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Medina Gazette Edition

medinacountyparks.com
(330) 722-9364

Leaflet

Your Connection to Nature




Medina County Park District

Board of Commissioners
Kathleen E. Davis
Andrew J. de Luna
Dennis B. Neate

Nathan D. Eppink, Director
Jill M. Teubl, Editor

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Bluebell Valley Open to the Public

Have you been to Medina County Park District's newest natural area in Harrisville Township?

The 87-acre site is under the umbrella of Black River Nature Preserve, which includes Hidden Hollow Camp (open by reservation only) and the future East Fork area. Together, they protect more than 400 acres of woodlands, meadows, and streams in the headwaters region of Northeast Ohio's Black River.

"If you've come to Hidden Hollow Camp for an event, you know how special this river corridor is," said Medina County Park District Director Nathan Eppink. "Over the past several years, our natural resource team has carried out major restoration work designed to protect the water quality of the Black River and rebuild native habitats that attract the birds, butterflies, and wildlife visitors love to see. We're excited to finally open this nature preserve for public access. It's the first of many more great things to come for this ecologically rich area of Medina County."

Bluebell Valley includes a 0.5-mile compacted limestone trail (accessible for wheelchairs and strollers) and a 0.65-mile mowed, natural-surface trail. In terms of hiking difficulty, both are rated as easy, though footing on the natural-surface trail can be uneven. The trails loop around fields of warm-season prairie grasses that provide forage for pollinators and cover for migrating birds to rest and refuel. Visitors will encounter multiple habitats within a relatively short span, including woods, restored wetlands, and an overlook of the preserve's namesake -- a floodplain carpeted in spring-blooming Virginia bluebell wildflowers along the West Fork of the East Branch of the Black River.

Nature preserves offer fewer amenities and activities than parks in order to minimize disruption to plants and wildlife. Phase One improvements at Bluebell Valley include the trails and a 20-space gravel parking lot. Phase Two, slated for 2021, will include a small picnic shelter and restroom. Leashed pets are welcome in nature preserves; however, bicycles are not permitted.

Black River Nature Preserve Bluebell Valley



224

Floodplain
Hardwood
Forest

Conifers

Warm-Season
Prairie Grasses

Warm-Season
Prairie Grasses

Successional
Meadow

Black River
Nature Preserve/
Hidden Hollow Camp
(Open by Permit Only)

Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway

Richman Road



Medina County
Park District

(330) 722-9364
(844) 722-9364 toll free
medinacountyparks.com

Bluebell Valley
8500 Richman Road
Lodi, Ohio 44254



NO Biking



Leashed Pets



A Self-Guided Hiking Program

Explore and enjoy the beauty of fall on local trails. Those who complete at least eight designated hikes between now and November 30 qualify for hiking rewards. The program is free and open to all ages.

To get started, simply print a Trekking Through Autumn brochure at www.MedinaCountyParks.com.

Winter Birds

Saturday, November 21 through Sunday, November 29
Brunswick Lake - 1473 Parschen Blvd. - Brunswick

Many species of birds call Ohio home during the winter months. These species of birds are either resident birds that stay here all year long or winter visitors that spend the winter in Ohio before migrating back to Canada for the breeding season. Signs along the nature trail will highlight birds seen in Ohio during the winter.

Seasonal Discoveries

Saturday, November 28 through Sunday, December 6
Allardale East - 141 Remsen Rd. - Granger Township

Take an easy walk to get out in nature. Signs along the nature trail will highlight seasonal points of interest that unfold throughout the year.

Monthly Makers: Hand Turkeys



Take the opportunity this fall to get creative and showcase your artistic endeavors along the trail at Wolf Creek Environmental Center. Every registered household will be provided an outdoor space to display what it makes.

The November theme is hand turkeys! They can be as creative as you would like and made out of whatever materials you have available. Turkeys must be able to withstand being outdoors for at least two weeks. Each individual/household will be limited to one wooden stake and a five-foot square to

display its turkeys. Register by November 12. Setup will occur between November 17 - 21. Registered individuals/households will be contacted with further details regarding setup. Turkeys will be on public display through December 5.