

Natural Discoveries

Hiking Series



**Medina County
Park District**

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's Initials

- ___ January 17 - Schleman Nature Preserve
- ___ January 28 - Carolyn Ludwig Muguage Park
- ___ February 7 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- ___ February 25 - Medina Marsh Nature Preserve
- ___ March 6 - Green Leaf Park
- ___ March 24 - Holmesbrook Park
- ___ April 10 - Allardale Park
- ___ April 28 - Hubbard Valley Park
- ___ May 8 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley
- ___ May 19 - Plum Creek Park North
- ___ June 12 - Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve
- ___ June 30 - Sharon Nature Preserve
- ___ July 10 - Buckeye Woods Park (by shelter near pond)
- ___ July 28 - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
- ___ August 14 - Brunswick Lake
- ___ August 25 - River Styx Park
- ___ September 11 - Killbuck Lakes Nature Preserve
- ___ September 22 - Letha House Park East
- ___ October 9 - Buckeye Woods Park (meet by ballfields)
- ___ October 27 - Allardale Park
- ___ November 13 - Letha House Park West
- ___ November 24 - Oenslager Nature Center
- ___ December 11 - Sharon Nature Preserve

Participant Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____

Age Over 16 7 to 16

Award Earned

Hiking Stick (one-time only)
Ten hikes in a calendar year

Completion patch

Five hikes in a calendar year

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series

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 preregistration is required.

First-time participants who complete ten (10) hikes in a calendar year earn a wooden hiking staff (one time only). For each year that five (5) hikes in a calendar year are completed, participants will earn a completion patch. Awards are free for Medina County residents. Non-residents pay \$15 for a hiking stick and \$3 for a patch.

Hikers can claim awards by presenting their forms to the naturalist leading the program to demonstrate eligibility. All awards must be claimed by December 20, 2024.

All Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.

Owls

January 28 - Carolyn Ludwig Mudge Park
4985 Windfall Road, Medina, OH 44256

With their nocturnal nature and excellent camouflage, owls can be difficult to find. Join us for a winter walk through the woods where the shorter days and lack of leaves on trees could make it easier to spot these secretive birds.

Snow Bugs

February 25 - Medina Marsh Nature Preserve
4266 Fenn Road, Medina, OH 44256

Insects are common but not at this time of year. Do you know that there are a number of insects and spiders that are active even when there is snow on the ground? Come search for these unusual creatures as we enjoy a winter hike.

Invasive Species

March 24 - Holmesbrook Park
660 College Street, Wadsworth, OH 44281

Invasive plants and animals are threatening Ohio's natural areas by reducing food and habitat for native wildlife. Learn which invasives may be lurking in your home landscape and what you can do about them. We will discuss the value of native species and their necessity for sustaining local ecosystems.

Spring Wildflowers

April 28 - Hubbard Valley Park
8600 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville, OH 44273

Only a brief window of time exists each year when woodland ephemerals are in their glory. Join us for a hike to discover what delicate beauties are blooming on the forest floor. Prepare for muddy trails and bring your wildflower guide if you have one.

Lichens

May 19 - Plum Creek Park North
2390 Plum Creek Pkwy., Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

Lichens are something that are often seen but seldom noticed. Learn about the delicate balance of this dual organism as we hike the wooded trails of Plum Creek Park.

Decomposers

June 30 - Sharon Nature Preserve
6734 State Road

Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)
Decomposers, like fungi, bacteria, and invertebrates, break down organic material and recycle the nutrients. This means, when something dies, it gives new life to something else. Discover some of the most interesting critters in this critical role.

Singing Insects

July 28 - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
4023 Beachler Road, Medina, OH 44256

Summer wouldn't be summer without hearing the amazing sounds of insects. Learn about which insects are producing these sounds and how they produce them.

Mantids

August 25 - River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281

The praying mantis is one of our most impressive insects. Enjoy the late summer wildflowers as we explore the world of the mantid.

Fruits of Fall

September 22 - Letha House Park East
5745 Richman Road, Spencer, OH 44275

As fall approaches and summer flowers begin to fade, a variety of fruits and seeds in a spectrum of colors and textures are beginning to form. On our hike, we will identify fruits and seeds and discuss various dispersal strategies plants use to propagate the next generation.

Spiders

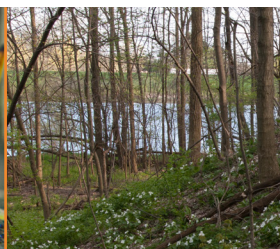
October 27 - Allardale Park
401 Remsen Road, Medina, OH 44256

Spiders are very beneficial in nature and are creatures we should not fear. Join us to learn about the different species of spiders that live in this area and some of their amazing adaptations that include their ability to spin silk.

Turkeys

November 24 - Oenslager Nature Center
6100 Ridge Road

Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)
Oenslager Nature Center is one of the better park locations to spot these impressive and iconic birds, making it a great place to talk turkey. So, get ready, pull on your hiking boots, and gobble 'til you wobble as we strut our stuff down the trail!



All Wednesday hikes begin at 10 a.m.

Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in our parks.

January 17 - Schleman Nature Preserve

6701 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

February 7 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

4361 Spruce Ave.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

March 6 - Green Leaf Park

1674 S. Medina Line Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

April 10 - Allardale Park

401 Remsen Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

May 8 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley

8500 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)

June 12 - Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve

5800 Richman Rd.
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

July 10 - Buckeye Woods Park (shelter by pond)

6335 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

August 14 - Brunswick Lake

1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212

September 11 - Killbuck Lakes Nature Preserve

7996 White Rd.
Burbank, OH 44214 (Westfield Township)

October 9 - Buckeye Woods Park (meet at ballfields)

6335 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

November 13 - Letha House Park West

5800 Richman Rd.
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

December 11 - Sharon Nature Preserve

6734 State Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)



Join us for a hike at Brunswick Lake on August 14 at 10 a.m.



Medina County Park District

6364 Deerview Lane
Medina, Ohio 44256
phone: (330) 722-9364
(844) 722-9364

website: www.medinacountyparks.com

email: parks@medinacountyparks.com

Follow the park district on
social media.



@MedinaCountyParkDistrict



@medinacoparks



@medinacountyparks