



Medina County
Park District

2018

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series



In every walk with nature, one
receives far more than he seeks.

- John Muir

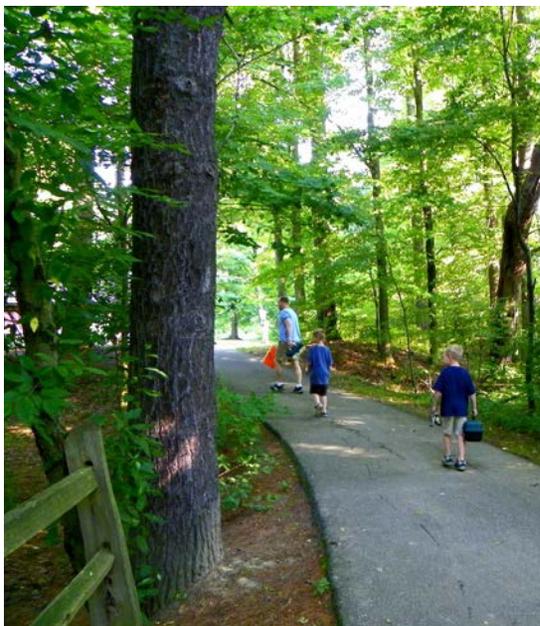
The Natural Discoveries Program

Please note new procedure for awards

Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Hikes take place on Sundays at 3 p.m. Nature through the Seasons hikes also count toward this program and are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. No pre-registration is required.

The first time a participant completes ten hikes in a calendar year, he or she will receive a wooden hiking staff (one time only). For each year that five (5) hikes in a calendar year are completed, the participant will earn a completion patch.

Hikers wishing to claim awards should present their forms to the naturalist leading the program to demonstrate eligibility.



Plum Creek Park

Participant Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Age: over 16 7 to 16

Hike Leader's Initials		
Jan. 10	Susan Hambley Nature Center	
Jan. 21	Schleman Nature Preserve	
Feb. 7	Princess Ledges Nat. Preserve	
Feb. 11	C. L. Mudge Park	
Mar. 7	Medina Marsh	
Mar. 18	Lake Medina	
Apr. 4	Allardale East	
Apr. 15	Plum Creek Park North	
Apr. 29	Hubbard Valley Park	
May 2	Chippewa Inlet Trail South	
May 13	River Styx Park	
June 6	Green Leaf Park	
June 17	Wolf Creek Env. Center	
July 11	Lester Rail Trail	
July 22	Killbuck Lakes	
Aug. 1	C. L. Mudge Park	
Aug. 12	Letha House Park East	
Aug. 26	Chippewa Inlet Trail North	
Sept. 5	River Styx Park	
Sept. 16	Hidden Hollow Camp	
Oct. 3	Letha House Park West	
Oct. 21	Princess Ledges Nat. Preserve	
Nov. 14	Plum Creek Park South	
Nov. 18	Allardale West	
Dec. 5	Buckeye Woods Park - pond	
Dec. 16	Wolf Creek Env. Center	

Follow the park district on social media

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Be sure to "Like" Friends of Medina County Parks on Facebook



Twitter
@medinacoparks



Instagram
@medinacountyparks

Award earned:

- Hiking stick (one time only)**
-Ten hikes in a calendar year
- Completion patch**
-Five hikes in a calendar year

NATURAL DISCOVERIES HIKES

All hikes are on Sundays at 3 p.m

Tracks

January 21 at Schleman Nature Preserve

Hiking on a wintery day is a great way to learn about animal tracks. The tracks we find will help us discover what animals are active in our parks!



Snowbugs

February 11 at C. L. Mudge Park

Insects are common but not at this time of year. Do you know there are a number of insects and spiders that are active even when there is snow on the ground? Find out which of these active winter species live here and search for these cold-weather creepy crawlies as we hike.

Waterfowl Migration

March 18 at Lake Medina

March is a great time of year to observe waterfowl including ducks, geese, and swans as they pass through Ohio on their way to Canada to nest. Please bring binoculars and bird ID books. Several spotting scopes will be set up for viewing waterfowl at a distance. Please dress for the weather.

All About Amphibians

April 15 at Plum Creek Park North

As the ground thaws and the first signs of spring emerge, frogs and salamanders begin to move both near and far to protected pools. Hike to the vernal pools of Plum Creek in search of these cool creatures. Trails may be muddy, so dress accordingly.



Spring Wildflowers

April 29 at Hubbard Valley Park

Only a brief window of time exists each year when woodland flowers are in their glory. Hubbard Valley Park has a spectacular diversity of spring wildflowers to discover. Prepare for muddy trails and bring your wildflower guide if you have one.

Songbirds

May 13 at River Styx Park

River Styx Park has a longstanding history of being a favorite for migratory songbirds. Join us for a hike through the fields and forests of the park in search of these beautiful birds. Bring your favorite binoculars and field guide. Some items will be available to borrow.

Cavity Nesters

June 17 at Wolf Creek Environmental Center

All birds have particular requirements when it comes to nesting. Join us as we explore the nesting boxes at Wolf Creek, and learn more about birds that use cavities for raising their families, along with the challenges they face.



Butterflies

July 22 at Killbuck Lakes

There are 137 species of butterflies and skippers recorded in Ohio. Which ones do we find in our parks? We'll learn about the common and not so common butterflies found at Killbuck Lakes and talk about our volunteer butterfly surveys that are being done at several of our parks to monitor the butterfly populations in our area.

Creekwalk

August 12 at Letha House Park East

Cool off on a warm summer day by dipping your toes into the creek as you learn about the life that calls this place home. Help to search for the aquatic macroinvertebrates, frogs, and salamanders along the way. Wear sturdy shoes and expect to get a little wet.



Summer Wildflowers

August 26 at Chippewa Inlet Trail North

Fields are full of interesting flowers and their pollinators. Walk with a naturalist to learn about these summer beauties.

Caterpillars and Cocoons

September 16 at Hidden Hollow Camp

Now is the time for caterpillars to begin taking cover in their nice cozy winter homes. We will learn about the amazing transformations of some familiar species, then explore the trails in search of some.

Camouflage

October 21 at Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

Let's see what is hiding! Learn about different kinds of camouflage that animals use in the wild. If we look carefully, we may discover what is concealed right under our noses.



Squirrels

November 18 at Allardale West

Everyone knows squirrels eat nuts, but they can also talk with their tails and turn their feet backwards. Learn about all types from flying squirrels to ground hogs as you enjoy the Allardale trails.

Winter Birds

December 16 at Wolf Creek Environmental Center

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 just spend the winter in Ohio before they migrate back to Canada during the breeding season. We'll look for these birds and learn about them as we hike around our trails.

Nature Through the Seasons

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Nature Through the Seasons consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature throughout the seasons.

January 10 at Susan Hambley Nature Center

February 7 at Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

March 7 at Medina Marsh

April 4 at Allardale East

May 2 at Chippewa Inlet Trail South

June 6 at Green Leaf Park

July 11 at Lester Rail Trail

August 1 at C. L. Mudge Park

September 5 at River Styx Park

October 3 at Letha House Park West

November 14 at Plum Creek Park South

December 5 at Buckeye Woods Park – pond shelter