



www.medinacountyparks.com

Medina County Park District

Winter 2011-12

Calendar of Events

Putt-ing through the Ages



GRAND OPENING WEEK

December 27 to 31 from 12 to 8 p.m.

Open weekends only (Fri., Sat. & Sun.)
January 6 to February 26 from 12 to 8 p.m.

Held at Buffalo Creek Retreat
8708 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville, OH 44273
Fun for all ages. Free.

Medina County Park District will be hosting its first big exhibit this winter called *Putt-ing Through the Ages*. The exhibit is a 12-hole miniature golf course inside Buffalo Creek Retreat that will take you through the amazing journey of the geologic ages of Ohio.

Putt through Ohio's ancient sea with the sea floor covered in coral, brachiopods, crinoids, and trilobites. During this period of Ohio's development, the open waters were teeming with squid-like cephalopods and giant armored fish known as placoderms.

When the sea retreated, much of Ohio was a swamp forest with tall club moss and fern trees. Giant amphibians emerged from the water, and insects entered the scene, including dragonflies with three-foot wingspans. Then came the Age of Dinosaurs with Tyrannosaurus Rex, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, and the huge Sauropods such as Apatosaurus.

The last great geologic event in Ohio was the ice age. Several ice sheets advanced and retreated over most of Ohio for a period of about two million years. Mile-high glacial ice covered Northeast Ohio until about 12,000 to 10,000 years ago. The last ice age, known as the Wisconsin Ice Age, is responsible for creating the Great Lakes, our inland lakes, and all of our present rivers and streams. Many large mammals roamed Ohio during the warm periods between the advancing ice, including woolly mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers, and the short-faced bear.

Ohio's present forest of beech, maple, oak, and hickory was established around 8,000 years ago. When you think about the millions of years of geologic progression, the woods you walk through in Medina County is new to the scene.

Sponsored by: Lodi Lumber and Friends of the Parks

Nature Through the Seasons

By: Dan Bertsch, Chief Naturalist

One of the many things that fascinates me about nature is the predictability of seasonally-occurring natural events like bird migration, flowering, and the calling of frogs. Nature Through the Seasons is based on observations recorded over the past ten years in Medina County.

December

First Week

Birds - Pine siskins can appear at thistle feeders, purple finches at sunflower feeders, and brown creepers at suet feeders the first and second week. Many turkey vultures have gone south, but a few linger all winter if the winter is mild.

Mammals - Skunks are actively digging for grubs and other insects to store up fat for their winter sleep if the ground is not frozen.

Second Week

Birds - Listen for the great horned owls hooting in the night during December. Males and females call to each other as part of their mating rituals.

Trees - The understory trees with tan leaves that remain all winter are American beech. Bluebirds and robins can be viewed feeding on berries of small trees and shrubs with the coming of winter.

Third Week

Birds - Some waterfowl may still be seen on the open water of our large lakes. Snow geese can be seen on Lake Medina any time during the winter.

Mammals - Winter is a great time to search for animal tracks in the snow. Most of our mammals are active during winter, but some will sleep through periods of extreme cold or deep snowfall to conserve energy.



Fourth Week

Birds - Pine woodlands and brushy areas are good places to look for red-breasted nuthatches and golden-crowned kinglets in flocks with the black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice.

Trees - One of our most beautiful trees in winter is the American sycamore. With the foliage gone, the glistening white bark is stunningly revealed by the angle of the winter sun.

Nature Through the Seasons . . . *continued*

January

First Week

Birds - Look for flocks of wild turkeys feeding on the waste corn and soybeans in agricultural fields. Many feet make light work when it comes to digging through the snow. There is also added safety in surviving a coyote attack when you are part of a flock.

Mammals - Chances increase in winter of catching a glimpse of a coyote or red fox since they are more exposed on the barren landscape and have to spend more time searching for food. Best times for observing them are early mornings and late evenings.

Second Week

Birds - Winter is a harsh environment for raptors. Cooper's hawks and sharp-shinned hawks will be swooping down at your bird feeders for that bird that did not get away.

Mammals - Every grassy field has a large number of meadow voles, also known as meadow mice. If there is a cover of snow, they have added protection from the many predators. If we do not have snow, they will be more exposed as they feed on grasses and seeds.

Third Week

Birds - Search pine woods for our winter visitors from Canada including the red-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet and brown creeper. Often these birds will flock with our black-capped chickadees and tufted titmice.

Mammals - Skunks may be out looking for insects if we have a January thaw. They sleep off most of the winter because it is too difficult to dig for insects in the frozen ground. Coyote breeding season is January through March. There is an increase in vocalizations at night during this time.



Red-tailed hawk

Fourth Week

Birds - Red-tailed hawks and red-shouldered hawks can be viewed perched in the bare branches of our larger trees spying the fields and forest edges for rabbits, squirrels and voles.

Mammals - Deer can be seen in all of our parks browsing on the twigs of young trees and shrubs. During hard winters, they will even feed on evergreens, leaving "browse lines" on the smaller trees.

February

First Week

Birds - After the quiet winter months, it is encouraging to hear our first birds sing. Listen for the clear "Cheer-Cheer-Cheer" of the northern cardinal, the whistled "Sweet Heart" of the black-capped chickadee and "Peter-Peter-Peter" of the tufted titmouse. Their singing is triggered by the increasing daylight. Great horned owls, the first birds to nest in Ohio, will already be incubating their eggs in tree cavities or abandoned crow or hawk nests.

Mammals - Many white-tailed deer bucks will have shed their antlers by now. The reason you do not usually find antlers in the woods is that they are gnawed by rodents including mice, voles and squirrels as a source of calcium.

Second Week

Birds - Tom turkeys begin calling and displaying to attract hens. They have been using the grassy areas behind Wolf Creek Environmental Center for the last eight years.

Mammals - If the weather is mild, chipmunks will awake from their winter sleep to go shopping at bird feeding stations.

Third Week

Birds - Red-winged blackbirds begin to appear about this time of the year. They are our first birds to migrate from the south, and their reappearance is one of the surest signs of spring. Males arrive first to stake out their territories, and the females arrive about three weeks later.

Mammals - February is the month of peak breeding activity of many mammals in Ohio including the raccoon, opossum, skunk, mink, and beaver.

Wildflowers - Skunk cabbage is the first wildflower to bloom. They actually create enough heat to melt snow. The best place for viewing these mottled brown and green hooded flowers is along the wetland trail at Green Leaf Park.



Skunk cabbage

Insects - Two types of insects can be seen on the snow in winter. Winter stoneflies can be observed walking on the snow close to streams in wooded areas. Tiny snow fleas can be seen jumping around the base of trees in woods and on wood edges. Snow fleas are actually part of a group known as springtails. They go by the common name snow fleas because their tails possess springs that enables them to jump like fleas.

Trees - Sugar maple season is in full swing by now. The ideal season for a good run is warm sunny days and cold, but not freezing, nights.

Fourth Week

Birds - Turkey vultures return to Medina County even though their return will not be celebrated in Hinckley until March 15. Bluebirds that have wintered-over look stunning against the white snow. With our winters becoming milder, we are noticing a greater number of bluebirds remaining through the winter.

Mammals - If there is snow cover, this is a great opportunity to search for animal tracks. One advantage of winter is to discover the presence of animals that we seldom see such as the coyote, red fox, mink and short-tailed shrew.

Winter 2011-12 Public Programs



ONLINE Program Registration

The park district is offering online program registration. The registration feature on the website allows visitors to search for programs by date, age, category or location. Users can register for programs 24 hours a day using the website. An email address, in addition to contact information, is all that is needed. If you do not have an email address, you can still call the park office to register for a program. Visit www.medinacountyparks.com, click on *Programs and Activities*, then on *Programs* to get started.

Thursday, December 1 - Handmade Gifts for the Holidays - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Handmade gifts are the best gifts to give and receive! Come to Wolf Creek any time between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to create a handmade gift for someone special. A variety of make-n-take projects will be available to choose from. Make one, or make them all! Supplies provided. The program is free, but we ask that each person bring a non-perishable food item or paper product donation. All items collected will be given to the St. Paul Lutheran Church food pantry. Ages 3 to 6. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 3 - Hiking for the Health of It - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9 to 11 a.m. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 3 - Happy Trails Hiking Club - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. Happy Trails Hiking Club is for those who like to get out in nature and hike for one or two miles at a leisurely pace. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 3 - Winter Tree I.D. - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Take a naturalist-guided hike to learn how to identify trees in the winter and how trees provide food and shelter for animals. Self-guided activities and crafts are available throughout the day. Hikes will begin at 1 and 3 p.m. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, December 4 - Naturally Homemade Holidays - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Add warmth and old-fashioned charm to your holiday decorating with homemade items made from nature. A variety of make-n-take projects await your creativity, so stop by any time between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. to create ornaments, tree toppers, topiaries and more! All supplies are provided. The program is free, but we ask that each person bring a non-perishable food item or paper product donation. Items collected will be given to the St. Paul Lutheran Church food pantry. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, December 4 - Winter Tree I.D. - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Take a naturalist-guided hike to learn how to identify trees in winter and how they provide food and shelter for animals. Self-guided activities and crafts are available throughout the day. Hikes begin at 1 and 3 p.m. All ages. No registration required.

Tuesday, December 6 - German Star Ornament - Krabill Shelter/Chippewa Lake - 7 p.m. German Stars have been made for centuries by common folk at Christmastime to add decoration to Christmas trees. These traditional German family crafts, made out of paper or ribbon and dipped in wax, can also be used as decorations on gifts, strung together as garland, or as holiday home decorations. Come join us in learning how to make these charming three-dimensional paper stars. All supplies are provided. Ages 12 to adult. Register by Wednesday, December 5. Free.

Wednesday, December 7 - Nature Through the Seasons - Plum Creek Park North - 10 a.m. The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature from the first spring wildflowers to the last days of winter. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required.

Friday, December 9 - Moon Walk - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7 p.m. The holiday season can be a stressful and hectic time of year. Relax with a naturalist as we take a leisurely stroll admiring the Full Cold Moon. Stay afterwards to enjoy treats by the fire. Come dressed for the weather. The hike will go on if cloudy. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 10 - Gingerbread Adventures - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 12 to 4 p.m. Visit Wolf Creek any time between Noon and 4 p.m. to enjoy the scents of the season while exploring the spices that make up a classic gingerbread recipe in this unique adventure! End the day by creating a gingerbread house while enjoying a gingerbread cookie and spiced cider. All supplies are provided. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, December 11 - Advanced Digital Photography - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 4 p.m. This advanced-level digital photography class will help students get the most out of their single lens reflex (SLR) digital cameras. The course features classroom and field instruction to help students with image sharpness, proper tripod use, understanding histograms, white balance, bracketing exposure, and much more. Students taking this class are expected to be proficient with their digital cameras or have taken the "Intermediate Digital Photography" class previously offered. Students should bring their cameras with lens or lenses, manuals and tripods (if they own one) to class. Ages 16 and over. Register by Monday, December 10. There is a \$40 program fee per person.

Thursday, December 15 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Why do animals live where they do? How do they get what they need to survive? Find out the answers to these questions as we explore animal habitats through a story, fun activities and a short hike. For ages 3-6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between November 17 and December 14.

Friday, December 16 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Why do animals live where they do? How do they get what they need to survive? Find out the answers to these questions as we explore animal habitats through a story, fun activities and a short hike. For ages 3-6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between November 17 and December 15.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2011 The key for park abbreviations is located on the second to last page of the guide.				1 Handmade Gifts for the Holidays WC - 10 a.m.	2	3 Hiking for the Health of It - WC 9 to 11 a.m. Happy Trails Hiking Club WC - 10 a.m. Winter Tree I.D. SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m.
	4 Winter Tree I.D. SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Naturally Homemade Holidays - WC 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.	5	6 German Star Ornament - KS 7 to 9 p.m.	7 Nature Through the Seasons PCPN - 10 a.m.	8	9 Moon Walk - WC 7 p.m.
11 Advanced Digital Photography WC - 1 to 4 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Tales for Tots WC - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	16 Tales for Tots WC - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	17 Hiking for the Health of It LRT - 9 to 11 a.m. K9 Kapers PLNP - 10 a.m. Holiday Ornaments and Cards - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.
18 Holiday Ornaments and Cards - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.	19	20	21	22	23 Park office, WC, and SHNC closed	24 WC and SHNC closed
25 WC and SHNC closed	26 Park office closed	27 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	28 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	29 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	30 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	31 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 17 - Hiking for the Health of It - Lester Rail Trail - 9 to 11 a.m. Meet behind the Medina Career Center. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 17 - Holiday Ornaments and Cards - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Use items from nature to create beautiful holiday ornaments. You aren't sure what to do with last year's leftover or used holiday cards? Reuse them to make brand new, unique cards for your loved ones! Bring old cards with you, and all other supplies are provided. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Holiday Programs

Thursday, December 1

Handmade Gifts for the Holidays
 Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 4

Naturally Homemade Holidays
 Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 6

German Star Ornament
 Krabill Shelter/Chippewa Lake - 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 10

Gingerbread Adventures
 Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 12 p.m.

Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18

Holiday Ornaments and Cards
 Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m.

For program details, see Page Three of the program guide.

Saturday, December 17 - K9 Kapers - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve - 10 a.m. K9 Kapers provides dog owners with an opportunity to socialize their pets with other dogs. These alternative hikes will interest both the dog and its owner while offering exercise and fun. All dogs must have an accompanying adult and 8-foot leash (non-retractable). Participants must maintain control of their dogs at all times. We recommend bringing a towel for muddy feet and a water bowl. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, December 18 - Holiday Ornaments and Cards - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Use items from nature to create beautiful holiday ornaments. You aren't sure what to do with last year's leftover or used holiday cards? Reuse them to make brand new, unique cards for your loved ones! Bring old cards with you, and all other supplies will be provided. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Wednesday, January 4 - Snow Songs to Keep You Warm and Fuzzy Wuzzy! - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10:30 a.m. Join Mary Jo to sing, play instruments, and dance the winter chills away with musical games, stories, and movement. We'll even learn a bit about bears! Mary Jo has her Master's degree in music education and has taught children for over 30 years. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities. Ages 3 to 6. Register by Tuesday, January 3. Free.

Saturday, January 7 - Hiking for the Health of It - Metroparks Serving Summit County/Silver Creek (located at 5000 Hametown Road in Norton) - 9 to 11 a.m. Meet at the Pheasant Run parking lot. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, January 7 - Snowshoeing 101 - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. What better way to experience the fresh cool air of the winter season than to hike the winter trails on snowshoes. This hike will include a brief introduction to "Snowshoeing 101," snowshoe games, and hot treats by the fire. Hikes will begin at 1 and 3 p.m. Ages 6 to 12. No registration required. Free.



Sunday, January 8 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Return of the Black Bear - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 3 p.m. Before white settlers came to Ohio, the black bear was a common inhabitant of our forests. Because of habitat loss and unregulated hunting, the black bear disappeared from Ohio around 1850. Regular sightings of black bears in Ohio began in the mid-1980s and have increased through the years. We will share the present status of black bears in Ohio together with their interesting life history. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, January 8 - Snowshoeing 101 - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. What better way to experience the fresh cool air of the winter season than to hike the winter trails on snowshoes. This hike will include a brief introduction to "Snowshoeing 101," snowshoe games, and hot treats by the fire. Hikes will begin at 1 and 3 p.m. Ages 6 to 12. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, January 8 - Ohio Department of Natural Resources - OHIO BOATER EDUCATION AND LICENSE COURSE - Krabill Shelter/Chippewa Lake - 12 to 5 p.m. This is an eight-hour class in boating and water safety designed by ODNR Division of Watercraft. It covers the fundamentals of safe boating: state-required equipment, watercraft laws, navigation "Rules of the Road," basic safety and risk management, and aids to navigation.



Classes are enhanced with videos, slides, overheads, handouts, and other visual aids. Preregistration and a prepaid materials fee are required. Attendance and participation in this two-part course are required (**class is held on January 8 and 22**). In Ohio, persons born on or after January 1, 1982 who operate a boat powered by greater than ten horsepower must successfully pass a NASBLA-approved boating education course or proficiency exam. Contact Alan Hallock to register by December 30 at 330-722-3055 or alan@hallockproperties.com. Ages 12 and up. There is a \$20 fee if you register by December 30. The fee is \$25 if you pay at the door.

Tuesday, January 10 - Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Our younger park friends are invited to create mysterious mixtures and make marvelous messes in this fun, hands-on discovery program. Come experiment with combinations of ordinary ingredients to create something fun. All supplies are provided; come dressed for mess! Ages 3 to 6. Register between December 12 and January 9. Free.

Tuesday, January 10 - Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Rocks and Fossils - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. We all see the animals that live in our backyards today, but what lived here millions of years ago? Come explore fossils from the ancient oceans to the ice age and the rocks they are found in. We will also go on a fossil hunt outside. Ages 7 to 12. Registration open until filled. There is no fee for Medina county residents. There is a \$3 fee per child for out-of-county residents.

Thursday, January 12 - Environmental Speaker Series: The Psychological Benefits of Nature - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7 p.m. Most would agree that nature contact is good for us, makes us feel better, and enhances our well being. This program explores the human nature connection through the lens of environmental psychology research and examining ways researchers are exploring how nature contact restores our 'mental machinery.' Suggestions for how we can enhance human functioning through the design and management of nearby nature are presented. Dr. Maureen Austin has been involved in community environmental education for nearly 20 years. She serves as agricultural and natural resources educator for Ohio State University Extension, Stark County, where her program areas include urban and community forestry, community vegetable gardening, sustainable agriculture, and local foods. She also serves as coordinator for the county's Master Gardener Volunteer and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist programs. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 January 2012 The key for park abbreviations is located on the second to last page of the guide.	2	3	4 Snow Songs to Keep You Warm & Fuzzy Wuzzy WC - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	5	6 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	7 Hiking for the Health of It MPSSC - Silver Creek - 9 to 11 a.m. Snowshoeing 101 - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.
8 Ohio Boater Education and License Course KS - 12 to 5 p.m. Class 1 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Snowshoeing 101 - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. ND: Return of the Black Bear WC - 3 p.m.	9	10 Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers WC - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Rocks and Fossils - WC 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	11	12 ESS: Psychological Benefits of Nature - WC 7 p.m.	13 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	14 Winter Snow, Out We Go: Trackin' Tracks! WC - 10:30 a.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Getting Better Photos - WC 1 to 4 p.m.
15 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Bugs Unlimited WC - 1 to 5 p.m. K9 Kapers - GLP 3 p.m.	16	17	18 Nature Through the Seasons PLNP - 10 a.m.	19 Tales for Tots WC - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	20 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Tales for Tots WC - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	21 Hiking for the Health of It CVNP - Peninsula Towpath Trailhead - 9 to 11 a.m. Winter Re-Tweet SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Nature for Families: Winter Forest Hike WC - 1 p.m.
22 Winter Re-Tweet SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Ohio Boater Education and License Course KS - 12 to 5 p.m. Class 2 Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting WC - 3 p.m.	23	24	25	26 ESS: Mammoth: The Longest Cave - WC 7 p.m.	27 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	28 Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children: A Workshop for Educators - WC 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.
29 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	30	31				



Bugs Unlimited

Sunday, January 15

Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 5 p.m.

Come see one of the most incredible displays of insects and other invertebrates in Northeast Ohio! Entomologist Jim Smolka will display his extensive collection of mounted insects from around the world as well as live specimens that include spiders, scorpions, centipedes, and millipedes. Jim will provide visitors with information about the natural history of each of the animals and be available to answer questions. This exhibit is only open for one day, so don't miss the opportunity to stop by for a visit. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Winter Environmental Speaker Series

Thursday, January 12 - The Psychological Benefits of Nature

Thursday, January 26 - Mammoth: The Longest Cave

Thursday, February 2 - Extreme Mammals

Thursday, February 23 - Glaciation of Northeastern Ohio

All programs in this series take place at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center at 7 p.m. No registration required. Free. Ages 10 to adult. See individual programs for details.



Saturday, January 14 - Getting Better Photos: Composition Tips and Techniques - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 4 p.m. Learn the basics of photo composition. Techniques covered in class include the art of seeing, cropping, hot spots, angles, backgrounds, lines, your own style, and breaking the rules. Bring some of your photos on a flash stick or other media, and receive some suggestions to make them even better. Ages 16 and up. Register by Friday, January 13. There is a \$25 fee per person.

Saturday, January 14 - WINTER SNOW, OUT WE GO: Trackin' Tracks! - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10:30 a.m. Learn more about the animals in our area by investigating their tracks. What is out there in the winter winds? How is it moving? What is it looking for? Learn how speed, directional changes, and behavior alter animal tracks. We will discover how knowing about animal tracks can help people. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities. Ages 7 to 12. Register by Friday, January 13. Free.

Sunday, January 15 - Bugs Unlimited - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 5 p.m. Come see one of the most incredible displays of insects and other invertebrates in Northeast Ohio! Entomologist Jim Smolka will display his extensive collection of mounted insects from around the world as well as live specimens that include spiders, scorpions, centipedes, and millipedes. Jim will provide visitors with information about the natural history of each of the animals and be available to answer questions. This exhibit is only open for one day, so don't miss the opportunity to stop by for a visit. All ages. No registration required. Free.

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Wednesday, January 18 - Nature Through the Seasons - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve - 10 a.m. The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature from the first spring wildflowers to the last days of winter. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Thursday, January 19 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. A beak is a fascinating tool that is important to a bird's survival. Learn about all kinds of beaks and how birds use them through a story, fun activities, and hands-on examination. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program may be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between December 15 and January 18. Free.

Friday, January 20 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. A beak is a fascinating tool that is important to a bird's survival. Learn about all kinds of beaks and how birds use them through a story, fun activities, and hands-on examination. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program may be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between December 15 and January 19. Free.

Saturday, January 21 - Hiking for the Health of It - Cuyahoga Valley National Park/Peninsula Towpath Trailhead parking lot (located on Rt. 303 behind Winking Lizard) - 9 to 11 a.m. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, January 21 - Nature for Families: Winter Forest Hike - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 p.m. Many animals sleep through the winter or migrate south, but others remain here and stay active. Come learn about some of these creatures by taking a hike through the winter woods. Don't forget to bundle up! All ages. No registration required. Free.



Saturday, January 21 - Winter Re-Tweet - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. What kinds of birds visit our feeders during the wintertime? What types of bird feeders and bird seed work the best? We'll answer these questions and more at this program. We'll also count and record the numbers of birds we see. This information will be

sent to Cornell Lab of Ornithology as part of the "Project Feeder Watch" program. Stop in any time between the hours of Noon and 5 p.m. to participate in this program. Hot chocolate will be available. No registration required. Free. All ages.

Sunday, January 22 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. Both beginner and advanced photographers are invited to participate. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. No registration required. For more information, please contact Shelley at 330.239.4814 or stender@medinaco.org. Ages 16 to adult.

Sunday, January 22 - Winter Re-Tweet - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. What kinds of birds visit our feeders during the wintertime? What types of bird feeders and bird seed work the best? We'll answer these questions and more at this program. We'll also count and record the numbers of birds we see. This information will be sent to Cornell Lab of Ornithology as part of the "Project Feeder Watch" program. Stop in any time between the hours of Noon and 5 p.m. to participate in this program. Hot chocolate will be available. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Thursday, January 26 - Environmental Speaker Series: Mammoth: The Longest Cave - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7 p.m. Lying under the rolling hills and forests of western Kentucky and only 450 miles to our south is the world's longest cave. Mammoth Cave National Park has incredible stories of exploration, skeltons, torch throwing, and even connections to the War of 1812. Come and be intrigued by one of the most amazing cave stories ever told. Travis White is a 32-year retired veteran of the National Park Service. He has worked at Mammoth Cave National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Saguaro National Park, Cabrillo National Monument, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and, most recently, Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2012			1	2 ESS: Extreme Mammals - WC 7 p.m.	3 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	4 Hiking for the Health of It CVNP - Ira Road Trailhead - 9 to 11 a.m. Happy Trails Hiking Club SHNC - 10 a.m. Snowflakes SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Snowshoe Stomp - WC 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.
	The key for park abbreviations is located on the second to last page of the guide.					
5 Snowflakes SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Chickadee Appreciation Day - WC 2 p.m.	6	7 Moon Walk RSP - 7 p.m.	8	9	10 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	11 Introductory Guitar - WC 10 a.m. Class 1 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Sweetheart Hike WC - 7:30 p.m.
12 ND: Those Amazing Squirrels - SHNC 3 p.m.	13	14 Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	15 Nature Through the Seasons HHC - 10 a.m.	16 Tales for Tots WC 10 a.m. or 1 p.m.	17 Tales for Tots WC 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	18 Hiking for the Health of It CRT - 9 to 11 a.m. K9 Kapers PCPS - 10 a.m. Introductory Guitar - WC 10 a.m. Class 2 Native Americans in Your Backyard SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m. Nature For Families: Ground Hog Hike - WC 1 p.m.
19 ND: Woodpeckers of Medina County PCPS - 3 p.m. Mask-erade SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m.	20 Park office closed	21	22	23 ESS: Glaciation of Northeastern Ohio - WC 7 p.m.	24 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	25 Introductory Guitar - WC 10 a.m. Class 3 Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.
26 Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting WC - 3 p.m. FINAL DAY of Putt-ing Through the Ages - BCR 12 to 8 p.m.	27	28	29			



Sweetheart Hike

Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Bundle up and bring your sweetheart to enjoy a romantic stroll along the snow-covered trails at Wolf Creek. Upon your return to the building, you may delight in each others' company, hot beverages, delicious treats and a cozy fire. This is a one-of-a-kind experience, and the perfect after-dinner activity for couples looking for a special way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Adults only please. The hike is self guided and can be done anytime between the designated hours. All couples must return to the building by 10 p.m. Ages 16 and over. No registration required. Free.



NEW! Happy Trails Hiking Club

Happy Trails Hiking Club is for those who like to get out in nature and hike for one or two miles at a leisurely pace. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, December 3 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m.

Saturday, February 4 - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 10 a.m.

Saturday, January 28 - Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children: A Workshop for Educators - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both formal and non-formal educators are encouraged to attend Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children --Project WILD's early childhood education curriculum. Like traditional Project WILD, the curriculum builds on the learning styles and interests of young children (ages 3 to 7) to foster an interest in and appreciation of wildlife and the natural world around them. A variety of activities builds positive impressions of nature while aiding children's cognitive growth and development. This workshop is designed for anyone who works with young children and wants to teach youngsters about wildlife conservation using fun activities. Lunch is not provided. Brown bagging is strongly encouraged to avoid having to leave the workshop at lunchtime. Ages 16 and up. Register by Monday, January 23. Free.

Thursday, February 2 - Environmental Speaker Series: Extreme Mammals - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7 p.m. The thousands of species of mammals alive today span an extraordinary range of body sizes, dietary habits, loco-motor styles, and ways of surviving. However, even the most mundane mammal has at least one feature that can be considered extreme. The variety of form and function among mammals is even greater when the fossil record over the past 200 million years is taken into account. Join Paleontologist Dr. Darin Croft, a collaborator on the "Extreme Mammals" traveling museum exhibit, for an interactive, exhibit-inspired tour of his "top ten" list of intriguing mammal groups and species, living and extinct. Dr. Darin Croft is an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and is a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Field Museum. As a researcher and educator, he mainly divides his time between teaching anatomy to medical and graduate students and studying the anatomy and biology of extinct mammals. Fieldwork has taken Croft to a variety of places including Australia, Madagascar, South America, and the western US. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 4 - Hiking for the Health of It - Cuyahoga Valley National Park/Ira Road Trailhead (on Riverview Road) - 9 to 11 a.m. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 4 - Happy Trails Hiking Club - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 10 a.m. Happy Trails Hiking Club is for those who like to get out in nature and hike for one or two miles at a leisurely pace. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 4 - Snowflakes! - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Is it really true that no two snowflakes are alike? Come explore one of nature's most amazing creations . . . the snowflake! Kids make-and-take crafts are available. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 4 - Snowshoe Stomp - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 p.m. Winter is a great time to get the kids outdoors having fun and moving around. Walk on snow as we learn snowshoe history and skills. Children snowshoes will be provided for kids 6-12. Family members and others owning their own snowshoes are invited

to join us on our adventure. Please bring two pair of boots or shoes in case the first pair is too big. If there is insufficient snow, a hike will take place instead. Register by Friday, February 3. Free.

Saturday, February 4 - Snowshoe Stomp - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 6 p.m. Winter is a great time to get the kids outdoors having fun and moving around. Walk on snow as we learn snowshoe history and skills. Children snowshoes will be provided for kids 6-12. Family members and others owning their own snowshoes are invited to join us on our adventure. Please bring two pair of boots or shoes in case the first pair is too big. If there is insufficient snow, a hike will take place instead. Register by Friday, February 3. Free.

Sunday, February 5 - Chickadee Appreciation Day - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 p.m. Black-capped chickadees weigh about 4/10 of an ounce about as much as a half dollar. Come learn how such a tiny bird can survive Ohio winters. Expect a short hike to look for them in their natural habitat and observe them feeding at our bird feeders. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, February 5 - Snowflakes! - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Is it really true that no two snowflakes are alike? Come explore one of nature's most amazing creations . . . the snowflake! Kids make-and-take crafts are available. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, February 7 - Moon Walk - River Styx Park - 7 p.m. Join us to discover the beauty of the night sky. Relax with a naturalist as we take a leisurely stroll admiring the "Snow Moon" and stars. Come dressed in your best winter apparel. The hike will go on if cloudy. All ages. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 11 - Sweetheart Hike - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7:30 p.m. Bundle up and bring your sweetheart to enjoy a romantic stroll along the snow-covered trails at Wolf Creek. Upon your return to the building, you may delight in each others' company, hot beverages, delicious treats and a cozy fire. This is a one-of-a-kind experience, and the perfect after-dinner activity for couples looking for a special way to celebrate Valentine's Day. Adults only please. The hike is self guided and can be done anytime between the designated hours. All couples must return to the building by 10 p.m. Ages 16 and over. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 11 - Introductory Guitar - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. Has that guitar been calling out to you from its case or corner of the room? Join Bud Preston, acoustic instrumental performer, for this five-week beginning guitar class and learn the step-by-step process one must take in order to play the guitar fluently. Bud has composed and recorded many songs in which he blends the melodious sounds of nature with the beauty of guitar. Using his vast musical expertise, Bud will inspire and bring out the musician in you! Ages 16 and over. Register by Friday, February 10. There is a \$75 fee per person.

Sunday, February 12 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Those Amazing Squirrels - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 3 p.m. Please park in the Buehler's parking lot. Anyone who feeds birds is well aware of the intelligence of squirrels. If there is any way to obtain food, they will find it. Learn other amazing adaptations that make these mammals survivors. You will also learn the life histories of Ohio's four species of squirrels. Ages 7 and up. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, February 14 - Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Putt-ing Through the Ages - Buffalo Creek Retreat - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Review what you learned in the January session by playing through our indoor putt-putt course. Learn about extinct animals from ancient ocean creatures to dinosaurs and ice age mammals. Ages 7 to 12. Registration open until filled. No fee for Medina county residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-Medina county residents.

Wednesday, February 15 - Nature Through the Seasons - Hidden Hollow Camp - 10 a.m. The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature from the first spring wildflowers to the last days of winter. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.



Thursday, February 16 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. What is a vertebrate? Do all animals have skeletons? Find out the answers as we investigate through a story, craft, and exploratory activities. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program may be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between January 19 and February 15. Free.

Friday, February 17 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. What is a vertebrate? Do all animals have skeletons? Find out the answers as we investigate through a story, craft, and exploratory activities. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program may be held outdoors, weather permitting. Please dress accordingly. Register between January 19 and February 16. Free.

Saturday, February 18 - Hiking for the Health of It - Chippewa Rail Trail - 9 a.m. This is a hiking club for those adults who can hike four to six miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails are mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 18 - K9 Kapers - Plum Creek Park South - 10 a.m. K9 Kapers provides dog owners with an opportunity to socialize their pets with other dogs. These alternative hikes will interest both the dog and its owner while offering exercise and fun. All dogs must have an accompanying adult and 8-foot leash (non retractable). Participants must maintain control of their dogs at all times. We recommend bringing a towel for muddy feet and a water bowl. All ages. No reegistration required. Free.

Saturday, February 18 - Native Americans in Your Backyard - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Did you know there were people living in your backyard 10,000 years ago? Stop by the nature center any time between Noon and 5 p.m. to learn who these



people were, what they were like, and the skills they used to survive. Joe DeNardi, a resident of Granger Township and Medina County Park District volunteer, will share his extensive Native American artifact collection and vast expertise with you, so don't miss the opportunity to stop by for a visit! All ages. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, February 18 - Nature for Families: Groundhog Hike - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 p.m. Are you looking for a reason to get out of the house? Join us to learn about groundhogs as you hike the woods and fields of Wolf Creek. Don't forget to dress for the weather! All ages. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, February 19 - Maskerade - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Our "krewes" invites you to be a part of the masquerade! Conceal your identity by creating your very own Mardi Gras mask. Stop by Hambley Nature Center anytime between 12 and 5 p.m. to join in the craft. All ages. No registration required. Free.



Sunday, February 19 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Woodpeckers of Medina County - Plum Creek Park South - 3 p.m. Most woodpeckers stay in Ohio throughout the winter. Find out how they can drill holes in trees without getting fractured skulls, walk up the trunks of trees without falling off, and find insects in subzero temperatures. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Thursday, February 23 - Environmental Speaker Series: Glaciation of Northeastern Ohio - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7 p.m. The Ice Age, or Pleistocene Epoch, is characterized by numerous glaciations over the last 2.6 million years, but only the effects of the most recent glaciation are apparent on the surface. Dr. John Szabo will share how these glaciers have created the present landscape of Northeastern Ohio and how profoundly the creation of Niagara Falls influenced Lake Erie and the drainage pattern of our rivers and streams. Dr. John Szabo has been a professor of geology at the University of Akron for 37 years and the chair of the Department of Geology & Environmental Science for 15 years. During that time, he has advised several Masters of Science students on topics related to geomorphology, glaciation, and ground-water hydrology. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, February 26 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 3 p.m. This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. Both beginner and advanced photographers are invited to participate. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. No registration required. For more information, please contact Shelley at 330.239.4814 or stender@medinaco.org. Ages 16 and up.





What is the Friends of the Parks?

Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. is a non-profit organization of individuals, families, businesses and organizations dedicated to preserving green space and providing recreational and educational opportunities in Medina County. The group was formed in 1972 and works to promote and support the mission of the park district.

Why become a Friend of the Parks?

Your membership entitles you to certain privileges unavailable to the general public including:

- Participation in "Friends' Only" events
- Friends' newsletter, *Acorn*, mailed directly to your home
- Discounts on rentals of park facilities

What types of support does the Friends of the Parks group provide?

Funds raised by the Friends through membership and other activities assist the park district in many ways including:

- Sponsorship for educational presentations and entertainment
- Supplies and equipment for public programs
- Funds for land acquisition
- Assistance to county schools for field studies at the Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Other Ways You Can Help

The park district utilizes a large group of volunteers each year to help with the operation of the parks. Many park programs and facilities exist due to volunteer efforts. We can use your time and talents in a variety of areas.

How to become a Friend of the Parks

You can either mail in your membership application or sign up and pay online with a credit card. To download a membership application or to join online, go to www.medinacountyparks.com, click on the *Friends of the Parks* tab, then on *Membership Application*.



Individuals are needed to assist in the following areas:

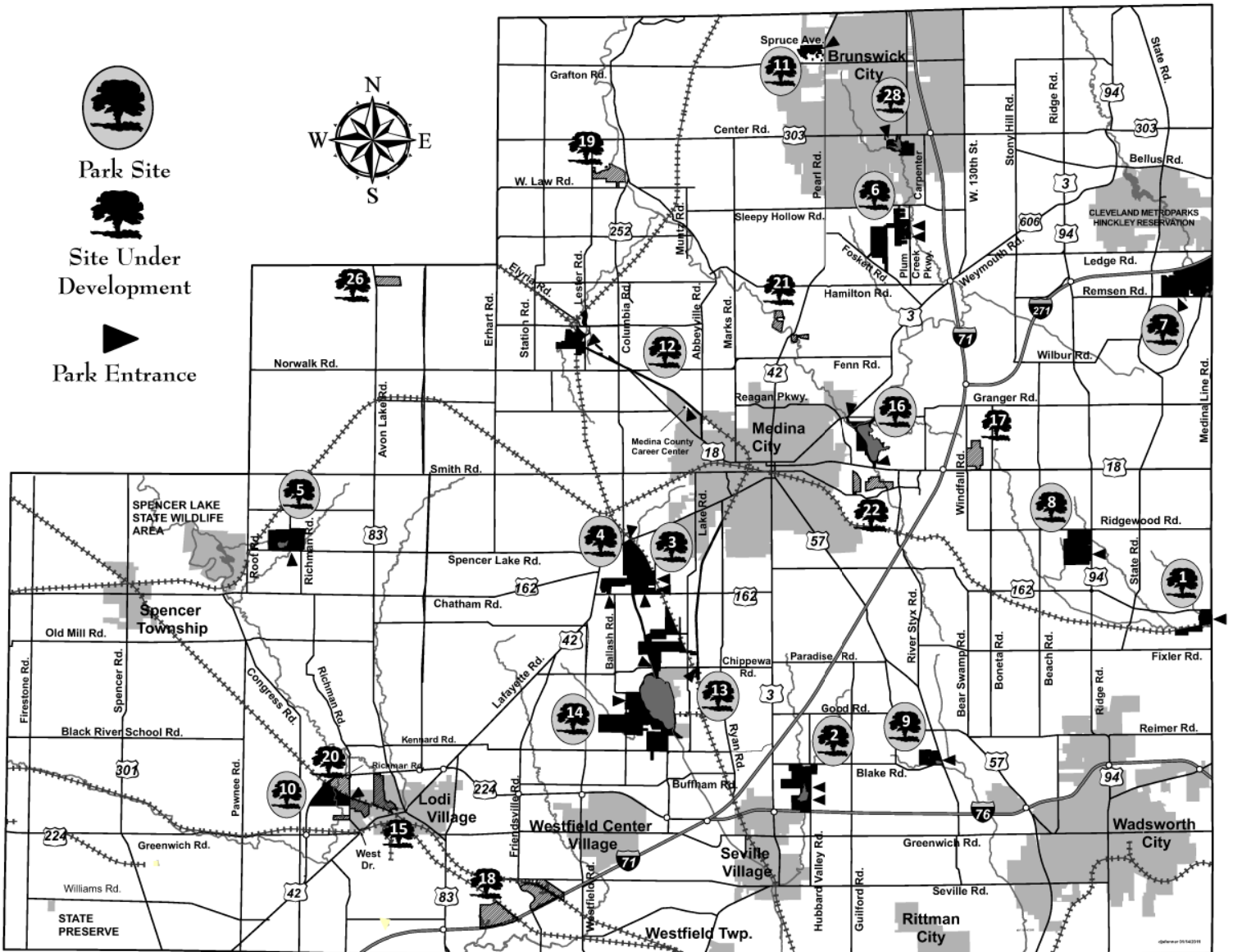
- Assisting naturalists with school programs
- Facility hosts
- Facility gardening
- Special events
- Biological surveys
- Parades
- Office/clerical work
- Carpentry/painting

Please contact Angie at 330-722-9364 if you are interested in sharing your time and talents. Volunteer applications can be found on our website. Visit www.medinacountyparks.com, click on *Volunteers*, then on *Become a Volunteer*.

Key

- BCR = Buffalo Creek Retreat
- CRT = Chippewa Rail Trail
- CVNP = Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- ESS = Environmental Speaker Series
- GLP = Green Leaf Park
- HHC = Hidden Hollow Camp
- KS = Krabill Shelter
- LRT = Lester Rail Trail
- MPSSC = Metroparks Serving Summit County
- ND = Natural Discoveries Hiking Series
- PLNP = Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- PCPN = Plum Creek Park North
- PCPS = Plum Creek Park South
- RSP = River Styx Park
- SHNC = Susan Hambley Nature Center
- WC = Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Medina County Park District



- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Green Leaf Park | 8. Alderfer-Oenslager Wildlife Sanctuary/
Wolf Creek Environmental Center | 16. Lake Medina |
| 2. Hubbard Valley Park/
Buffalo Creek Retreat | 9. River Styx Park | 17. Carolyn Ludwig
Mugrage Park |
| 3. Headquarters | 10. Hidden Hollow Camp | 18. Killbuck Lakes |
| 4. Buckeye Woods Park/
Schleman Nature Preserve/
Chippewa Inlet Trail | 11. Princess Ledges Nature Preserve | 19. Rocky River Park |
| 5. Letha House Park | 12. Lester Rail Trail | 20. Black River Park |
| 6. Plum Creek Park | 13. Chippewa Rail Trail | 21. Palker Wildlife Preserve |
| 7. Allardale | 14. Chippewa Lake/
Krabill Shelter | 22. Chandler Wildlife Sanctuary |
| | 15. East Fork Nature Preserve | 26. Avon Lake Road Property |
| | | 28. Susan Hambley Nature Center |



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