



Medina County
Park District

Fall Program Guide 2024



Photo by: Volunteer David Harrison

Color Walk
Discovery Drop-in
Monarch Tagging
Senior Strides

Wildlife at Night
K9 Kapers
Starry, Starry Nights
Basket Weaving 101

Music at The Lodge
All Aboard! Mini Train Rides
Tales for Tots
Homeschoolers Outdoor Education



Native Plant Festival and Sale
September 7



Nature Art Fest
November 9 and 10



Medina County Park District

Park Office:

6364 Deerview Lane
Medina, OH 44256
(330) 722-9364
(844) 722-9364

Website:

www.medinacountyparks.com

Email:

parks@medinacountyparks.com

Program Registration

- Register online for programs at www.medinacountyparks.com.
- Not all programs are pet-friendly. Unless otherwise noted, pets are not permitted at park programs.

Program Cancellation Hotline

Please call (330) 239-3305 to find out if a program is cancelled.

Park Program Addresses

Allardale Park (ADP)

Park: 401 Remsen Rd.

The Lodge at Allardale (ADL): 141 Remsen Rd.

Allardale Park East (ADPE): 141 Remsen Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Brunswick Lake Trail (BLT)

Susan Hambley Nature Center (SHNC)

1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212

Buckeye Woods Park (BWP)

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

Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park (CLMP)

4985 Windfall Road
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Chippewa Rail Trail (CRT)

5700 Chippewa Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Chippewa Yacht Club (CYC)

Longacre Drive
Chippewa Lake, OH 44215

Green Leaf Park (GLP)

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

Hidden Hollow Camp (HHC)

8672 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)

Hubbard Valley Park (HVP)

8600 Hubbard Valley Rd.
Seville, OH 44273 (Guilford Township)

Killbuck Lakes Nature Preserve (KL)

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

Lester Rail Trail (LRT)

3654 Lester Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (York Township)

Letha House Park

East (**LHPE**): 5745 Richman Rd.
West (**LHL**): 5800 Richman Rd.
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve (LWNP)

3005 Avon Lake Rd.
Litchfield Township, OH 44253

Oenslager Nature Center/ Alderfer-Chatfield Wildlife Sanctuary (ONC)

6100 Ridge Rd.
Sharon Township
(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

Plum Creek Park

North (PCPN): 2390 Plum Creek Pkwy.
South (PCPS): 2500 Plum Creek Pkwy.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

River Styx Park (RSP)

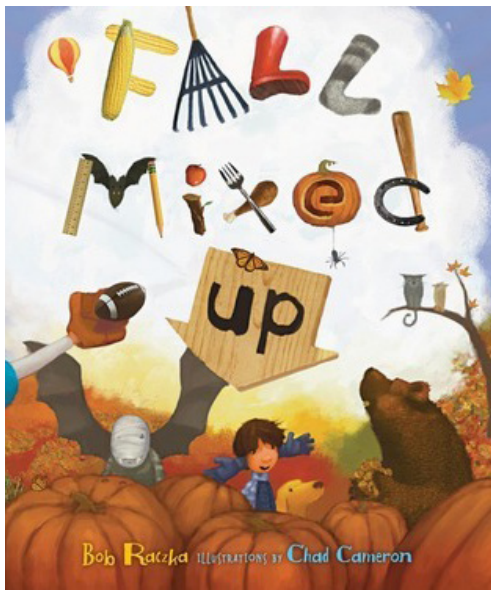
8200 River Styx Rd.
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guilford Township)

Sharon Nature Preserve (ShPr)

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

Susan Hambley Nature Center (SHNC)

1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212



StoryWalk Trail

As you walk along the paved trail at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park, you will see sign posts and platforms through the woods. This series of platforms holds the pages of a children's picture book that families can read as they stroll along the trail. The project is a cooperative effort with Medina County District Library to promote literacy, physical activity, and spending time in the outdoors.

Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park is located at 4985 Windfall Rd. in Medina.



Become a member of Friends of Medina

County Parks today and support your local parks. Every membership provides the Friends with funding for ongoing projects and new ways to preserve Medina County parks. All members will receive access to our members-only events throughout the year and the *Acorn* newsletter as well as a schedule of quarterly events mailed directly to you. As an added benefit, once per year, each Friends member is eligible for a shelter reservation discount in the amount of his/her paid membership. Join online at www.friendsofmedinacountyparks.org.

Sunday, September 1 - Ohio Butterfly Surveys: What's Being Done at Letha House Park? - Letha House Lodge (West) - 2 to 3 p.m. Long-term surveys are important because they help to monitor plant or animal populations over many years. Butterfly surveys are important because they are indicator species on the overall health of our environment. Join us as we hike, catch, and learn about butterflies and the park district's long-term survey at Letha House Park that started in 2013. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, September 7 - Native Plant Festival and Sale - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us, once again, for the second annual Native Plant Festival and Sale to explore the connection between native plants, people, and wildlife! Shop at the native plant sale, help tag monarchs, play some games, make some crafts, and visit with and learn from our important native plant partners such as Wild Ones, Medina County Master Gardeners, Greater Akron Audubon, and more. This will also serve as the pick-up location for the Medina County Soil and Water District's Invasive Species buy-back program (must have signed up previously through the soil and water district). Proceeds from the sales benefit Friends of Medina County Parks. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, September 7 - The Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control Chippewa Yacht Club (Entrance is just past the Oaks Restaurant on Longacre Lane) - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowledge of how your boat reacts in different situations is crucial to safe boating handling. In this class geared toward new and seasoned boaters, learn what to do and when to do it using factors like the wind and water current to assist you in putting your boat where you want it to be in close quarters. Skills that will be covered include: docking, ferrying, boater's eye, and much more. The class will be taught by ODNR using a center-console 18' Boston Whaler with 150 HP. Participants are required to bring proof of their boaters' licenses, their own USCG-approved inherently buoyant PFDs (no inflatables), and packed lunches. You will need to sign a waiver on the day of class. Ages 18 and up. Register by September 5. Free.

Sunday, September 8 - Lake-to-Lake Bike Tour - Buckeye Woods Park 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Experience the beauty of nature as you pedal through picturesque trails with fellow biking enthusiasts. This in-person event is perfect for nature lovers and fitness enthusiasts, alike. This ride is presented by Bike Medina County in conjunction with Medina County Park District. Its goal is to promote bicycle safety in the community through education, improved signage, new trails, and special events. All proceeds from the Lake-to-Lake Harvest Bike Tour go right back into promoting safe cycling in Medina County. The event offers a family/casual ride of approximately 15 miles, mostly on Medina County Park District trails, with a rest stop in the village of Chippewa Lake. Experienced cyclists can choose from routes of approximately 30 or 50 miles that encompass rolling hills, small towns, lake views, points of interest, and the beautiful autumn countryside. To learn more and register for the ride, visit: <https://bikemedinacounty.org/laketolake/>.

Sunday, September 8 - Monarch Tagging - Oenslager Nature Center 1 to 4 p.m. It's time, again, for monarchs to begin their long migrations to Mexico. Come out to catch and tag monarch butterflies and contribute to the research on declining populations. Nets will be available to borrow, and a naturalist will be at the building to identify butterflies and tag any monarchs you catch. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.



NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL & SALE

Saturday, September 7
Oenslager Nature Center
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Tag monarchs
- Play games
- Buy plants
- Make crafts
- Visit with partners:
 - Wild Ones
 - Medina County Master Gardeners
 - Greater Akron Audubon

Tuesday, September 10 - Senior Strides - Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve - 10 to 11 a.m. Join park volunteer Connie for Senior Strides, a once-a-month social hike for seniors! It's a great opportunity to make new friends and get your exercise at the same time. Walks are one-to-two-miles in length. Please dress for the weather, and be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Ages 50 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, September 10 - Discovery Drop-In: Monarchs Oenslager Nature Center - 1 to 3 p.m. Discoveries don't happen on a set schedule, so drop by any time between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to search the fields for and help tag monarch butterflies! A naturalist will be on the back porch of the nature center with nets, bug tents, tags (while supplies last), and additional information about monarchs. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, September 11 - Natural Discoveries - Killbuck Lakes 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 nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Music at The Lodge

Sponsored by  FRIENDS of Medina County Parks

Sunday, September 15
Steve Madewell
The Lodge at Allardale from 2 to 3 p.m.

Concerts are held outdoors; please bring a lawn chair!
**In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors.
All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday September 2024 ** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ohio Butterfly Surveys: What's Being Done at Letha House Park? - LHL(West) 2 to 3 p.m.	2	3	4	5	6	7 Native Plant Festival - ONC 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **The Essentials of Close-Quarters Boat Control - CYC 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
8 **Lake-to-Lake Bike Tour BWP - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monarch Tagging - ONC 1 to 4 p.m.	9	10 Senior Strides LWNP - 10 to 11 a.m. Discovery Drop-In: Monarchs - ONC 1 to 3 p.m.	11 Natural Discoveries KL - 10 to 11 a.m.	12 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC - 2 to 3:15 p.m.	13	14 **Breakfast Paddle - CYC 8 to 10 a.m. A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series - PCPS - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. K-9 Kapers - LHPE - 10 to 11 a.m. **All About Yarrow—2024 Herb of the Year - ONC 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Regal Monarchs - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Starry, Starry Nights at Letha House - LHL (West) 8 to 10 p.m.
15 Music at The Lodge: Steve Madewell - ADL - 2 to 3 p.m. Regal Monarchs - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.	16	17 **Homeschoolers Outdoor Education ONC - 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	18 Migratory Dragonflies - ADPE 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. **Forest Therapy Walk - PCPS 5 to 6:30 p.m.	19	20 **Wildlife at Night HHC - 7:30 to 9 p.m.	21 **Basket Weaving 101: Autumn Basket - ONC 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Regal Monarchs - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: All Aboard! LRT - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
22 Regal Monarchs - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Fruits of Fall - LHPE 3 to 4 p.m. Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - ONC 3 to 5 p.m.	23	24	25	26 **Tales for Tots LHL (West) - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series LRT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	27	28 **Green Cleaning Workshop ONC - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. S'more Fishing - HVP 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
29	30					

Lake-to-Lake Bike Tour Sunday, September 8 - Buckeye Woods Park - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Experience the beauty of nature as you pedal through picturesque trails with fellow biking enthusiasts. This in-person event is perfect for nature lovers and fitness enthusiasts, alike. This ride is presented by Bike Medina County in conjunction with Medina County Park District. Its goal is to promote bicycle safety in the community through education, improved signage, new trails, and special events. All proceeds from the Lake-to-Lake Harvest Bike Tour go right back into promoting safe cycling in Medina County. The event offers a family/casual ride of approximately 15 miles, mostly on Medina County Park District trails, with a rest stop in the village of Chippewa Lake. Experienced cyclists can choose from routes of approximately 30 or 50 miles that encompass rolling hills, small towns, lake views, points of interest, and the beautiful autumn countryside. To learn more and register for the ride, visit: <https://bikemedinacounty.org/laketolake/>.

Tuesday, September 10
Monarchs
Oenslager Nature Center
1 to 3 p.m.



Discovery Drop-In Programs



Thursday, October 17
Spiders
River Styx Park
1 to 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 12 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers
Oenslager Nature 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. 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, and students will be expected to share what they wrote at the following month's class. Class will be cancelled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by September 10. Free.

Saturday, September 14 - Breakfast Paddle - Chippewa Yacht Club (Entrance is just past the Oaks Restaurant on Longacre Lane) - 8 to 10 a.m. Work up an appetite on the water with a morning paddle, then enjoy breakfast on shore at the Chippewa Yacht Club pavilion! Bring your own kayak, canoe, or SUP; paddle; and life jacket along for this program. A life jacket must be worn for the duration of the program. All ages are welcome. Register by September 12. Free.



Saturday, September 14 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Plum Creek Park South - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, September 14 - K-9 Kapers - Letha House Park East - 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 is required. Free.

Saturday, September 14 - All About Yarrow--2024 Herb of the Year!
Oenslager Nature Center - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join the Medina County Herb Society for this follow-up session on yarrow. In this class, learn how to harvest yarrow and use it to make a delightful tea. Ages 12 to adult. Register by September 12. Free.

Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 - Regal Monarchs - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. September is the heart of monarch migration season, but what are these majestic bugs up to before that long journey? Stop by the nature center to find out with displays, activities, and a cool craft! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

September 14
October 5

8 to 10 p.m.



Starry, Starry Nights at Letha House

Saturday, September 14 - Starry, Starry Nights at Letha House Letha House Lodge (West) - 8 to 10 p.m. Come see deep-sky objects, planets, and the moon up close using the Cuyahoga Astronomical Association's telescopes. The observatory will be open for public viewing, and members will be available to answer your questions. Have a telescope but not sure how to use it effectively? Members will also be on hand one hour before the program begins to show you how to use your own telescope for viewing the night sky. Cancellations will only be made in the event of severe thunderstorms. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, September 15 - Music at The Lodge: Steve Madewell - The Lodge at Allardale - 2 to 3 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the park with free, live musical entertainment. Our summer concert series, sponsored by Friends of Medina County Parks, brings a variety of music the whole family is sure to enjoy. Bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy this concert on the lawn at The Lodge at Allardale! Steve Madewell has had two major influences in his life: music and nature. While he has enjoyed a remarkable and successful career in the parks and recreation field, music is and has always been an integral part of his life. Steve has maintained an active musical schedule since he began singing and playing guitar early in his teens. In recent years, Steve shifted his musical efforts toward writing, recording, and performing original material based on the inspiration of the natural world and work experiences he has been privileged to enjoy. **In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, September 17 - Homeschoolers Outdoor Education Oenslager Nature Center - 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Register your homeschoolers for a series of three natural science classes. Each month's activities will build on the previous. This fall, we will dive into the world of insects. We will be making our own insects with the intention of using them in our activities each session. Ages 7 to 12. Register by September 15. Free. Course series include: September 17/Insect Basics: life cycles, anatomy, and making your own insect; October 15/Insect Adaptations: defenses, movement, predation, and adding to your insect; November 19/Insect Homes: engineering, symbiotic relationships, societal structures, and making your insect a home.

Wednesday, September 18 - Migratory Dragonflies - Allardale Park East - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Join a naturalist for a hike to search for migratory dragonflies as they prepare to make their long journeys south for winter! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

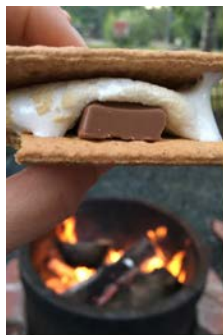
Wednesday, September 18 - Forest Therapy Walk - Plum Creek Park South - 5 to 6:30 p.m. Join Jason of Whisper Shifter for a relaxed, sensory experience on a forest therapy walk. Non-strenuous movement in a natural setting coupled with the goal of guiding participants through the experiencing of sensing, embodiment, and appreciation for their relationship to the natural world is the main focus of walks. Ages five to adult. Register by September 16. Free.

Friday, September 20 - Wildlife at Night - Hidden Hollow Camp - 7:30 to 9 p.m. Explore the local crepuscular and nocturnal wildlife of Hidden Hollow with a naturalist followed by a campfire. Ages five to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, September 21 - Basket Weaving 101: Autumn Basket - Oenslager Nature Center - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Emily Smith to make a festive hand-woven basket for your autumn decorating. There will be several color options for you to choose from. No experience is necessary. All supplies are provided. Class size is limited so don't

wait to contact Emily Smith at Basketmakingfriends@gmail.com or (573) 694-4126 to register. Ages 14 to adult. There is a program fee of \$30 per basket.



S'MORES

Join us as we go fishing, learn about snakes, and search for birds.

Enjoy s'mores by the fire, too, (while supplies last)!

S'more Fishing

Saturday, September 28
Hubbard Valley Park
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



S'more Snakes

Saturday, October 19
Oenslager Nature Center
1 to 3 p.m.

S'more Birds

Saturday, November 23
Oenslager Nature Center
1 to 3 p.m.



Homeschoolers Outdoor Education Series

Register your homeschoolers for a series of three natural science classes. Each month's activities will build on the previous. This fall, we will dive into the world of insects. We will be making our own insects with the intention of using them in our activities each session.

Ages 7 to 12. Register by September 15. Free.



**September 17
Insect Basics**
life cycles, anatomy, and making your own insect

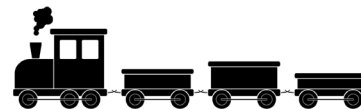
**October 15
Insect Adaptations**
defenses, movement, predation, and adding to your insect

**November 19
Insect Homes**
engineering, symbiotic relationships, societal structures, and making your insect a home

Oenslager Nature Center
10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22 - Regal Monarchs - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. See the 9/14 program listing for details.

Saturday, September 21 - Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: ALL ABOARD! - Lester Rail Trail - 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to Lester Rail Trail for train rides around a miniature railroad and station house. Members of N.E.O.L.S., a miniature railroad group, will offer this free park program. Adults and



children, alike, will delight in this unique experience! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, September 22 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Fruits of Fall - Letha House Park East - 3 to 4 p.m. 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. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, September 22 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting Oenslager Nature Center - 3 to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts of all skill levels to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. Please contact club leadership at medinapotp@gmail.com with questions or for more information. Ages 16 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, September 26 - Tales for Tots - Letha House Lodge (West) - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Nature is full of amazing sounds, especially in late summer. Discover what the "musicians" of summer are through a story, craft, and investigative activities. For ages three to six with an adult companion. Some or the entire program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register between August 15 and September 25. Free.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2024 ** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED		1	2	3	4	5 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series - ADP 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Starry, Starry Nights at Letha House - LHL (West) 8 to 10 p.m.
6	7	8 Senior Strides ShPr - 10 to 11 a.m. Sense Hike - HVP 2 to 3 p.m.	9 Natural Discoveries BWP (Meet by ballfields) 10 to 11 a.m.	10 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC - 2 to 3:15 p.m.	11	12 Halloween Haunt - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.
13 Halloween Haunt - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. **Indoor Photography - ONC 1 to 2:30 p.m. Family Hike - CLMP (Meet at shelter) - 2 to 3 p.m.	14	15 **Homeschoolers Outdoor Education ONC - 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	16 **Forest Therapy Walk - GLP 5 to 6:30 p.m.	17 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series CRT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Discovery Drop-In: Spiders - RSP 1 to 3 p.m.	18 Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: Halloween All Aboard! - LRT 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.	19 Halloween Haunt - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. S'more Snakes - ONC 1 to 3 p.m. Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: Halloween All Aboard! - LRT - 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
20 Halloween Haunt - SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. K-9 Kapers - ADP - 3 to 4 p.m.	21	22	23 Color Walk - PCPN 10 to 11 a.m.	24 **Tales for Tots ONC - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	25	26 **Basket Weaving 101: Cuppa Basket - ONC - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
27 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Spiders - ADP 3 to 4 p.m. Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - ONC 3 to 5 p.m.	28	29	30	31		



This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts of all skill levels to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. Please contact club leadership at medinapotp@gmail.com with questions or for more information. Ages 16 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Photographers of the Parks Club Meetings

Oenslager Nature Center - 3 to 5 p.m.
Sunday, September 22
Sunday, October 27
Sunday, November 24



Indoor Photography

Sunday, October 13
Oenslager Nature Center - 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Bring your camera and tripod (optional) to practice. There is a \$15 program fee. Payment is due on the day of the program, cash or check only. Ages 16 and up. Register by October 11. See listing for more details **Page 7**

Senior Strides

For hikers ages 50+



10 to 11 a.m.

9/10
Litchfield Wetlands
Nature Preserve

10/8
Sharon Nature
Preserve

11/12
Brunswick Lake Trail
Meet in Cleveland
Clinic parking lot

Thursday, September 26 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Lester Rail Trail (Meet at Lester Road entrance) - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five-mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, September 28 - Green Cleaning Workshop - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cleaning products are necessary for maintaining a clean and healthy home. However, some products are not always safe for you, your family, or the environment. Join staff from Medina

SWCD to learn new DIY green cleaning methods to use around your home. Participants will be able to make and take home their own green cleaning product. Ages 18 to adult. Register by September 23. Free.

Saturday, September 28 - S'more Fishing - Hubbard Valley Park - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fall may have arrived, but it's not too late for s'more fishing! Join us at Hubbard Valley Park any time between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for fishing and s'mores over the fire. Fishing equipment and bait will be available to borrow, and s'more supplies will be available while supplies last. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, October 5 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Allardale - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five-mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, October 5 - Starry, Starry Nights at Letha House - Letha House Lodge (West) - 8 to 10 p.m. Come see deep-sky objects, planets, and the moon up close using the Cuyahoga Astronomical Association's telescopes. The observatory will be open for public viewing, and members will be available to answer your questions. Have a telescope but not sure how to use it effectively? Members will also be on hand one hour before the program begins to show you how to use your own telescope for viewing the night sky. Cancellations will only be made in the event of severe thunderstorms. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, October 8 - Senior Strides - Sharon Nature Preserve 10 to 11 a.m. Join park volunteer Connie for Senior Strides, a once-a-month social hike for seniors! It's a great opportunity to make new friends and get your exercise at the same time. Walks are one-to-two-miles in length. Please dress for the weather, and be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Ages 50 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, October 8 - Sense Hike - Hubbard Valley Park - 2 to 3 p.m. Nature is full of fun fall sights, sounds, and smells to engage the senses. Join a naturalist on this hike to use your senses as you walk through Hubbard Valley Park. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, October 9 - Natural Discoveries - Buckeye Woods Park (Meet by ballfields) - 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 nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, October 10 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers Oenslager Nature 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. 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, and students will be expected to share what they wrote at the following month's class. Class will be cancelled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by October 8. Free.

Saturday, October 12 and Sunday, October 13 - Halloween Haunt Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. The natural world is full of things that crawl or slither or howl at the moon year-round. Come haunt the nature center where we've highlighted the spookiest just in time for Halloween with different activities and displays. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, October 13 - Indoor Photography - Oenslager Nature Center - 1 to 2:30 p.m. Are you looking for something to do during Ohio's inclement weather? Do you want to learn more about indoor photography? Perhaps you are a realtor and want to take professional-looking photos. Or maybe your grandkids or favorite dog or cat are just crying out for a portrait! This class will provide tips and tricks on taking indoor photos without harsh shadows or yellow tints. Create lovely pictures following our guidelines on composition, theory, camera settings, and other gear to make something unique. Bring your camera and tripod (optional) to practice. There is a \$15 program fee. Payment is due on the day of the program, cash or check only. Ages 16 and up. Register by October 11.

Sunday, October 13 - Fall Family Hike - Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park (Meet at the shelter) - 2 to 3 p.m. Join a naturalist on a fall hike and enjoy the trees while learning more about their leaves. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, October 16 - Forest Therapy Walk - Green Leaf Park - 5 to 6:30 p.m. Join Jason of Whisper Shifter for a relaxed, sensory experience on a forest therapy walk. Non-strenuous movement in a natural setting coupled with the goal of guiding participants through the experiencing of sensing, embodiment, and appreciation for their relationship to the natural world is the main focus of walks. Ages five to adult. Register by October 14. Free.

Thursday, October 17 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Chippewa Rail Trail (Meet at Chippewa Road parking lot) - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five-mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, October 17 - Discovery Drop-In: Spiders - River Styx Park - 1 to 3 p.m. Discoveries don't happen on a set schedule, so drop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. to check out the spiders that call River Styx Park home. A naturalist will be at the shelter with nets, bug jars, and information. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Friday, October 18 - Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: Halloween ALL ABOARD! - Lester Rail Trail - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to Lester Rail Trail for this "spooktacular" event! Members of the N.E.O.L.S. miniature railroad group will offer free train rides during this special park program. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes, but for safety, avoid long, flowing garments. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and close promptly at 8:30 p.m. (or when the parking lot is full). All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, October 19 - Halloween Haunt - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. See 10/12 program listing for details.

Saturday, October 19 - S'more Snakes - Oenslager Nature Center 1 to 3 p.m. The days may be getting shorter, but it's not too late to see s'more snakes! Join us at Oenslager Nature Center any time between 1 and 3 p.m. to search for snakes and enjoy s'mores over a fire while supplies last. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, October 19 - Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers: Halloween ALL ABOARD! - Lester Rail Trail - 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends to Lester Rail Trail for this "spooktacular" event! Members of the N.E.O.L.S. miniature railroad group will offer free train rides during this special park program. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes, but for safety, avoid long, flowing garments. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m. and close promptly at 8:30 p.m. (or when the parking lot is full). All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Northeastern Ohio Live Steamers (N.E.O.L.S.)

Halloween ALL ABOARD!

Friday, October 18 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 19 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Lester Rail Trail

Sunday, October 20 - K-9 Kapers - Allardale Park - 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 are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, October 23 - Color Walk - Plum Creek Park North - 10 to 11 a.m. The forest is full of color this time of year. Join a naturalist to see just how many colors you can find while hiking the woods! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, October 24 - Tales for Tots - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. These cool creatures are often considered creepy. Come discover more about these eight-legged friends through a story and fun activities. For ages three to six with an adult companion. Some or the entire program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register between September 26 and October 23. Free.

Saturday, October 26 - Basket Weaving 101: Cuppa Basket - Oenslager Nature Center - 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Emily Smith to make a darling hand-woven cuppa basket. There will be several color options for you to choose from. No experience is necessary. All supplies are provided. Class size is limited so don't wait to contact Emily Smith at Basketmakingfriends@gmail.com or (573) 694-4126 to register. Ages 14 to adult. There is a \$30 program fee per basket.



Sunday, October 27 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Spiders Allardale Park - 3 to 4 p.m. 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. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

**23rd Annual
Nature
Art Fest**

**Saturday, November 9
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 10
12 to 4 p.m.**

Oenslager Nature Center

FREE ADMISSION
No registration is required.

hand made

Sunday, October 27 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting Oenslager Nature Center - 3 to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts of all skill levels to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. Please contact club leadership at medinapotp@gmail.com with questions or for more information. Ages 16 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, November 2 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Buckeye Woods Park - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five-mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Meet at the ball fields. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, November 9 - Nature Art Fest - Oenslager Nature Center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join us for the 23rd Annual Nature Art Fest featuring unique items inspired by nature from professional artists! From paintings to stained glass, you'll find unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list. Bring the family and spend the day in one of the most beautiful parks in Medina County. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free admission.

Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10 - Underappreciated Animals - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Carrion, bugs, and vermin, oh my! These dietary staples paint many incredibly helpful creatures in a bad light. Drop by to learn more about these misunderstood animals and leave with a new appreciation and fun craft! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, November 10 - Nature Art Fest - Oenslager Nature Center 12 to 4 p.m. Join us for the 23rd Annual Nature Art Fest featuring unique items inspired by nature from professional artists! From

paintings to stained glass, you'll find unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list. Bring the family and spend the day in one of the most beautiful parks in Medina County. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free admission.

Tuesday, November 12 - Senior Strides - Brunswick Lake Trail (Meet in Cleveland Clinic lot next to Panera) - 10 to 11 a.m. Join park volunteer Connie for Senior Strides, a once-a-month social hike for seniors! It's a great opportunity to make new friends and get your exercise at the same time. Walks are one-to-two-miles in length. Please dress for the weather, and be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Ages 50 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, November 13 - Natural Discoveries - Letha House Lodge (West) - 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 nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, November 14 - Creative Writing for Homeschoolers Oenslager Nature 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. 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, and students will be expected to share what they wrote at the following month's class. Class will be cancelled if any school district in Medina County is closed due to inclement weather. Ages 8 to 12. Register by November 12. Free.

Saturday, November 16 - K-9 Kapers - Buckeye Woods Park (Meet at ballfields) - 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 is required. Free.

Tales for Tots

**Thursdays
10 to 11 a.m. or
1 to 2 p.m.**

9/26 - Summer Musicians
10/24 - Eight-legged Friends
11/21 - Animal Signs

For ages 3-6 with an adult companion. Some or the entire program will be held outdoors.

Registration is required.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2024 ** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED					1	2 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series - Buckeye Woods Park - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Nature Art Fest - ONC 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Underappreciated Animals SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m.
10 Underappreciated Animals SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Nature Art Fest – ONC 12 to 4 p.m.	11	12 Senior Strides - BLT (Meet in Cleveland Clinic parking lot next to Panera) 10 to 11 a.m.	13 Natural Discoveries LHL (West) - 10 to 11 a.m.	14 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC - 2 to 3:15 p.m.	15	16 K-9 Kapers - BWP (Meet at ballfields) 10 to 11 a.m. Underappreciated Animals SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Cornucopia of Caring - ONC 2 to 4 p.m.
17 Underappreciated Animals SHNC - 12 to 5 p.m. Cornucopia of Caring - ONC 2 to 4 p.m.	18	19 **Homeschoolers Outdoor Education ONC - 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.	20	21 **Tales for Tots ONC - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series ShPr - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	22	23 **Holiday Swag - ONC 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. S'more Birds - ONC 1 to 3 p.m.
24 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Turkeys - ONC 3 to 4 p.m. Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting - ONC 3 to 5 p.m.	25	26	27	28 ONC and HQ Office closed for the holiday.	29 ONC and HQ Office closed for the holiday.	30



**Weekend programs at
Susan Hambley Nature Center**
**1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212**



Regal Monarchs

Saturdays: September 14 and 21
Sunday: September 15 and 22
Susan Hambley Nature Center
12 to 5 p.m.

Halloween Haunt

Saturdays: October 12 and 19
Sundays: October 13 and 20
Susan Hambley Nature Center
12 to 5 p.m.

Underappreciated Animals

Saturdays: November 9 and 16
Sundays: November 10 and 17
Susan Hambley Nature Center
12 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, November 16 - Cornucopia of Caring - Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 4 p.m. Whether you're feeling the cozy warmth of Thanksgiving in the air or you're looking to find it, we have just the program for you! Stop by Oenslager Nature Center between 2 and 4 p.m. to make a seasonal craft for yourself and a second one to help fill our cornucopia that will be donated to those in need of some holiday cheer. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, November 16 and Sunday, November 17 Underappreciated Animals - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. See 11/9 program listing for details.

Sunday, November 17 - Cornucopia of Caring - Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 4 p.m. Whether you're feeling the cozy warmth of Thanksgiving in the air or you're looking to find it, we have just the program for you! Stop by Oenslager Nature Center between 2 and 4 p.m. to make a seasonal craft for yourself and a second one to help fill our cornucopia that will be donated to those in need of some holiday cheer. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, November 21 - Tales for Tots - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Winter is coming! Listen to a story about what our animal friends do to prepare for wintry weather, followed by a hike to look for animal signs. For ages three to six with an adult companion. Some or the entire program will be held outdoors; please dress accordingly. Register between October 24 and November 20. Free.

Thursday, November 21 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series - Sharon Nature Preserve - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hiking outdoors in Medina County Park District has plenty of perks! There are beautiful views, fresh air, the sounds and smells of nature, AND it's good for you, too. Mentally, being in the

outdoors reduces symptoms of stress and anxiety. Physically, hiking is great for your heart, blood pressure, and muscles. Join a naturalist and volunteers for a three-to-five-mile vigorous hike along a different trail each month. Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring along a bottle of water. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, November 23 - Holiday Swag - Oenslager Nature Center 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Create a lovely holiday swag using fresh pines and bows. This swag can be hung vertically, horizontally, or even on top of the mantel. All supplies will be provided. Ages 12 to adult. Register by November 21. Free.

Saturday, November 23 - S'more Birds - Oenslager Nature Center 1 to 3 p.m. Anytime of year is a good time of year for birding, but with winter on its way, this feels like the perfect time for s'more birding! Join us at Oenslager Nature Center any time between 1 and 3 p.m. to learn about winter bird feeding, look for birds, and enjoy s'mores over a fire while supplies last. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, November 24 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Turkeys Oenslager Nature Center - 3 to 4 p.m. 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! Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, November 24 - Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting Oenslager Nature Center - 3 to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for nature photo enthusiasts of all skill levels to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. Please contact club leadership at medinapotp@gmail.com with questions, or for more information. Ages 16 to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Get out and explore your Medina County parks during our 18th annual Trekking through Autumn program! Participants who hike eight or more of the designated trails between September 1 and November 30 are eligible to receive an award. All parks are open from dawn until dark.

Awards

- Free for all Medina County residents (except Hinckley residents).
- Out-of-county residents pay \$12 for the backpack and \$3 for the hiking pins (cash or check only).
- First-year hikers earn a backpack.
- Veteran hikers earn a pin (pins are not available for first-year hikers).

NEW AWARD PICK UP PROCEDURE - PLEASE READ!

Award pick up (while supplies last) will be from Saturday, September 21 through Sunday, December 15 at Oenslager Nature Center on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 - 4 p.m. Awards will no longer be available during the week or at park headquarters. To claim an award, you must have your completed form with you.

Download the form at www.medinacountyparks.com.