



The Newsletter of the Medina County Park District

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Snowy Scavenger Hunts

Saturday, January 26 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Sunday, January 27 (12 to 5 p.m.)

Wolf Creek Environmental Center

Signs of winter are hidden all around us! Stop by the nature center during open hours this weekend for a cool winter scavenger hunt. You are encouraged to dress for the weather as activities will be available both inside and out. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.



Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting

Sunday, January 27 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
3 to 4 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 is required. Ages 16 to adult.

Hiking for the Health of It

Saturday, February 2 - Plum Creek Park South
9 to 11 a.m.

This hiking program is for those who can hike four-to-five miles at a brisk pace. Walking trails can be mildly strenuous with a limited amount being off trail. Please dress for the weather, and be sure to have appropriate footwear. Ages 10 to adult. No registration required. Free.

A Winter Wander

Sunday, February 3 - River Styx Park - 2 to 3 p.m.

Shake off the winter blues with this naturalist-led wander through the woods. Learn about what's happening in nature in the quiet of winter. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Ice Fishing Workshop

Tuesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 7

Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 6 to 8 p.m.

This two-day workshop will teach you the techniques necessary to ice fish in Northern Ohio. Topics will include proper clothing, proper footwear, safety on the ice, what kinds of equipment to use, best baits to use, what kinds of fish you can expect to catch, use of an ice auger, and use of an ice shanty and how to keep it warm. On the second night, we will get you on the ice to test your skills. The class will be taught by experienced ice fishermen. Ages 16 to adult. Register by February 3. Free.



Natural Discoveries Hike

Wednesday, February 6 - Susan Hambley Nature Center
10 to 11 a.m.

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. Themed hikes are held on Sundays, and hikes that explore seasonal happenings are offered on Wednesdays. No registration is required. Free.

Winter Bird Hike

Saturday, February 9 - Hubbard Valley Park - 10 to 11 a.m.

Join us for this hike as we look for winter birds in the fields and forests of this park. Please dress for the weather, and bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Mandala Playshop for Adults

Saturday, February 9 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

The term "mandala" comes from a Sanskrit word meaning "circle." Each mandala has a different meaning and is unique to the person who makes the design. Mandalas enable one to express his/her creativity and individuality by incorporating one's own symbolic ideas. Mandalas have been shown in clinical studies to boost the immune system, reduce stress and pain, lower blood pressure, promote sleep, and ease depression. Jo Oklessen will guide you to create mandalas in mindful expression, beginning with an introduction to the types of mandalas and a relaxation/visualization exercise to prepare you for this artistic, meditative, and creative experience. Adults only. Register by February 7. Free.

Be My Valentine

Saturdays: February 9, 16, and 23

Sundays: February 10, 17, and 24

Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m.

The nature center is the perfect place to take your valentine. Come in for Valentine's Day themed crafts and DIY gifts. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.



Pinterest Project: Love Birds on a Wire Canvas

Sunday, February 10 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
2 to 4 p.m.

Add a cheerful touch to your home decor with a charming 16" x 20" canvas art piece featuring fabric bird silhouettes on a wire. Please bring a two-inch paint brush and good pair of scissors suitable for cutting fabric and paper. All other supplies are provided. Ages 13 to adult. Register by February 8. Free.

K-9 Kapers

Sunday, February 10 - Plum Creek Park North - 3 to 4 p.m.

K-9 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 eight-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 welcome. No registration required. Free.

Preschoolers in the Garden: Let's Do Some Transplanting: Examining Roots and Shoots

Tuesday, February 12 - Krabill Shelter - 10 to 11:30 a.m.

During last month's program, we started several garden plants from seed. The plants have been growing and growing for about a month and are ready to move to a bigger house! Yes, it's time to

transplant! Join OSU Master Gardeners as we help our baby plants into new and roomier homes. Also, we will examine the delicate roots and shoots of our seedlings. This is the second program in a series of three that will follow the growth of garden plants from seed to seedling. Some or the entire program may be held outdoors so please dress accordingly. Ages 3 to 6. Register by February 11. There is a \$5 program fee.



Sweetheart Hike

Saturday, February 16 - Susan Hambley Nature Center
7 to 9:30 p.m.

Bundle up, and bring your sweetheart to enjoy a romantic stroll along the snow-covered trails at Brunswick Lake. Upon your return to the building, you may delight in each other's 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. No registration is required. The hike is self-guided and can be done any time between designated program hours. Adults only. Free.

Digital Photography: Beyond the Basics

Sunday, February 17 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
1 to 4 p.m.

In this class, students will learn about exposure and composition, the meaning and effects of shutter speed, aperture, sensor speed, and much more. Learn how to take photographs that go beyond simple snapshots. Participants should have either taken the previously offered "Basics" class or have moderate prior experience with digital cameras. Please bring your own digital camera with user manual with you to class. Ages 16 to adult. Register by February 15. There is a \$35 program fee.

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Rocks and Fossils of Medina County

Sunday, February 17 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
3 to 4 p.m.

From an ancient sea to massive glaciers, Ohio's geologic past was quite fascinating. It's hard to imagine that sea creatures, giant dragonflies, dinosaurs, and woolly mammoths all lived here at one time. At this program, we'll talk about the geology of the area as well as the prehistoric animals that once lived here. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. Themed hikes are held on Sundays, and hikes that explore seasonal happenings are offered on Wednesdays. No registration is required. Please visit the park district's website for a brochure listing complete hike details and dates. Ages 7 to adult. Free.

Winter Bird Hike

Wednesday, February 20 - Plum Creek Park North
10 to 11 a.m.

Join us for this hike as we look for winter birds in the fields and forests of this park. Please dress for the weather, and bring a pair of binoculars if you have them. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.



Register for programs at medinacountyparks.com.