

Leaflet


Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

October 3, 2020
Medina Gazette Edition


medinacountyparks.com
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Favorite Spots to View Fall Colors in Medina County Parks

By: John Gladden, Communications Coordinator

There's something about the sights and sounds and smells of fall that energizes our desire to be outside and connect with nature -- whether it's jumping in a leaf pile, picking apples, building a campfire, or pulling on a favorite sweater and going for a hike.

Part of that is the inescapable urgency of the season. You don't need to tell that to the bees scrambling for the last of the pollen or squirrels busily building their caches of nuts. Like spring, autumn can be fleeting. One day the fall foliage is at its peak -- then the next day brings wind or (sorry to mention this word) snow, and the leaves are gone, and the trees are ready for their long winter's sleep.

That means if you want to enjoy the comfortable temperatures and spectacular landscape of autumn, you need to get out early and get out often. To help set your seasonal itinerary, we asked Medina County Park District staff to share their favorite places to enjoy a walk in the park. Their fall hiking recommendations are below.

But first, do you know why leaves change color? Impress your hiking companions with your knowledge of things autumnal, or turn a walk into an educational experience for kids by checking out www.MedinaCountyParks.com. Click on Learning Resources under the Nature tab and look for Learning About Leaves. There you'll find out about the fascinating lives of leaves, plus see some suggestions for hands-on activities.

Enjoy fall. (Just don't wait!)

Allardale

401 Remsen Road, Medina
(Granger Township)

It is hard not to gravitate toward Allardale in the fall, or any time of year for that matter. Mr. Allard planted more than 100,000 trees of varying species, making it hard not to think of trees when you think of Allardale. The abundance of trees coupled with rolling hills and the beautiful view from the overlook make it the perfect stop on any fall adventure. -- Naturalist Natalie Dubiel

Hubbard Valley Park

8600 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville
(Guilford Township)

There are so many wonderful places to hike in MCPD in the fall, but for me, Hubbard Valley is at the top of the list. The woods become blanketed with leaves in an array of fall hues and, if you are lucky, the bare trees may allow you to get a glimpse of the resident barred owl! On a bright and sunny day, walking up along the lake trail, you get some pretty spectacular views of the sky reflected in the water with the woods behind it ablaze in fall color. -- Interpretive Services Manager Shelley Tender



Hubbard Valley Park

Photo by: Kathy Neugebauer

Plum Creek Park South

2500 Plum Creek Parkway, Brunswick
(Brunswick Hills Township)

I have to recommend the new Green Trail at Plum Creek Park! It's a nice, quiet stretch of trail with the brilliant oranges, pinks, reds, and yellows of the maples and beech. Located off the Tulip Tree Trail, it used to be my little secret, but I'm glad to finally share it with the public! -- Resource Management Specialist Travis Morton

Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park

4985 Windfall Road, Medina
(Granger Township)

I like to take a fall walk under the mature trees at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park. The Yellow Trail is paved and great for those looking for an easy walk with little ones, for people with limited mobility, or those who have a short time frame. The Green nature trail is more primitive but still flat and not difficult to traverse. Walking that trail, I often feel I've escaped the hubbub and noise of the city. I find this spot particularly fun because, while you walk the trail, there's a beautiful canopy above and an abundance of crunchy leaves and diverse fungus below. -- Naturalist Nichole Schill

Brunswick Lake

1473 Parschen Boulevard, Brunswick

If you're standing on the east side of the lake, the colors in fall are great with lots of sugar maple in shades of orange. We hope to establish a similar kaleidoscope of colors on the east side of the lake so visitors can view this from the loop trail behind Susan Hambley Nature Center. This will take time, but in the meantime, we are converting the turf grass here to a native wildflower meadow. -- Natural Resource Manager Jim Spetz

Ranger Bob Weidig adds: I love the nature trail at Susan Hambley Nature Center. During autumn, the ground is blanketed with an amazing palette of fall colors because of the diversity of vegetation.

For trail maps and more, please visit www.MedinaCountyParks.com. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter -- and share your favorite fall hiking spots with us!

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Wolf Creek Environmental Center

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Trekking Through Autumn Hiking Series

Back for its 14th year, Medina County Park District's popular self-guided hiking program, Trekking Through Autumn, offers the opportunity to explore and enjoy the beauty of fall on local trails. Those who complete at least eight designated hikes between September 1 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.



E-newsletter

If you would like to receive a monthly e-newsletter from the park district, send an email to parks@medinacountyparks.com asking to be placed on the list.



Take a "bird's-eye view" tour of beautiful fall foliage of Allardale, Buckeye Woods Park, and Hubbard Valley Park on Medina County Park District's YouTube channel.