29, 1:30–3:30 PM
Orchard Hills Park, Pondsides Shelter
Discover which dragonflies inhabit these
wetlands, observe their behaviors, and try your
hand at catching some! Nets provided; bring
your own binoculars, camera, sunsreen and
water. Wear sturdy walking shoes for off-trail;
no flip-flops. **Registration required.**






30 Ansel's Cave Historic Signature Hike

Sunday, July 30, 1–4 PM
The West Woods

Take a hike to Ansel's Cave to help discover and record historic signatures etched on the sandstone walls of this beautiful rock outcropping. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear for a hilly terrain and stream crossing. **Registration required.**

30 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, July 30, 2–2:45 PM & 3–3:45 PM,
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

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

RECURRING PROGRAMS

6 8 Lake Kelso Kayak


(Ages 10+ w/adult)
Thursday, July 6, 9–11 AM &
Saturday July 8, 9–11 AM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
Spend the morning on the tranquil waters of Lake Kelso, enjoying the wildlife and beautiful surroundings. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. Basic kayaking skills required as instruction is not given. **Registration required** beginning June 29 at 10 AM for 7/6 program and July 1 for 7/8 program.


7 15 Basic Learn to Kayak

(Ages 10+ w/adult)
Friday, July 7, 6:30–8:30 PM
Saturday, July 15, 8–10 AM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse

Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. No private kayaks or unregistered people. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Bring water and a change of clothes in case you get wet. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required** beginning June 30 at 10 AM for the 7/7 program and July 8 for the 7/15 program.

14 28 Amazing Exoplanets

Friday, July 14, 7–8 PM
Observatory Park 

Friday, July 28, 7–8 PM
Virtual program 

Explore exoplanets, the strange new worlds discovered in other solar systems, followed by night sky viewing, weather permitting. July 28 is online via Zoom; register for the program and receive a link to join. **Registration required** for both sessions.

 Fully Accessible



 Nature Scopes



14 15 28 29


Night Sky Viewing

Fridays, July 14 & 28, 8–11 PM
Saturdays, July 15 & 29, 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.  

21 22 Weave an Egg Basket

Friday, July 21, 1–6 PM
Saturday, July 22, 1–6 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center


Fee: \$25 Geauga residents, \$28 out-of-county
Build on your basket weaving skills while we weave an egg basket. Skill level: intermediate. **Registration required.** 

28 29 Timbertots: Fish Fun

(Ages 3–5 w/adult)
Friday, July 28, 10–11 AM & 1–2 PM
Bass Lake Preserve, Lodge
Saturday, July 29, 10–11 AM & 1–2 PM
Beartown Lakes Reservation, North Point
Let's learn about our finny friends through fun games and activities! Held outdoors, so dress accordingly. **Registration required** for all attending including adults and siblings.


1 Full Moon Hike: The Sturgeon Moon

Tuesday, August 1, 9–10 PM
Observatory Park

Take a 1.5-mile hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about the amazing Lake Sturgeon and experience Nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.** 

3 Drop-in Nature Craft: Pine Cones

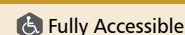
Thursday, August 3, 1–3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge

Drop in during program hours to turn pine cones into art and learn fun Nature facts. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 

5 Hound Hike

Saturday, August 5, 8–9 AM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Dogs and their humans, let's take a 1-mile hike along the easy Planetary Trail. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler and on a leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. **Registration required.**



5 Summer Gems Walk

Saturday, August 5, 8:30–10 AM
Holbrook Hollows

Take an early morning walk with a naturalist to see what the season has to offer. **Registration required.**

5 Scout Day: Bear Scouts - Fur, Feathers & Ferns Adventure

Saturday, August 5, 10–11:30 AM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Bear Cub Scouts, come work on your Fur, Feathers & Ferns Adventure. Dress for the weather, as program includes a hike. **Registration required** for scouts only, but adult or leader must stay during the program.

5 Scout Day: Brownie Bugs Badge

Saturday, August 5, 1–3:30 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Brownies, come work toward your Brownie Bugs Badge. Dress for the weather, as the program includes a hike. **Registration required** for scouts only, but adult or leader must stay during the program.

6 Grand River Extreme Kayak (Adults)

Sunday, August 6, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM
Grand River Conservation Campus
Ashtabula County

Take a naturalist-led, day-long kayak to discover a wondrous variety of birds, dragonflies, reptiles and other critters. Anticipate strenuous exploration as we paddle downstream and upstream. Bring lunch, snacks and water bottle in a waterproof bag, plus sunscreen and insect repellent. Directions to location provided after registration. Kayaks provided. Must have previous kayaking experience. Adults only. **Registration required** beginning July 30 at 10 AM.

6 Nature & Arts Fest

Sunday, August 6, 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 again feature exhibits and activities outside including interactive booths, hikes and live animals, while artists show and sell Nature-inspired artwork inside the nature center and outdoors..



9 After-Work Hike

Wednesday, August 9, 6:30–7:30 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve

Take a 1.75-mile, medium-level hike along these hilly trails. **Registration required.**

10 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1–2 w/adult)

Thursday, August 10, 9–10 AM & 11 AM–Noon, The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge

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



11 Moths & Meteors Overnight Event

Friday, August 11, 9 PM – Saturday, August 12, 6 AM, Observatory Park

Bring a tent and spend the night enjoying the Perseid Meteor Shower and the night-flying moths attracted by our black light and mercury vapor lamps! NOTE: Only those who can show receipt of registration will be permitted entry. Best meteor viewing 1-3 AM. Naturalist on site from sunset to sunrise. Camping guidelines: Tents only. Set up Friday after 4 PM; must remove Saturday by 9 AM. No campers, trailers, generators, alcoholic beverages, grills or open fires. Pets must be leashed at all times. Cancelled in case of inclement weather. **Registration required.**

12 Make a Bird House

Saturday, August 12, Noon–3 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

Build and take home a house that a bird would be proud to call home! Bluebird and wren houses available. We'll also provide pointers on where and when to place your bird house to attract and protect birds, then head out on the trail to see bird houses in action! Supplies provided. **Registration required** "by the bird house" rather than "by the person."

12 Movie Night: Singin' in the Rain

Saturday, August 12, 8:30–11:30 PM
Observatory Park

It's been called "the greatest musical ever made," so we'll be planning for clear skies as we present "Singin' in the Rain." Movie shown at dusk, approximately 9:15 PM. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and refreshments. Shown indoors if inclement weather.



13 Nature Journaling: Kayak Experience

Sunday, August 13, 9 AM–Noon & 1–4 PM, Eldon Russell Park
Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county

Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques and record your Nature observations while kayaking; kayaking experience required. Taking photos is optional. **Registration required** by phone only.

13 Stream Hike

Sunday, August 13, 1–2:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Valley Parking
Salamanders, minnows, crayfish: there is so much life to discover in our streams! Bring your creek-walking shoes, we'll bring nets, and we'll hike together down to the stream to discover what lives there. Ages 7+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required.**



14 Nature Explorers: Orienteering Adventure

(Ages 6–11 w/registered adult)
Monday, August 14, 9–11:30 AM
Claridon Woodlands

Ages 6-11 and at least one registered adult, join a naturalist to learn the basics of using a compass, then venture into the woods to practice. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes with good traction. **Registration required** for all participants.

15 Early Morning Hike

Tuesday, August 15, 8–9:30 AM
The West Woods

Take an early morning up-paced hike on the hilly Pioneer Bridle Trail. Held rain or shine, so dress for the weather. **Registration required.**

15 Drop-in Nature Craft

Tuesday, August 15, 1–3 PM
The West Woods, Turkey Ridge
Drop in during program hours to create art from Nature and learn fun Nature facts. Craft available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

17 Elderberries: Tree ID

Thursday, August 17, 11 AM–2:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Seniors, join us to learn about tree identification during a sit-down presentation over lunch, then head out on the trails to put your new skills to the test! Mapleview Country Villa will provide a light meal at 11 AM. In collaboration with the Geauga County Dept. on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

18 Meet the Artists: Geauga Arts Council Juried Art Show

Friday, August 18, 7–9 PM
The West Woods
Meet local artists representing their works featured in this annual juried art show, now in its 17th year. Artwork on display through early October.

19 Nature Break: Women's Retreat

Saturday, August 19, 8:30 AM–1 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Fee: \$8 Geauga residents, \$10 out-of-county
Take a break and relax in the park! Activities include yoga, kayaking, 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 and for yoga. **Registration required** for all attending.

19 Nights Out in the Parks: Jim & Beth, Acoustic

Saturday, August 19, 7–8:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Amphitheater
Enjoy the music of Jim & Beth Miller, an acoustic duo covering folk and blues songs of the 60s & 70s, including the Grateful Dead, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Fleetwood Mac and more! Held inside if inclement weather.

19 Beavers at The Rookery

Saturday, August 19, 8–9:30 PM
The Rookery
Dams, lodges, chewed trees: beavers leave a lot of evidence of their existence in a pond or stream. Learn about these fascinating creatures before we take an evening stroll to attempt to observe them in their natural habitat. **Registration required.**

19 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, August 19, 9–11 PM
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! Cancelled if cloudy; check our website or social media for notice.

20 The Big Hike at Headwaters (Adults)

Sunday, August 20, 9 AM–Noon
Headwaters Park, Route 608 Parking Lot
Let's hike 4-5 miles to explore Headwaters Park, traveling as many trails as possible. Bring water and a snack. Adults only. **Registration required.**



20 Singing Insects Evening Concert

Sunday, August 20, 7:45–9:30 PM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
The summer insect ensemble resounds on warm August nights, but how can we learn who's singing in the dark? We'll talk about some of the musicians and learn how to distinguish their songs to tell who is singing. **Registration required.**

23 Geauga Gems Trek

Wednesday, August 23, 9–10 AM
Claridon Woodlands
Take an easy 1.5-mile hike. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy foot gear. **Registration required.**



24 Homeschool Days: Family Learning Fair!

Thursday, August 24, 10:30–12:30 PM & 1:30–3:30 PM,
The West Woods, Nature Center
Homeschoolers and your families, drop in anytime during program hours for fun activities and information from Geauga County organizations offering opportunities for homeschool students. Students will get a "Learning Fair Passport" to check off all visited organizations. Completed passports earn a raffle ticket to win cool prizes. Follow us on social media for notice of participating organizations when available. Partially outdoors; dress for the weather. **Registration required** for all attending including siblings and adults.

24 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, August 24, 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.**

25 Finding Black Holes

Friday, August 25, 7–8 PM
Virtual program
Black holes are fascinating, but how can you find one? We'll share how they are studied, where you can spot some in the night sky, and how to get involved in black hole research. Held online via Zoom; register to receive the link before the program. **Registration required.**

26 Astrotots XL: Is Anybody Out There? (Ages 6–11 w/adult)

Saturday, August 26, 9:30–10:45 AM & 1–2:15 PM, Observatory Park,
Robert McCullough Science Center
Come learn what to say, and how to play, with an unexpected intergalactic guest, and make your own exoplanetary pal! Explore the history and mystery of extraterrestrials, and check out the latest deep space telescope images that keep searching for life elsewhere. **Registration required** for child 6–11 years old only (not siblings/adults).

26 Trail Horse Nature Challenge

Saturday, August 26, 10 AM–3 PM
The West Woods
Challenge yourself and your horse on a 1-2 hour course with natural trail obstacles and Nature questions along the trails. Awards and certificates given in youth and adult divisions. Helmets recommended. Trailer your horse to The West Woods shelter parking lot. Once finished, you may ride other trails on your own. Expect hills, gravel, mud, streams, bicycles, hikers and other challenges. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. **Registration required.**

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors

27 Important Bird Area Walks

Sunday, August 27, 8–10 AM
Orchard Hills Park

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

27 Hidden Gems Hike: Swine Creek Valley

Sunday, August 27,
10–11:30 AM & 1–2:30 PM,
Swine Creek Reservation, Valley Shelter

Discover this amazing, often-overlooked area of the park as we hike its beautiful trails. Must be able to hike 1.5 miles over hilly terrain with stream crossing. Held rain or shine. Wear footwear that can get wet and muddy. **Registration required.**

27 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, August 27, 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. **Registration required.**

28 The Bird Tornado Strikes Again!

Monday, August 28, 7:15–8:30 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.**

30 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Gorge Exploration

Wednesday, August 30, 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, salamanders and other stream life. Must be able to hike 2 miles 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. Bring walking stick or one will be provided. Long pants recommended. **Registration required** for all attending.

30 Full Moon Hike: The Blue Moon

Wednesday, August 30, 8–9 PM
Observatory Park

A calendar quirk gives us two full moons this month! Take a 1.5-mile hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn about the moon's cycle and experience Nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.**

RECURRING PROGRAMS

1 15 29 Geauga Walkers

Tuesdays, 1–2:30 PM
August 1, Whitlam Woods
August 15, Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge
August 29, Big Creek Park, Deep Woods
Hike for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Hilly terrain, stairs and muddy areas. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

10 22 Lake Kelso Kayak

(Ages 10+ w/adult)
Thursday, August 10, 9–11 AM &
Tuesday, August 22, 8:30–10 AM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
Spend the morning on the tranquil waters of Lake Kelso, enjoying the wildlife and beautiful surroundings. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. Basic kayaking skills required as instruction is not given. Held rain or shine, except if thunderstorming. Wear shoes to get wet or muddy, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen and change of clothes in case of capsize. **Registration required** beginning August 3 at 10 AM for 8/10 program and August 15 at 10 AM for 8/22 program.

12 26 Basic Learn to Kayak

(Ages 10+ w/adult)
Saturday, August 12, 6:30–8:30 PM
Saturday, August 26, 8–10 AM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. No private kayaks or unregistered people. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy. Bring water and a change of clothes in case you get wet. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required** beginning August 5 at 10 AM for the 8/12 program and August 19 for the 8/26 program.

31 The Great Geauga County Fair

Thursday, 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 & tagging at 3 PM if butterflies are available.



13 15 Timbertots: Camp Day

(Ages 3–5 w/adult)
Sunday, August 13, 1–2 PM & 3–4 PM
Chickagami Park, Overlook Shelter
Tuesday, August 15, 10–11 AM &
1–2 PM, Big Creek Park, Maple Grove
Come out for a preschool version of big kid camp with activities, crafts and s'more! Held outdoors, dress accordingly. **Registration required** for all attending including siblings and adults.

25 26 Astrotots: Cosmic Cousins

(Ages 3–5 w/adult)
Friday, August 25, 9:30–10:30 AM,
11 AM–Noon & 1–2 PM
Saturday, August 26,
11:30 AM–12:30 PM
Observatory Park, Robert
McCullough Science Center
Come meet, greet and learn how to treat an alien from a galaxy far, far away, and make-n-take you own crazy-cool cosmic cousin! Commander Melvin will be waiting for YOU. **Registration required** for child 3-5 years old only (not siblings/adults).

25 26 Night Sky Viewing

Friday, August 25, 8–11 PM
Saturday, August 26, 8–11 PM
Observatory Park, Robert
McCullough Science Center
If skies are clear, observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Planetarium presentation if cloudy.

5 The Bird Tornado Strikes Again!

Tuesday, September 5, 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.**

8 Chagrin River Bird Quest Birding Challenge

Friday, September 8, 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. Assemble a team and register in advance by going to the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland's website, www.clevelandaudubon.org, and click on the homepage's Bird Quest button. Then come into The West Woods Nature Center for team check-in and final registration at this time, where you can also pick up maps, checklists and T-shirts and talk strategy with teammates and naturalists. All materials and activities are free.

8 Family Night Campfire & Fun

Friday, September 8, 7–8:30 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

Enjoy an evening of family fun with activities followed by a campfire and s'mores! Bring lawn chairs. Optional walk included, so wear appropriate footwear. **Registration required.**

9 Streamlife Exploration for Families

Saturday, September 9, 1–3 PM
The West Woods

Venture into a forested stream to discover wildlife such as crayfish, salamanders and crane fly larva. Held outdoors, even in light rain, so dress accordingly. Wear shoes or boots for wading in a rocky stream; no sandals. Waiver required. **Registration required.**

9 Chagrin River Bird Quest Celebration

Saturday, September 9, 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.clevelandaudubon.org.

10 Backcountry Hike

Sunday, September 10, 9 AM–Noon
The Rookery

Go for an intense off-trail exploration to areas not open to the public. Flat terrain but wet conditions. Pack water and snacks, and wear taller waterproof boots. Ages 12+ with adult. **Registration required** for all participants.

10 Monarchs & Meadow Insects

Sunday, September 10, 12:30–4 PM
Frohning Meadows, Katydid Lodge

Drop in at any time during program to net Monarch butterflies and a variety of other butterflies, grasshoppers, praying mantids and native pollinators. Nets provided or bring your own. Sun protection, socks, hat and long pants recommended. No insect collecting for removal from park. Monarchs tagged by our naturalist, recording the name of the person who netted it so that we can contact you if that butterfly is recovered in Mexico.



13 After-Work Walk

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30–7:30 PM
The Rookery

Take an easy 3-mile hike along the Interurban Trail. **Registration required.**

14 Early Morning Hike

Thursday, September 14, 8–9 AM
Big Creek Park, Maple Grove

Take an early morning up-paced hike on the hilly Trillium Trail. **Registration required.**

16 Shorebirds or Bust Van Trip (Adults)

Saturday, September 16, 8 AM–4 PM
The West Woods

Shorebird migration is in full swing in late summer, and they are usually found feeding in exposed mudflats throughout the area. We'll use binoculars and spotting scopes to identify these tricky birds. Dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch and binoculars. Adults only. **Registration required.**

16 Horseback Riders: Amish Buggy Training & Trail Ride

Saturday, September 16, 9:30 AM–1:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation

Bring your own horse to meet and experience an Amish horse and buggy, both stationary and moving, in a non-threatening way courtesy of Rhoda Wengerd. You and your horse will learn to safely share the trail with buggies until 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.**

16 End of the Summer Kayak

(Ages 10+ w/adult)
Saturday, September 16,
10:30 AM–Noon & 1:30–3 PM
Bass Lake Preserve

Enjoy a float on this beautiful lake as we experience the beauty of Nature and say farewell to the summer. Must have previous kayaking experience. Bring a snack, water and sunscreen. Kayaks provided, no personal kayaks permitted. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required** beginning September 9 at 10 AM.

16 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS

Saturday, September 16, 8–11 PM
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! No registration required. Cancelled if cloudy; check our website or social media for notice.



17 Salamander Search

Sunday, September 17, 2–3:30 PM
The West Woods, Affelder House

The cooler, wet weather of early fall sparks increased salamander activity. Explore these ravines, streams and forests for these creatures and other amphibians and reptiles. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking boots. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Registration required.**

17 Nature Journaling: Fabulous Fungi

Sunday, September 17, 3–5:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center

Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county
Attend this monthly series to learn basic journaling techniques to record your Nature observations. This month our inspiration will be fabulous fungi. Partially outdoors. Taking photos is optional. **Registration required** by phone only.

Adventure/Discovery Arts Astronomy Kids Seniors



18 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer

(Ages 1–2 w/adult)
Monday, September 18, 9–10 AM & 11 AM–Noon, Orchard Hills Park, Lodge
Experience Nature with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome. **Registration required** for all attending including siblings and adults. ♿

18 Ansel's Cave Hike: History Written in Rock

Monday, September 18, 5:30–7:30 PM
The West Woods
Explore Ansel's Cave to discover its history written in rock – a rare opportunity to enter 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.**

21 Elderberries: Astronomy Night

Thursday, September 21, 6:30–9:30 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center
There's so much to see in the sky! At this special Elderberries Astronomy Night, we'll have a planetarium show, an outdoor astronomy activity, and finish the evening with night sky viewing (weather permitting) to see planets, nebula and other celestial features. The Ohman Family Living at Blossom will provide a meal at 6:30 PM. In collaboration with the Geauga County Dept. on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. **Registration required.**

21 Sunset Kayak

Thursday, September 21, 7–8:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Take a peaceful float on this beautiful lake, experiencing the sights and sounds as we wait for sunset. Must have previous kayaking experience. Bring a snack, water and change of clothes in case of capsize. **Registration required** beginning September 14 at 10 AM.

23 Hound Hike

Saturday, September 23, 8:30–9:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Dogs and their humans, join us for a 1-mile hike along the medium-level Trillium Trail. Cold Nose Companions Dog Training will share helpful tips and tricks to practice during the hike. Bring dog towels, water, water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. One dog per handler and on a leash at all times (8 ft. max). Dogs must be non-aggressive to people and other dogs. **Registration required.**

23 Polliwog Paddle Family Canoe

(Ages 5+ w/adult)
Saturday, September 23, 10 AM–Noon
Eldon Russell Park
Families, take an easy-paced, short-distance float on the wildlife-rich Upper Cuyahoga River! Bring water bottle, sunscreen and changes of clothes in case of capsize. Ages 5+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required** by phone only beginning September 16 at 10 AM.

23 Scout Day: Finding Your Way Wolf Adventure

Saturday, September 23, 10–11:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
Wolf Cub Scouts, learn how to use a map and compass to locate objects and go on a hike as part of this Wolf Badge elective adventure! Dress for the weather. **Registration required** for scouts only, but adult or leader must stay during the program.

23 Scout Day: Junior Flowers Badge

Saturday, September 23, 1–3:00 PM
Observatory Park, Cygnus Shelter
Junior Girl Scouts, work toward your Flower Badge among a meadow of beautiful fall flowers. Held outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Registration required** for scouts only, but adult or leader must stay during the program.

23 Russell Uplands Hidden Gems Hike

Saturday, September 23, 3–4:30 PM
Russell Uplands Preserve
Hike the beautiful trails of Russell Uplands Preserve to discover some of Nature's hidden gems! Must have the ability to hike 2 miles over hilly terrain. Held rain or shine. Wear footgear that can get wet and muddy. Limited parking; carpooling recommended. No bathroom facilities. **Registration required.**



24 Important Bird Area Walks

Sunday, September 24, 8–10 AM
Orchard Hills Park

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

24 A Passion for Pawpaws

Sunday, September 24, 10 AM–12:30 PM
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 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

Sunday, September 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. **Registration required.** ♿

28 Maple Town Tune Traders

Thursday, September 28, 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 Full Moon Hike: China's Moon Festival

Friday, September 29, 7:30–8:30 PM
Observatory Park

Take a 1.5-mile hike over level terrain at a gentle pace to learn the legend behind China's moon festival and experience Nature at night. Then, weather permitting, observe the rising full moon using park telescopes. **Registration required.** 🗿

30 Buckeye Trail Highlight Hike

Saturday, September 30,
10–11:30 AM, Eldon Russell Park

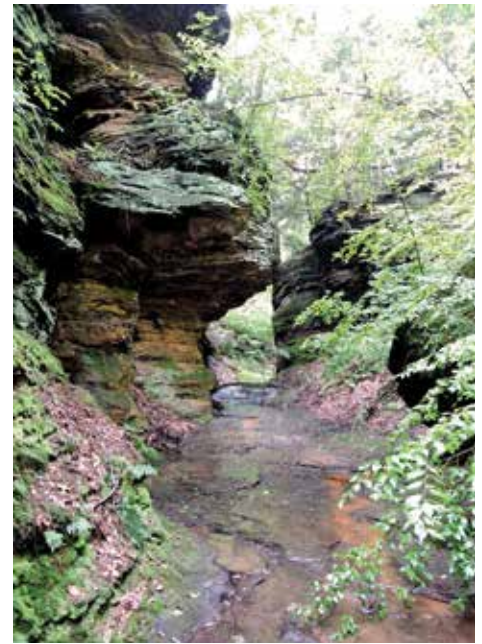
The Buckeye Trail winds nearly 1,444 miles around Ohio. Let's visit a Geauga Park District park that follows the Blue Blazes. Must be able to hike 3+ miles of rough trail and mud. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required.**



30 Welton's Gorge Backcountry Gorge Exploration

Saturday, September 30,
10 AM–12:30 PM
Welton's Gorge

Take a strenuous off-trail hike into a rocky woodland ravine with deep rock ledges, cool streams, wildflowers, salamanders and other stream life. Must be able to hike 2 miles 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. Bring walking stick or one will be provided. Long pants recommended. **Registration required** for all attending.



8 9 22 23 Night Sky Viewing

Friday, September 8, 8–11 PM
Saturday, September 9, 8–11 PM
Friday, September 22, 8–11 PM
Saturday, September 23, 7–11 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center

If skies are clear, observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Planetarium presentation if cloudy. No registration required. 🗿 🗿

12 26 Geauga Walkers

Tuesdays, 1–2:30 PM
September 12, Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
September 26, Orchard Hills Park, Lodge
Hike for active seniors 1-1½ miles long on level terrain. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2167. **Registration required.**

17 21 Thompson Ledges Backcountry Hike

Sunday, September 17, 1–2:30 PM
Thursday, September 21, 1–2:30 PM
Thompson Ledges Township Park, Picnic Shelter
Go for an off-trail exploration of the unimproved northern portion of Thompson Ledges Park, with its oak and hemlock forests and unique plant and bird life. Must be capable of hiking several miles of muddy, rocky terrain with some steep slopes. Wear sturdy footwear that can get wet and provide good traction. Ages 10+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required.**

24 25 Timbertots: Reptile Explorers (Ages 3-5 w/adult)

Sunday, September 24,
1–2 PM & 3–4 PM
Monday, September 25,
10–11 AM & 1–2 PM
The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge
Discover some amazing things about reptiles and get to see a few up close! Dress for the weather. **Registration required** for all attending including siblings and adults. 🗿



27 28 Odds & Ends Baskets

Wednesday, September 27, 1–5:30 PM
Thursday, September 28, 5:30–9 PM
Claridon Woodlands,
Judge Lester Taylor Lodge
Fee: \$20 Geauga residents, \$24 out-of-county
Use your creativity! A basic pattern will be provided, then you will design and weave your basket. Some experience recommended. **Registration required.**

RECURRING PROGRAMS

1 2 3 4 The Great Gauga County Fair

Friday–Monday, September 1, 2, 3 & 4
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 & tagging at 3 PM if butterflies are available. 🗿

8 22 Cleveland's Cosmic Connections

Friday, September 8, 7–8 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center 🗿
Friday, September 22, 7–8 PM
Virtual program 📺
Telescope factories, underground labs, the investigation of the galaxy: Cleveland's hometown heroes did it all! Come learn the fascinating history of our area's connection to outer space, followed by night sky viewing, weather permitting. September 22 is online via Zoom; register for the program and receive a link to join. **Registration required** for both sessions.



ARCHERY FOR EVERYONE

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

Introduction to Archery for Veterans

Sunday, July 2, 3:30–5 PM & 6–7:30 PM
Veterans, learn the basics of target archery. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required.**

Introduction to Archery for Families

Thursday, July 13, 10:30 AM–Noon
Saturday, August 26, 10:30 AM–Noon
Saturday, September 23, 10:30 AM–Noon
Learn the basics of target archery together. Ages 9+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. Participants must be 50" or taller and wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required** for all attending.

Introduction to Archery for Adults

Thursday, July 13, 1–2:30 PM
Saturday, August 26, 1–2:30 PM
Sunday, August 27, 11 AM–12:30 PM
Saturday, September 23, 1–2:30 PM
Let's learn the basics of target archery together. Wear close-toed shoes. Adults only. **Registration required.**

Archery Games for Families

Thursday, July 13, 3–4:30 PM
Friday, August 25, 6:30–8 PM
Take the next step in improving your aim through playing archery games. Must have previously participated in our Introduction to Archery for Families program. Ages 9+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. Participants must be 50" or taller and wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required** for all attending.

Archery Practice (Ages 9+)

Sunday, July 23, 1–1:30 PM, 1:45–2:15 PM, 2:30–3 PM & 3:15–3:45 PM
Friday, August 25, 3:30–4 PM, 4:15–4:45 PM & 5–5:30 PM
Sunday, August 27, 9:30–10 AM & 10:15–10:45 AM
Monday, September 25, 4:45–5:15 PM, 5:30–6 PM & 6:15–6:45 PM
These 30-minute sessions are for you to take the next step in improving your aim through practice. Must have previously participated in our Introduction to Archery program. Ages 9+, no younger children; under 18 requires an adult. **Registration required.**

Archery Games for Adults

Saturday, August 26, 3–4:30 PM
Saturday, September 23, 3–4:30 PM
Take the next step in improving your aim through playing archery games. Must have previously participated in our Introduction to Archery program. Wear closed-toe shoes. Adults only. **Registration required.**

Introduction to Archery for Kids (Ages 9-16)

Sunday, August 27, 1–2:30 PM
Sunday, September 24, 3–4:30 PM
Learn the basics of target archery. Participants must be 50" or taller and wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required** for child 9-16 years old only, but adult must stay during the program.

Archery Games for Kids

(Ages 9-16)
Sunday, September 24, 1–2:30 PM
Take the next step in improving your aim through playing archery games. Must have previously participated in our Introduction to Archery program. Participants must be 50" or taller and wear closed-toe shoes. **Registration required** for child 9-16 years old only, but adult must stay during the program.



SOME OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE

Nature Explorer Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 3-4)
Mon-Fri, July 10-14; 9 AM-3 PM daily
at The West Woods, Affelder House
Fee: \$150 Geauga residents, \$175 out-of-county residents

Nature Adventure Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 5-7)
Mon-Fri, July 31-August 4
(Teens entering grades 8-10)
Mon-Fri, July 10-14
All sessions 9 AM-3 PM daily
Fee: \$150 Geauga, \$175 out-of-county

Find full descriptions of camp activities on our website.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all camps at 440-286-9516.

Waivers and other details are 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; call for details.

Junior Naturalist Day Camp

(Youth entering grades 5-7)
Mon-Fri, July 24-28; 9 AM-3 PM daily,
at Swine Creek Reservation
Fee: \$150 Geauga residents, \$175 out-of-county residents

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

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

Have some fun outside!



Nature Writing Contest Winners

Congratulations to all 28 talented winners
of our **28th Annual Nature Writing Contest!**

Child Poetry

1stFrances Donlan
2ndMaya Leebow
3rdIrene Molnar-Williams
HMChristine Krug
HMAbigail Vatty

Child Prose

1stNathan Thomas
2ndClara Findel
3rdAbigail Vatty
HMDaniel Chin
HMConstantine Diamantis

Adolescent Poetry

1st.....Grace Voudris
2ndJiawen Hu
3rdCamryn Joyner
HMChiroi Niehus

Adolescent Prose

1st.....Grey Hudak
2ndAdelaide Oja
3rdOluchi Nnadi
HMMolly Moidell

Adult Poetry

1st.....Suzanne Ondrus
2ndChris Paterniti
3rdSarah Marcus-Donnelly
HMManda Mance-Wilkinson
HMJessica Miller

Adult Prose

1st.....Suzanne Ondrus
2ndAndrew France
3rdAllison Noga
HMCarol Weitzman
HMJason Lea

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 7!

Geauga Park District's

**Space
Race**

Observatory Park



*Run, jog or walk
to see how far
you can go in
this two-hour
race where
each completed
lap equates to
some amount
of travel in our
solar system.*



How far will go?

(Details and registration information coming soon)



SCOUTING

We're trying something a little different to help scout leaders plan – this quarter, registration opens for ALL scouting programs planned for the upcoming school year! Find descriptions for all of them on our website starting March 20 for Geauga residents, March 27 for others, at 10 AM.

July 2023

Boy Scout Astronomy Merit Badge

August

Brownie Bugs Badge

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns Bear Adventure

September

Junior Flowers Badge

Finding Your Way Wolf Adventure

October

Daisy Outdoor Art Maker Badge

Lion Adventure

November

Cadette Eco Trekker Badge

Earth Rocks Webelos Adventure

December

High School Scout Snowshoe Day

January 2024

Junior Geocacher Badge

Into the Wild Webelos Adventure

February

Daisy Space Science Explorer

Skys is the Limit Tiger Adventure

March

Call of the Wild Wolf Adventure

Cadette Trees Badge

April

Daisy Trail Adventure Badge

Webelos Walkabout Webelos Adventure

May

Brownie Eco Friend Badge

My Tiger Jungle Tiger Adventure

Calling All Artists...Look to the Trees for Inspiration!

Trees in any season bring so much value to our lives. We can't exist without them. John Muir's profound words, "The forest is calling, so I must go," have called artists' creativity. So to celebrate the inspiration of our trees and forests, and demonstrate the creative talents of regional artisans, Geauga Park District invites you to participate in a community art exhibition of tree-inspired artwork in all media, including wood. The exhibit will be on display from Saturday, February 3, 2024, to Sunday, April 21, 2024, at The West Woods Nature Center. Watch our website and fall *Park Explorer* Activity Guide for forthcoming details and information on how to apply and submit artwork.

**The Forest is Calling
So I Must Create**
A COMMUNITY ART SHOW

*Thank You
to All of Our
Generous
Donors*

Donations to
Gauga Park District
February through
April 2023

Arms Trucking Co.	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$3,000.00
The Cleveland Foundation	Lewis & Ruth Affelder Fund	\$526.75
Davey Tree Expert Company	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$1,500.00
Foundation for Geauga Parks	Nature writing contest prizes	\$450.00
Greg Box	In memory of Christine "Tina" McGuire	\$100.00
Greg Nosan & Brandon Ruud	Bench plaque - In memory of Linus	\$600.00
Interstate Towing & Transport Specialist	K9 Fund	\$320.00
James Black	Bench plaque - In memory of Don & Flora Romonto	\$600.00
Jeannine R. Perry	Bench plaque - In memory of Brian Rajewski	\$1,200.00
Gauga County Maple Leaf	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00
Lisa Kollins	unrestricted donation	\$50.00
Logan Abrahamson	Bench plaque - In memory of the Rostocil family	\$500.00
Mary Ann Clouse	Bench plaque - In honor of 50th wedding anniversary	\$500.00
Middlefield Banking Co.	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00
Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$100.00
Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland	Honorarium - Garden Tool Clean-up program	\$50.00
Rotary Clubs of Gauga County	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00
Roy Phelan	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$1,000.00
Sap's-a-Risin'	DONATIONS	\$850.37
The Cleveland Foundation		
Hanes Family	Nature Scopes program	\$500.00
The Cleveland Foundation	Annual Fund	\$5,000.00
Hanes Family		
The Cleveland Museum of Natural History	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$3,000.00
Town & Country Garden Club of Cleveland	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$250.00
Troy Mill Wood Products	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$1,500.00
V. Scott Pignolet	For Nassau - In honor of Lauren Brown	\$75.00
VCA Animal Hospitals Inc.	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$250.00
VFW Post 6519	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$500.00
VFW Post 9678	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$250.00
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	1,000 Trees Earth Day sponsorship	\$1,500.00

Be an Agent of Discovery!



Ever played Pokémon GO? Have you tried our new location-based, Nature-themed game at The West Woods? We've been debuting new missions and challenges to play each month — and new Park District swag to earn when you complete them.

It's easy to download the free Agents of Discovery app on your mobile device. (Scan this QR code for quick access.) Then open it up while you're at The West Woods and search available missions to play. We'll tell you which trails to walk, and as you approach each challenge, it will become available for you to play. Complete all eight challenges to master that month's mission, then head to the nature center to collect your prize. Have fun!



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° 34.972
W -81° 04.940

Check out the new geocache
at Observatory Park in Montville Twp.

Expires July 1, 2024. Find details on our website under Activities.

This tree was made for Cachin'
And that's just what it'll do
One of these days you'll find it,
it's just what you gotta do.

Take the planetary trail or alternate mowed
meadow edge to find this unique tree.

Definitely head toward the outer planets
to hasten your trip.

This is a fun little cache you won't want to skip.

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 Different Way to Observe Nature

Imagine, if you will, you're sitting on a bench in the park. What do you notice around you? Birds and insects singing? Trees rustling in the wind? The warm sun on your face? Bees going to and from a wildflower? What colors do you see? Do you notice different types of plants? These are all the things you can record in a Nature journal.

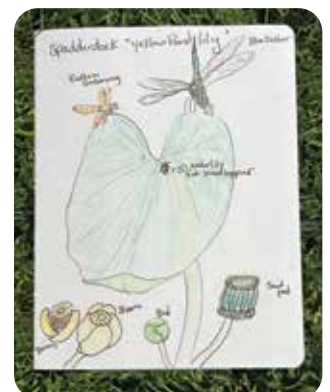
Nature journaling is a way to slow down and observe Nature in a different way. You then put those observations on paper. You don't need to be an artist or a writer to Nature journal. You don't even need to know what you're looking at. You just need to notice, wonder, and connect what you're sensing to past experiences. You want to engage all your senses: touch, sound, sight, smell, and even taste if you know for sure something is edible. You might prefer writing over drawing or drawing over writing, but you should try to incorporate a little of each in your journal. Remember, it's just for you. It doesn't matter if things are spelled correctly, or if your duck looks like a shoe. What matters is that you're putting aside time to unplug and reconnect to

Things to always try to put on a page:
Date/Time, Location, Weather, Title

the world around you. You can use Nature journaling to record your observations, like how many petals a flower has, what colors or patterns does it display, what is the arrangement of the leaves, who pollinates it, and when did you first see it bloom for the season. Use your journal to remember the sounds that surround you while you're sitting in your favorite spot.

Getting started can be as easy as grabbing a notebook and pencil and hitting the trail or sitting in your backyard. Then, as you get further in, you may add a set of color pencils, watercolors or pens. I recommend a journal with multimedia paper so you can sketch on it with pencil or pen or use watercolors to enhance your pages. 🍃

Look for our Nature Journaling programs throughout the year. Space is limited and registration is required.





Create a Simple Summer Tree Painting

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

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



First, take a summer hike to look up at the tree branches. Observe how the leaves have grown and filled up the tree canopy.

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. Add some clouds for interest. 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 all the sides of the lines for summer leaves. Your summer tree should look a bit more full of leaves. Only leave small spots of the branches peeking through.

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.

Underground, Below the Trees

Think about big trees, with all their top-heavy branches and leaves, and what it takes to keep them growing and strong. Roots anchor trees into the ground and are kind of like the organs of the plant. They provide nutrients to the tree and keep it alive.

Go for a walk in the woods and take a good look at the bases of the trunks, where tree roots begin to expand their reach underground.

Then imagine that there are roots almost *everywhere* under your feet throughout a forest.

Did you know?

- Trees establish roots underground that extend way beyond the span of their above-ground branches.
- Experts believe that roots can grow sideways *double* the size of their tree's canopy, and sometimes even more than that!
- Trees growing together in the forest naturally interweave their roots with the roots of neighboring trees.
- In some ways, trees actually communicate with each other. For instance, they share nutrients through their roots thanks to their relationship with underground microbes like fungus and bacteria.



Root Maze

Starting underground where the roots reach deep, can you follow each one all the way up to the trunk?

START HERE



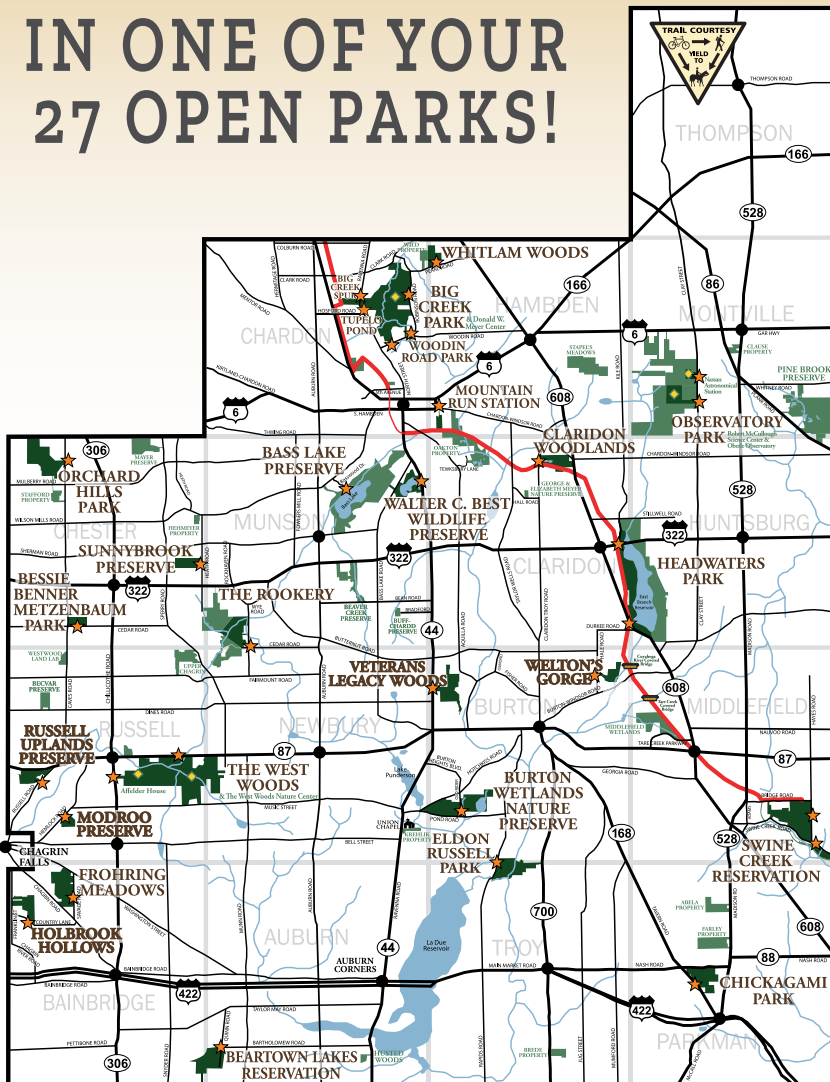
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Nature & Arts Fest

SUNDAY
August 6, 2023
10 AM - 4 PM
The West Woods

- ◆ 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

FREE Admission

THE NEWS-HERALD
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