

2010
Natural Discoveries
Hiking Series

Join us as we discover the wonder and beauty of nature throughout the year.



Medina County
Park District

The Natural Discoveries Program

The Natural Discoveries program is offered each year to those who wish to participate. These programs are free, and no pre-registration is required. This series is for ages seven to adult. The completion patch is awarded to those who complete a minimum of five hikes each year. For each consecutive year completed, a patch displaying the year is awarded.

Once you have completed your fifth hike of the year, you may turn the form in to the hike leader or mail the form to the park office to receive your patch. The patch will be mailed to you within a few days.

Special Awards

Participants in the Natural Discoveries program are eligible to earn free hiking staffs upon completion of any twenty program hikes. Hiking staffs may be purchased after the completion of any ten hikes in the program at a cost of \$10. Hikes may be completed over several years. Each year, participants should request new program forms to track hikes as they are completed.

Upon completion of five years of program hikes, a special belt pack is awarded to participants. The belt pack is imprinted with the park district logo and the words, "Five Year Award."

An engraved plate will be issued upon completion of ten years of hikes. The plate attaches to the hiking staff.

Hikers wishing to claim awards should bring their forms or patches to the park office to demonstrate eligibility.

The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Medina County Park District

6364 Deerview Lane

Medina, Ohio 44256

(330) 722-9364

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Hiking Series Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Only the hikes listed below will count towards the 2010 hiking patch. You must complete at least 5 hikes.

Hike	Leader's Initials
January 13, Wolf Creek	
January 17, Hidden Hollow Camp	
February 17, Allardale	
February 21, Wolf Creek	
March 24, Green Leaf Park	
March 28, Buckeye Woods Park	
April 18, Plum Creek Park North	
April 25, River Styx Park	
April 28, Hubbard Valley Park	
May 5, River Styx Park	
May 9, Hubbard Valley Park	
May 16, Allardale	
June 6, Allardale	
June 9, Chippewa Inlet Trail	
June 20, Wolf Creek	
July 21, Lake Medina	
August 8, Wolf Creek	
August 11, Buckeye Woods Park	
August 15, Wolf Creek	
September 19, Letha House Park	
September 22, Letha House Barn	
October 17, Princess Ledges	
October 20, Allardale	
November 7, Plum Creek Park South	
November 10, Lester Rail Trail	
December 8, Plum Creek Park North	

Please check one:

First year hiker

I have earned a

previous hiking patch.

I have completed at least five of the above listed hikes.

 Signature of hiker

White-tailed Deer in Ohio

Sunday, January 17, at 3:00 p.m.

Hidden Hollow Camp

Did you know that by 1900 there were no deer in Ohio? Discover the success story behind the white-tailed deer's recovery while learning about the life history of one of Ohio's largest mammals.

Hawks – Predators of the Sky

Sunday, February 21 at 3 p.m.

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Winter is upon us, but hawks are in full flight. Join us for an inside discussion about these birds and help with identification. Afterwards, we will hike the trails to look for these aerial creatures.

Voices of Spring

Sunday, March 28 at 3 p.m.

Buckeye Woods Park (meet at central shelter)

From the vernal pools of our woodlands and surrounding wetlands come the calls of male frogs including spring peepers, wood frogs, and chorus frogs. Join us as we listen to this spring chorus and find out how the wood frog can freeze solid during winter and stay alive!

Life on the Forest Floor

Sunday, April 18 at 3 p.m.

Plum Creek Park North

Right beneath your feet is another world that is teeming with life. Parents will have the opportunity to help their children search for salamanders, tree frogs, land snails, and other animals that live on the forest floor. This is not a hike for those who don't want to get their hands dirty.

Wildflowers of Spring

Sunday, April 25 at 3 p.m.

River Styx Park

At this time of the year, River Styx Park is blanketed with a diversity of spring wildflowers including spring beauties, Dutchman's breeches, and large-flowered trillium. Prepare for muddy trails, and bring your wildflower guide if you have one.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 9 at 3 p.m.

Hubbard Valley Park

You don't have to be a mother to join us for this hike. In less than a month, the forest floor is transformed from early wildflowers to a spectacular display

of wild geraniums, may apple, Solomon's seal, and many more. Please bring your wildflower guide.

Flowers of Allardale

Sunday, May 16 at 3 p.m.

Allardale

This is your chance to see the last wave of spring wildflowers before the forest canopy closes overhead. Join us for a look at wild blue phlox, foamflower, Bishop's cap, golden ragwort and more on the wildflower trail at Allardale.

Knowing Your Trees

Sunday, June 6 at 3 p.m.

Allardale

Each year we visit a different park to explore the diversity of trees in our region. Join one of our naturalists to learn how to recognize different species of trees along with their uses for humans and wildlife.

Along the Bluebird Trail

Sunday, June 20 at 3 p.m.

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Because of their beauty and cheerful song, bluebirds have come to symbolize happiness, love, and renewed hope. Unique to North America and at one time in danger of disappearing from the landscape, the bluebird is one of recent history's greatest comeback stories. Join us for a hike along the Wolf Creek bluebird trail to learn what has been done to save the bluebird and to see success in progress.

Butterflies and Skippers

Sunday, August 8 at 3 pm

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Join us as we hike around Wolf Creek Environmental Center and learn about the common and not so common butterflies and skippers of the area. Learn about their amazing life cycles and how to identify them based on their behaviors and specific field marks. Also, learn what is being done at Wolf Creek and the surrounding area to survey their population trends.

Prairie Wildflowers

Sunday, August 15 at 3 p.m.

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

August is the time when the tallgrass prairie is in its glory. Tall coreopsis, compass plant, blazing star, purple coneflower and many more meadow wildflowers will be on display.

PawPaw - Our Official State Fruit

Sunday, September 19 at 3 p.m.

Letha House Park

(open shelter east of Richman Rd.)

The pawpaw became Ohio's official native fruit in January 2009. Most of the relatives of the pawpaw grow in the tropics, and walking the nature trail at Letha House Park gives you that tropical forest feeling. Learn about the history of this fruit and the wildlife associated with it.

Language of the Rocks

Sunday, October 17 at 3 p.m.

Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

The rocks speak to us by revealing Ohio's geologic past from ancient seas to massive glaciers. Discover how Princess Ledges were formed together with evidence that a tropical sea once covered Ohio.

Ohio's Vanished Wildlife

Sunday, November 7 at 3 p.m.

Plum Creek Park South

This will be a journey through time beginning with the wildlife that existed in Ohio in the 1700s and ending with the wildlife of present day. We will talk about the animals that have vanished and the ones that disappeared and returned. You may be surprised by some of our common mammal species that were not present in early Ohio.

Nature Through the Seasons

These easy walks explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature. All walks take place on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

January 13 – Wolf Creek Environmental Center

February 17 – Allardale

March 24 – Green Leaf Park

April 28 – Hubbard Valley Park

May 5 – River Styx Park

June 9 – Chippewa Inlet Trail

July 21 – Lake Medina (Rt. 18 entrance)

August 11 – Buckeye Woods Park (meet at central shelter)

September 22 – Letha House Barn (enter on the west side of Richman Rd.)

October 20 – Allardale

November 10 – Lester Rail Trail (meet behind Medina Career Center)

December 8 – Plum Creek Park North