



www.medinacountyparks.com

Medina County Park District

Calendar of Events

Spring 2018



ONLINE Program Registration

Visit www.medinacountyparks.com, click on *Programs*, then on *Program Registration* to get started.

Medina County Park District
6364 Deerview Lane
Medina, Ohio 44256
phone: 330-722-9364 or 1-844-722-9364
www.medinacountyparks.com

Program Cancellation Information

For information regarding program cancellations, call our new program cancellation hotline at 330-239-3305.

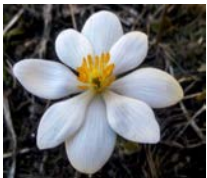
Notification of program cancellations will be made no less than two hours before a scheduled program. If the weather is uncertain, and you question whether a program will occur, call this number to hear a recorded message.



Programs with the apple icon are part of *Healthy Medina*, a collaborative community wellness initiative for Medina County. Visit www.healthymedina.com for details.

Apple icon **Saturday, March 3 - Hiking for the Health of It - Chippewa Inlet Trail North (State Route 42) - 9 to 11 a.m.** This is a hiking club 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.

Saturday, March 3 - Digital Photography for Beginners - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 4 p.m. Come learn helpful techniques for digital camera use and how to get the most out of the camera you have. This class will cover tips for taking better pictures, how to edit images with and without a computer, and proper storing and printing of your digital images. Please bring your own digital camera with user manual to class. Ages 16 to adult. Register by March 1. There is a \$25 program fee.



Sunday, March 4 - Wildflower Challenge 101 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 2:30 p.m. Our second annual Wildflower Challenge has begun! Join a naturalist for an overview of the flowers listed in the challenge and some insight as to the best places in the park district to find them during this

informative presentation. A short hike will follow the presentation to see what may be popping up. Ages 12 to adult. No registration required. Free.



Wednesday, March 7 - Nature Through the Seasons - Medina Marsh - 10 to 11 a.m. The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature throughout the seasons. These hikes also count toward the Natural Discoveries program, an award-based hiking series. Visit the park district website for details about the program. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.



Wednesday, March 7 - Yoga for Preschoolers - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn about nature, the seasons, and animals through yoga poses, a story, songs, and a game. We will practice breathing techniques and also learn how to calm down and relax. Students should bring a yoga mat or small rug

to sit on, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 3 to 6. Register by March 5. Free.

Thursday, March 8 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3:15 p.m.

Nature will serve as the inspiration for homeschoolers who want to improve their writing skills. We'll imitate the styles of skilled authors and use patterns to write poetry. The classes are offered individually but build upon one another to develop skills. You may register your child for all three if you know he/she can attend all three or register for just one or two classes. Students will need a pencil, journal, and thesaurus. Part of the class may be outdoors so dress appropriately. A writing assignment will be given after each class. *Class will be canceled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by March 7. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Sign up for the park district's monthly e-newsletter

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




 EMAIL NEWSLETTER



Medina County Park District's website has been redesigned

The park district's website has a new look and is now more mobile-friendly. Be sure to check it out at www.medinacountyparks.com.

 **Saturday, March 10 - K-9 Kapers - Green Leaf Park - 10 to 11 a.m.** K9 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 are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, March 10 - Introductory Event Photography - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 4 p.m. This class introduces the fundamentals of event photography. Tricks and tips to get better photos at functions like picnics, family reunions, and church receptions are covered. This class is geared to everyone whether you use a simple point and shoot camera, an elaborate SLR, or something in between. If you find yourself being the designated photographer at family gatherings, picnics, office ceremonies, or church functions, this class is for you. Please bring your own digital camera with user manual to class. Ages 16 to adult. Register by March 8. There is a \$25 program fee.

Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11 - Paper Bouquet - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Spring is a time for flowers, but if they are not blooming fast enough for you, stop by the nature center this weekend to make some paper flowers of your own. Create a variety of colorful flowers to cheer up your home or give to a friend. All supplies will be provided. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.



Sunday, March 11 - K-9 First Aid - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 4:30 p.m. This Red Cross-based K-9 first-aid class will teach you the basics you need to keep your dog alive until you can get professional assistance. Instruction in this one-day, two-hour course includes bandaging techniques, splinting methods, immediate first aid

for burns and frostbite, and more. Also covered, with the aid of a dog mannequin, is proper mouth-to-snout resuscitation, K-9 CPR, and how to find and check for your dog's pulse. This class is a MUST for every dog owner! There is no fee for instruction and class handouts, but a first-aid book with DVD will be available to purchase for \$20. Dog mannequins provided; please do not bring your dog to class. Ages 16 to adult. Register by March 9. Free.

Tuesday, March 13 - Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers - Buffalo Creek Retreat - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Our younger park friends are invited to create mysterious mixtures and make marvelous messes in this fun, hands-on discovery program. Come experiment with combinations of ordinary ingredients to create something fun. All supplies are provided; come dressed for mess! Ages 3 to 6. Register between February 12 and March 12. Free.

Tuesday, March 13 - Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Where'd They Go? Buffalo Creek Retreat - 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 2:30 p.m. Do we have wolves in Medina County? Where did Buffalo Creek get its name? Extirpated animals are animals that used to live here but do not anymore. We'll start inside and learn about animals that are here now and those that have been extirpated. Then we'll go outside for a hike. Ages 7 to 12. Registration is open until filled. Free for Medina County residents. There is \$3 fee for out-of-county participants.

Wildflower Challenge 101

**Sunday, March 4 - Wolf Creek Environmental Center
1 to 2:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 14 - The Lodge at Allardale
10 to 11:30 a.m.**

Our second annual Wildflower Challenge has begun! Join a naturalist for an overview of the flowers listed in the challenge and some insight as to the best places in the park district to find them during this informative presentation. Ages 12 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Wildflower Challenge forms can be found online at www.medinacountyparks.com. Click on *Programs*, then on *Special Events*.



Wednesday, March 14 - Wildflower Challenge: 101 - The Lodge at Allardale - 10 to 11:30 a.m. Our second annual Wildflower Challenge has begun! Join a naturalist for an overview of the flowers listed in the challenge and some insight as to the best places in the park district to find them during this informative presentation. A short hike will follow the presentation to see what may be popping up. Ages 12 to adult. No registration required. Free.


Saturday, March 17 - Basket Weaving 101: St. Patty's Day Basket - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join expert basket maker Betty Rettig and weave this lucky little basket to store your treasure. Stop by Wolf Creek to see an example. No experience is necessary. All materials are provided. Please call Betty Rettig at 330-975-4251 to register by March 9. Ages 12 to adult. There is a \$17 program fee per basket.

Sunday, March 18 - Ohio Boater Education Course - Krabill Shelter - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an eight-hour class in boating and water safety designed by ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft. It covers the fundamentals of safe boating: state-required equipment, watercraft laws, navigation "Rules of the Road," basic safety and risk management, and aids to navigation. Classes are enhanced with videos, slides, overheads, handouts, and other visual aids. Pre-registration and a pre-paid materials fee are required. Attendance and participation in the course is required. Ages 12 and up. Fee is \$30 (\$35 after 3/9/18). Contact Alan Hallock at 330.722.3055 or alan@hallockproperties.com to register.

Saturday, March 17 and Sunday, March 18 - Paper Bouquet - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. See 3/10 listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2018	Key **Registration required ADW - Allardale West BCR - Buffalo Creek Retreat CITN - Chippewa Inlet Trail North GLP - Green Leaf Park KS - Krabill Shelter LM - Lake Medina MM - Medina Marsh SHNC - Susan Hambley Nature Center WC - Wolf Creek Environmental Center			1	2	3 Hiking for the Health of It CITN – 9 to 11 a.m. **Digital Photography for Beginners – WC – 1 to 4 p.m.
4 Wildflower Challenge 101 – WC – 1 to 2:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Nature Through the Seasons MM - 10 to 11 a.m. **Yoga for Preschoolers SHNC – 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.	8 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers WC – 2 to 3:15 p.m.	9	10 K-9 Kapers – GLP – 10 a.m. Paper Bouquet – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. **Introductory Event Photography – WC – 1 to 4 p.m.
11 Paper Bouquet – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. **K-9 First Aid – WC 2 to 4:30 p.m.	12	13 **Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers BCR – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. **Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Where'd They Go? BCR – 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 2:30 p.m.	14 Wildflower Challenge 101 ADL – 10 to 11:30 a.m.	15	16	17 **Basket Weaving 101: St. Patty's Day Basket – WC 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Paper Bouquet – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.
18 **Boater Education Course - KB - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Paper Bouquet – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Waterfowl Migration – LM 3 to 4 p.m.	19	20 **Yoga for Homeschoolers – WC 2 to 3 p.m.	21	22 **Tales for Tots WC – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	23 **Tales for Tots WC – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	24 **Fulton Farm Maple Syrup Tour and Pancake Breakfast – BCR Advanced registration required; Times vary Easter Egg Hunt at the Ranch Medina Creative Therapy Ranch 12 to 2 p.m. Evening Amphibian Walk ADW – 7 to 8 p.m.
25 Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting WC – 3 to 4 p.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31 Frogs and Fowl – CITN 10 to 11 a.m.



 **Sunday, March 18 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Waterfowl Migration - Lake Medina (State Route 18 entrance) - 3 to 4 p.m.** Natural Discoveries is a series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Participants in the program who complete certain hike requirements are eligible to receive awards. See the Natural Discoveries link the park district website for award details. 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. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, March 20 - Yoga for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Celebrate nature and the seasons through a variety of yoga activities. Benefits of yoga include: improving strength, flexibility, and balance; developing the ability to focus; building self-confidence and reducing stress; developing body awareness and coordination; and having fun! Each student should bring a yoga mat or beach towel, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 7 to 12. Register by March 19. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Thursday, March 22 or Friday, March 23 - Tales for Tots - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Hippy-hop on over to Wolf Creek to learn about rabbits! We will discover more about these cute and furry wildlife friends through a story, a craft, and fun activities. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register between February 22 and March 22. Free.


Saturday, March 24 - Easter Egg Hunt at the Ranch - Medina Creative Therapy Ranch located at 5200 Lake Rd., Medina, OH 44256 - 12 to 2 p.m. Medina Creative Therapy Ranch will be hosting an Easter egg hunt! Come visit the horses and learn all about the services offered while you search for Easter eggs. The grand prize will be a free 12-week riding session. For more information regarding the ranch or to contact a ranch representative with questions, visit Medina Creative Housing's website at <http://medinacreativehousing.com/medinatherapyranch/>. All ages are welcome. No registration required.

Saturday, March 24 - Evening Amphibian Walk - Allardale West - 7 to 8 p.m. Warm spring evenings are when amphibians become active. Walk with a naturalist to search for frogs, toads, and salamanders on the move. Ages 6 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, March 24 - Fulton Farm Maple Syrup Tour and Pancake Breakfast - Buffalo Creek Retreat - ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED - Tours will be approximately 90 minutes in duration and conducted every 45 minutes in groups of 25. Breakfast will be available either before or after your tour time. When registering, please register for your preferred tour time. Tour times are as follows: 9 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., noon. Join us as we take a wagon tour of the Fulton family's Maple Valley Farm sugar woods owned and operated by five generations of the Fulton family. See the entire syrup-making process from gathering the sap to boiling and bottling in the sugar house. Tours will begin and end at Buffalo Creek Retreat where you can enjoy a pancake breakfast and warm refreshments! Space is limited for this event. Registration ends March 12. The registration form is available on the park website home page. You will receive a confirmation notice by March 16 via email containing your tour time and details regarding the event. We will do our best to place you in your first choice time slot, but tours will be scheduled on a first-come, first served basis. There is a \$6 fee per person. All ages are welcome.

Sunday, March 25 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - 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 required. For more information, please contact Shelley at 330-239-4814 or stender@medinaco.org. Ages 16 to adult.

Saturday, March 31 - Frogs and Fowl - Chippewa Inlet Trail North (State Route 42) - 10 to 11 a.m. Take a hike along the Chippewa Inlet Trail, weaving through restored wetlands and near wet woods in search of frogs and waterfowl which, weather-permitting, are typical visitors this time of year. No registration required. All ages are welcome. Free.

 **Wednesday, April 4 - Nature Through the Seasons - Allardale East - 10 to 11 a.m.** The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature throughout the seasons. These hikes also count toward the Natural Discoveries program, an award-based hiking series. Visit the park district website for details about the program. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Fulton Farm Maple Syrup Tour & Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, March 24 at Buffalo Creek Retreat; various time slots available



Join us as we take a wagon tour of the Fulton family's Maple Valley Farm sugar woods owned and operated by five generations of the Fulton family. See the entire syrup-making process from gathering the sap to boiling and bottling in the sugar house. Tours will begin and end at Buffalo Creek Retreat where you can enjoy a pancake breakfast and warm refreshments!

Space is limited for this event. There is a \$6 fee person. Online registration ends March 12.

Registration forms are found online at www.medinacountyparks.com. Click on *Programs*, then on *Special Events*.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 April 2018 Wolf Creek and Susan Hambley Nature Center closed	2	3	4 Nature Through the Seasons ADL – 10 to 11 a.m. **Yoga for Preschoolers SHNC – 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.	5	6 Woodcock Walk WC – 7:30 to 9 p.m.	7 Hiking for the Health of It CVNP's Salt Run Trailhead 9 to 11 a.m. **Build a Native Bee House Workshop – WC – 1 to 3 p.m.
8 Wild About Wood Ducks WC – 2 to 3 p.m.	9	10 **Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Migration Mania ADL – 10 to 11:30 a.m.	11	12 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers WC – 2 to 3:15 p.m.	13	14 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. ** Boater Education Course – KB – 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Hunter Education Course – WC – 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Spring Scavenger Hunt - SHNC -12 to 5
15 Spring Scavenger Hunt SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: All About Amphibians – PCPN – 3 to 4 p.m. K-9 Kapers – HVP – 3 to 4 p.m.	16	17 **Yoga for Homeschoolers – WC 2 to 3 p.m.	18	19	20	21 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Medina County's 22 nd Annual Earth Day Festival – BCR – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family Fishing Derby – BCR – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spring Scavenger Hunt – SHNC – 12 to 5 p.m.
22 Spring Scavenger Hunt SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting WC - 3 to 4 p.m.	23	24	25	26 **Tales for Tots PCPN – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	27 **Tales for Tots PCPN – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	28 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Youth Fishing Derby – RSP – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Migratory Bird Banding – WC – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Basket Weaving 101: Mother's Day Basket – WC – 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Medina Creative Therapy Ranch Special Olympics Horse Show 12 to 6 p.m.
29 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Spring Wildflowers – HVP 3 to 4 p.m.	30		<p>Key **Registration required ADL - The Lodge at Allardale BCR - Buffalo Creek Retreat CVNP - Cuyahoga Valley National Park HVP - Hubbard Valley Park KS - Krabill Shelter PCPN - Plum Creek Park North RSP - River Styx Park SHNC - Susan Hambley Nature Center WC - Wolf Creek Environmental Center</p>			



Medina County's 22nd Annual Earth Day Festival


Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Buffalo Creek Retreat (8708 Hubbard Valley Road Seville, OH 44273)


Come out for earth friendly exhibits, a family fishing derby, kids' activities, food, and much more! No registration required. All ages are welcome. Free admission.

Wednesday, April 4 - Yoga for Preschoolers - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Learn about nature, the seasons, and animals through yoga poses, a story, songs, and a game. We will practice breathing techniques and also learn how to calm down and relax. Students should bring a yoga mat or small rug to sit on, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 3 to 6. Register by April 2. Free.

Friday, April 6 - Woodcock Walk - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 7:30 to 9 p.m. Did you know there is a bird that nests in Ohio that has a flexible bill, sings with its wings, and dances for its dinner? Come learn more about this unusual bird and take a hike to try to see one in action. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

 **Saturday, April 7 Hiking for the Health of It - Cuyahoga Valley National Park's Salt Run Trailhead located at 5465 Quick Road in Peninsula - 9 to 11 a.m.** This is a hiking club 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.

Saturday, April 7 - Build a Native Bee House Workshop - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 1 to 3 p.m. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies are an essential part of the human food chain, but they are suffering from habitat loss. Learn why native bees are so important, how to create pollinator-friendly environments to increase populations, and construct your own native bee house for your backyard. Ages 12 to adult. Register by April 5. Free.

Sunday, April 8 - Wild About Wood Ducks - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3 p.m. When we think of ducks, we think of them floating in the water, flying through the air, or waddling along the ground. But wood ducks can also perch in trees! Come learn about wood ducks and discover what else makes these beautiful birds unique.  Then take a short hike to the wetland for a chance to see wood ducks in the wild. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, April 10 - Homeschoolers Outdoor Education: Migration Mania - The Lodge at Allardale - 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 2:30 p.m. Migration is defined as the act of moving from one place to another. For some animals, this may be just a few dozen feet, but for others, it may be a few thousand miles. During this program, learn about some of our local migratory species and take a hike to try to see migration in action! Ages 7 to 12. Registration open until filled. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Thursday, April 12 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3:15 p.m. Nature will serve as the inspiration for homeschoolers who want to improve their writing skills. We'll imitate the styles of skilled authors and use patterns to write poetry. The classes are offered individually but build upon one another to develop skills. You may register your child for all three if you know he/she can attend all three or register for just one or two classes. Students will need a pencil, journal, and thesaurus. Part of the class may be outdoors so dress appropriately. A writing assignment will be given after each class. *Class will be canceled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by April 11. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Volunteers are an integral part of Medina County Park District.



Volunteers contribute time, energy, knowledge, and skills to enhance many of the programs and events that are offered and help to keep the parks clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. There are many volunteer opportunities to fit your passion for the parks. We can use your time and talents in a variety of areas. Contact Mary Beth at volunteercoordinator@roadrunner.com if you are interested in volunteering.

- Program Assistant
- Program Leader
- Puppeteer
- Trail Monitor
- Citizen Science
- Facility Gardening
- Office Assistant
- Special Events
- Cookie Baker
- Animal Care
- Invasive Species Control
- Carpentry/Construction Projects



Saturday, April 14 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. Watch as migrating spring birds return or travel through to their summer breeding grounds during the 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks. Spring Bird Walks are cosponsored by Cleveland Metroparks, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, Geauga Park District, Hiram College, Holden Arboretum, Lake Metroparks, Medina County Park District, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Medina County Park District walks are led by experienced birders and will be held every Saturday at 7:30 a.m. through May 19. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Follow the park district on social media



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



Instagram
@medinacountyparks





Twitter
@medinacoparks

Saturday, April 14 - Ohio Boater Education Course - Krabill Shelter - 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an eight-hour class in boating and water safety designed by ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft. It covers the fundamentals of safe boating: state-required equipment, watercraft laws, navigation "Rules of the Road," basic safety and risk management and aids to navigation. Classes are enhanced with videos, slides, overheads, handouts, and other visual aids. Pre-registration and a pre-paid materials fee are required. Attendance and participation in the course is required. Ages 12 and up. Fee is \$30 (\$35 after 4/6/18). Contact Alan Hallock at 330-722-3055 or alan@hallockproperties.com to register.

Saturday, April 14 - Ohio Division of Wildlife: Hunter Education Course - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Completion of a hunter education course is required for all first-time hunting license buyers in Ohio (ORC 1533.10). The hunter education course covers topics such as firearms, ammunition, gun handling, archery, hunter responsibilities, outdoor safety, wildlife management and conservation, and other related information. Absolutely NO FIREARMS shall be brought to the class. Lunch is not provided, but there will be a one-hour lunch break. Registration for this class opens March 15 and can only be done on the ODNR website at <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/educationandoutdoordiscovery/hunterandtrappereducation>. Ages 10 to adult. Free.

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15 - Spring Scavenger Hunt - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Rain or shine, we will have indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts. Come to the park to seek and find objects on the trails or in the building. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

 **Sunday, April 15 - K9 Kapers - Hubbard Valley Park - 3 to 4 p.m.** K9 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 are welcome. No registration required. Free.

 **Sunday, April 15 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: All About Amphibians - Plum Creek Park North - 3 to 4 p.m.** Natural Discoveries is a series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Participants in the program who complete certain hike requirements are eligible to receive awards. See the Natural Discoveries link on the park district website for award details. 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. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.



Tuesday, April 17 Yoga for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Celebrate nature and the seasons through a variety of yoga activities. Benefits of yoga include: improving strength, flexibility, and balance; developing the ability to focus; building self-confidence and reducing stress; developing body awareness and coordination; and having fun! Each student should bring a yoga mat or beach towel, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 7 to 12. Register by April 16. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Saturday, April 21 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. See 4/14 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Youth Fishing Derby



Saturday, April 28

River Styx Park - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Young fishermen 15 years of age or younger are invited to participate in the park district's annual River Styx Youth Fishing Derby. Girls and boys, alike, can enjoy catching fish and winning prizes. Please have your children bring their fishing poles. A limited number of poles will be available to borrow, and a limited amount of bait will be supplied. Prizes will be awarded. Free. No pre-registration required. Registration begins at 9 a.m. **The derby is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**



What is the Friends of the Parks?

Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. is a non-profit organization of individuals,

families, businesses, and organizations dedicated to preserving green space and providing recreational and educational opportunities in Medina County. The group was formed in 1972 and works to promote and support the mission of the park district.

Why become a Friend of the Parks?

Your membership entitles you to certain privileges unavailable to the general public including:

- Participation in "Friends' Only" events
- Friends' newsletter, *Acorn*, mailed directly to your home
- Discounts on rentals of park facilities

What types of support does the group provide?

Funds raised by the Friends through membership and other activities assist the park district in many ways including:

- Sponsorship for educational presentations and entertainment
- Supplies and equipment for public programs
- Funds for land acquisition
- Assistance to county schools for field studies at Wolf Creek

How to become a Friend of the Parks

You can either mail in your membership application or sign up and pay online with a credit card. To download a membership application or to join online, go to www.medinacountyparks.com, click on the *Get Involved* tab, then on the *Friends of the Parks* tab.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2018		1	2 Nature Through the Seasons CITS – 10 to 11 a.m. **Yoga for Preschoolers SHNC – 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.	3	4	5 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Hiking for the Health of It – HVP – 9 to 11 a.m.
6 **Nature Rocks! – WC – 2 to 4 p.m.	7	8 **Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers – KS – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	9	10 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers WC – 2 to 3:15 p.m.	11	12 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Healthy Strides – HVP – 9 to 10 a.m. Migratory Bird Banding – WC – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Mandala Playshop for Adults WC – 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Wonderful World of Warblers – SHNC – 12 to 5 p.m.
13 Wonderful World of Warblers – SHNC – 12 to 5 p.m. Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Songbirds RSP – 3 to 4 p.m.	14	15 **Yoga for Homeschoolers – WC 2 to 3 p.m.	16 **Mandala Playshop for Kids ADL – 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.	17	18	19 85 th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks – RSP – 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. K-9 Kapers – KL – 10 to 11 a.m. Wonderful World of Warblers – SHNC – 12 to 5 p.m. CAA Presents: How to Use Your Own Telescope – LHPW – 8 to 11 p.m.
20 Wonderful World of Warblers – SHNC – 12 to 5 p.m. **Kitchen Gardens – WC – 2 to 4 p.m.	21	22	23	24 **Tales for Tots KS – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	25 **Tales for Tots KS – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	26 Healthy Strides – Brunswick Lake Trail – 9 to 10 a.m. Migratory Bird Banding – WC – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
27 Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting LHPW – 3 to 4 p.m.	28 Park office closed	29	30	31	<p>Key **Registration required CITS - Chippewa Inlet Trail South HVP - Hubbard Valley Park KL - Killbuck Lakes KS - Krabill Shelter LHPW - Letha House Park West RSP - River Styx Park SHNC - Susan Hambley Nature Center WC - Wolf Creek Environmental Center</p>	



85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks

River Styx Park - 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
EVERY Saturday from April 14 to May 19

Watch as migrating spring birds return or travel through to their summer breeding grounds during the 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks. Medina County Park District walks are led by experienced birders and will be held every Saturday at 7:30 a.m. through May 19.

Saturday, April 21 - Family Fishing Derby - Buffalo Creek Retreat - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fish together with your family, hook some memories, and win prizes! Grab a rod and reel in an afternoon of fishing fun during our fifth annual Medina County Park District Family Fishing Derby! Parent/child teams can register and fish any time between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Registration is required to be eligible to win prizes. Please bring your fishing poles. A limited amount of fishing poles and bait will be available for use. This derby is held in conjunction with Medina County's 22nd Annual Earth Day Festival. All ages are welcome. Free.



Saturday, April 21 - Medina County's 22nd Annual Earth Day Festival - Buffalo Creek Retreat - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come celebrate Earth Day at Medina County Park District's Buffalo Creek Retreat! There will be earth friendly exhibits, a family fishing derby,

kids' activities, food, and much more, so bring the whole family for a fun-filled day. Additional parking for this event will be at Hubbard Valley Park with shuttle service provided to Buffalo Creek Retreat. No registration required. All ages are welcome. Free.

Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22 - Spring Scavenger Hunt - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Rain or shine, we will have indoor and outdoor scavenger hunts. Come to the park to seek and find objects on the trails or in the building. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, April 22 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - 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 required. For more information, please contact Shelley at 330-239-4814 or stender@medinaco.org. Ages 16 to adult.

Thursday, April 26 or Friday, April 27 - Tales for Tots - Plum Creek Park North - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. This program is egg-stra special! We will investigate eggs of all shapes and sizes through a story and hands-on examination, then go on an egg hunt! For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register by between March 26 and April 26. Free.

Saturday, April 28 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. See 4/14 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, April 28 - Basket Weaving 101: Mother's Day Basket - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Enjoy weaving a gift from the heart for your mother or grandmother, or bring them along for some quality bonding time. Stop by Wolf Creek to see an example. No experience is necessary. All materials are provided. Please call Betty Rettig at 330-975-4251 to register by April 20. Ages 12 to adult. There is a \$17 fee per basket.

Saturday, April 28 - Migratory Bird Banding - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bird banding is a scientific research method that studies bird behavior and movements and provides us with valuable information about avian populations and migratory patterns. The data collected through bird banding is critical to identify contributing factors affecting populations in both winter and summer habitats and the establishment of needed conservation efforts. Join licensed bird banders Gary and Jill Fowler at Wolf Creek to learn more about the significance of bird banding and see how it is done. Please note that bird banding is weather variable and may not be done if it is raining or snowing. Signs will be posted at Wolf Creek to let you know if bird banding is occurring and to direct you to the banding location (new location for spring). All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, April 28 - Special Olympics Horse Show - Medina Creative Therapy Ranch located at 5200 Lake Road - 12 p.m. Join Medina Creative Therapy Ranch for its Special Olympics Horse Show! The public is invited to come watch the equestrian Special Olympics team in Medina County show off its hard work during this competitive event. Participants will take part in various events including showing in classes of English and Western equitation, barrel racing, showmanship, dressage, and trail riding. For more information about the ranch or to contact a ranch representative with questions, visit Medina Creative Housing's website at <http://medinacreativehousing.com/medinatherapyranch/>. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, April 28 - Youth Fishing Derby - River Styx Park - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Young fishermen 15 years of age or younger are invited to participate in the park district's annual River Styx Youth Fishing Derby. Girls and boys, alike, can enjoy catching fish and winning prizes. Please have your children bring their fishing poles. A limited number of poles will be available to borrow, and a limited amount of bait will be supplied. Prizes will be awarded. Free. No pre-registration required. Registration begins at 9 a.m. **The derby is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Sunday, April 29 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Spring Wildflowers - Hubbard Valley Park - 3 to 4 p.m. Natural Discoveries is a series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Participants in the program who complete certain hike requirements are eligible to receive awards. See the Natural Discoveries link on the park district website for award details. 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. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Wednesday, May 2 - Nature Through the Seasons - Chippewa Inlet Trail South located on Chippewa Road west of Lake Road - 10 to 11 a.m. The Nature Through the Seasons series consists of easy walks that explore our different parks while observing the unfolding of nature throughout the seasons. These hikes also count toward the Natural Discoveries program, an award-based hiking series. Visit the park district website for details about the program. Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Wednesday, May 2 - Yoga for Preschoolers - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Learn about nature, the seasons, and animals through yoga poses, a story, songs, and a game. We will practice breathing techniques and also learn how to calm down and relax. Students should bring a yoga mat or small rug to sit on, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 3 to 6. Register by April 30. Free.

Saturday, May 5 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. See 4/14 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.


Saturday, May 5 - Hiking for the Health of It - Hubbard Valley Park - 9 to 11 a.m. This is a hiking club 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.

Sunday, May 6 - Nature Rocks! Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 4 p.m. Join OSU Extension and Master Gardener Volunteers for this spring children's workshop. Children will experience nature's wonders with fun and educational activities where they will learn about a butterfly's life cycle; how to identify common Ohio butterflies and the plants that attract them; identify native and nonnative plants through a fun scavenger hunt; and paint a colorful, happy sun-catcher. Children will also receive pollinator plant seeds to plant at home! Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins, please. To register, contact Ashley Kulhanek at 330-725-4911 Ext. 106 or kulhanek.5@osu.edu. Ages 6 to 12. There is a \$6 fee per participant.

Tuesday, May 8 - Creative Concoctions for Preschoolers - Krabill Shelter - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Our younger park friends are invited to create mysterious mixtures and make marvelous messes in this fun, hands-on discovery program. Come experiment with combinations of ordinary ingredients to create something fun. All supplies are provided; come dressed for mess! Ages 3 to 6. Register between April 19 and May 7. Free.

Thursday, May 10 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3:15 p.m. Nature will serve as the inspiration for homeschoolers who want to improve their writing skills. We'll imitate the styles of skilled authors and use patterns to write poetry. The classes are offered individually but build upon one another to develop skills. You may register your child for all three if you know he/she can attend all three or register for just one or two classes. Students will need a pencil, journal, and thesaurus. Part of the class may be outdoors so dress appropriately. A writing assignment will be given after each class. * Class will be cancelled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by May 9. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Saturday, May 12 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. See 4/14 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

 **Saturday, May 12 - Healthy Strides - Hubbard Valley Park - 9 to 10 a.m.** Healthy Strides combines a brief, informative talk by a Cleveland Clinic physician or caregiver and a casual one-to-three mile walk. Topics change each week based on the leader's specialty and suggestions from participants. All members of the community are welcome. Ages ten to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, May 12 - Migratory Bird Banding - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. See 4/28 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

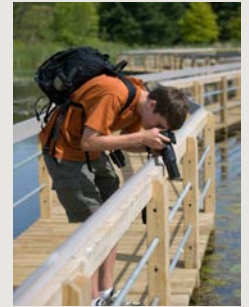
Photographers of the Parks



The Photographers of the Parks is a club of nature photo enthusiasts that wants to share knowledge with like-minded folks and support the mission of the park district through photography. The club welcomes photographers of all skill levels and provides members with a variety of opportunities to improve their photography skills through information sharing, critiques, instruction, and recognition of accomplishments.

Activities

- Regular monthly meetings
- Photo outings and walks
- Tutorials and education classes
- Monthly photo assignments
- Photo contests
- Social events
- Photojournalist coverage of park district programs



Meetings

Meetings are held once a month with a few exceptions. Meeting dates are listed on the *Photo Club* webpage under *Programs and Activities* at www.medinacountyparks.com. The time period one hour prior to regular meetings may be reserved for tutorials and photo walks. No registration is required.

Club meetings consist of a brief review of club business and a review of images from the monthly photo assignment, followed by selection of the photo of the month. Refreshments and snacks are provided.

Membership Requirements


Participation is open to all individuals over the age of 16. For those members under the age of 18, parental accompaniment or a signed parental permission slip or liability waiver may be required for selected club outings and activities.

Annual dues for the POTP club are \$5, and current membership in Friends of Medina County Parks, Inc. is required. Benefits of club membership include access to the club's photo sharing website, attendance at members-only events, and participation in club-sponsored contests. Guests are welcome at meetings and some club-sponsored activities. You may attend two consecutive regular meetings before deciding to become a member.

Please call Shelley at 330-239-4814 or send an e-mail to medinapotp@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 12 - Mandala Playshop for Adults - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Mandala comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "circle" and represents wholeness, balance, integration, and beauty. Jo Oklessen will teach you to create mandalas in mindful expression: a hand mandala using colored pencils and a nature mandala using objects from the natural world. There will be an intro about types of mandalas and a relaxation/visualization exercise to prepare and center us for our artistic, meditative, and creative experience. Ages 16 to adult. Register by May 11. Free.

Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13 - Wonderful World of Warblers - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Warblers are one of the most fascinating birds of Northeast Ohio. They are tiny, very energetic, and brightly colored but are easy to miss. They fly thousands of miles during migration. Some species stay in Ohio to nest while others travel farther north to Canada. Learn about the lives of warblers and enjoy crafts and other activities. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.


 **Sunday, May 13 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Songbirds River Styx Park - 3 to 4 p.m.** Natural Discoveries is a series of free nature-themed programs designed for ages seven to adult. Participants in the program who complete certain hike requirements are eligible to receive awards. See the Natural Discoveries link on the park district website for award details. 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 will be available to borrow.) Ages 7 to adult. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, May 15 - Yoga for Homeschoolers - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Celebrate nature and the seasons through a variety of yoga activities. Benefits of yoga include: improving strength, flexibility, and balance; developing the ability to focus; building self-confidence and reducing stress; developing body awareness and coordination; and having fun! Each student should bring a yoga mat or beach towel, wear comfortable clothing suitable for yoga, and prepare to be barefoot. Ages 7 to 12. Register by May 14. Free for Medina County residents. There is a \$3 fee for non-county participants.

Wednesday, May 16 - Mandala Playshop for Kids - The Lodge at Allardale - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mandala comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "circle" and represents wholeness, balance, integration, and beauty. Jo Oklessen will teach you to create mandalas in mindful expression: a hand mandala using colored pencils and a nature mandala using objects from the natural world. There will be an intro about types of mandalas and a relaxation/visualization exercise to prepare and center us for our artistic, meditative, and creative experience. Ages 9 to 16. Register May 15. Free.

Saturday, May 19 - 85th Annual Series of Spring Bird Walks - River Styx Park - 7:30 a.m. See 4/14 program listing for a description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.


Saturday, May 19 - CAA Presents: How to Use YOUR OWN Telescope! Letha House Park West - 8 to 11 p.m. Do you have a telescope gathering dust because you don't know how to use it? Come early and kick off the summer stargazing season with members of Cuyahoga Astronomical Association who will be on hand to show you how to use YOUR OWN telescope to view the night sky. First come, first served. Ages 6 to adult. No registration required. Free.

 **Saturday, May 19 - K-9 Kapers - Killbuck Lakes - 10 to 11 a.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 are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20 - Wonderful World of Warblers - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. See 5/12 program listing for a program description.

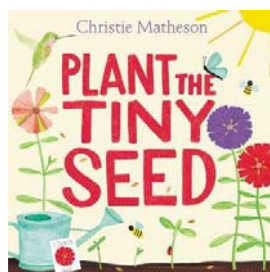
Sunday, May 20 - Kitchen Gardens - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 2 to 4 p.m. Learn how to create a kitchen garden for easy access to fresh salad greens, vegetables, herbs, and colorful flowers to brighten your table. Get started with a make-and-take herb container garden to take home with you! All supplies are provided. Pre-registration and payment are required by May 11. Contact Linda or Mary at 330-722-9316 or lschneider@medinaco.org. Ages 13 to adult. There is a \$20 program fee.

Thursday, May 24 or Friday, May 25 - Tales for Tots - Krabill Shelter - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Animal tails come in many shapes and sizes, and each one has its own job. Learn how animals use their tails through a story, a craft, and fun activities. For ages 3 to 6 with an adult companion. Some or all of the program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register between April 26 and May 23. Free.

 **Saturday, May 26 - Healthy Strides - Brunswick Lake Trail (meet near nature center) - 9 to 10 a.m.** Healthy Strides combines a brief, informative talk by a Cleveland Clinic physician or caregiver and a casual one-to-three mile walk. Topics change each week based on the leader's specialty and suggestions from participants. All members of the community are welcome. Ages ten to adult. No registration required. Free.

Saturday, May 26 - Migratory Bird Banding - Wolf Creek Environmental Center - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. See 4/28 listing for a program description. All ages are welcome. No registration required. Free.

Sunday, May 27 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - Letha House Park West - 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 required. For more information, please contact Shelley at 330-239-4814 or stender@medinaco.org. Ages 16 to adult.



StoryWalk® at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park

The book for spring is *Plant the Tiny Seed* by Christie Matheson.