

Natural Discoveries

Hiking Series

2022



Medina County
Park District

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's Initials

- ___ January 12 Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- ___ January 23 Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park
- ___ February 9 Oenslager Nature Center
- ___ February 20 Buckeye Woods Park
- ___ March 9 Chippewa Inlet Trail North
- ___ March 27 Black River Nature Prv./Bluebell Valley
- ___ April 6 Hubbard Valley Park
- ___ April 24 Plum Creek Park North
- ___ May 11 Black River Nature Prv./Bluebell Valley
- ___ May 22 Killbuck Lakes
- ___ June 8 Medina Marsh Nature Preserve
- ___ June 12 Chippewa Inlet Trail North
- ___ June 26 Hubbard Valley Park
- ___ July 13 Buckeye Woods Park
- ___ July 24 Green Leaf Park
- ___ August 10 Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park
- ___ August 14 River Styx Park
- ___ August 28 Letha House Park West
- ___ September 7 Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- ___ September 25 Allardale West
- ___ October 12 Killbuck Lakes
- ___ October 23 Hidden Hollow Camp
- ___ November 9 River Styx Park
- ___ November 20 Schleman Nature Preserve
- ___ December 7 Oenslager Nature Center
- ___ December 18 Susan Hambley Nature Center

Participant Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Age Over 16 7 to 16

Award Earned

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

Completion patch

Five hikes in a calendar year

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series

Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. Themed hikes are held on Sundays, and hikes that explore seasonal happenings are offered on Wednesdays. No pre-registration is required.

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

Hikers can claim awards by presenting their forms to the naturalist leading the program to demonstrate eligibility. All awards must be claimed by December 31, 2022.

All Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.

Winter Birds

**January 23 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park
4985 Windfall Rd.**

Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Bird watching is a great way to brighten up a winter day, and it's a constant source of entertainment. We'll learn about our resident winter birds and birds that visit our area just for the winter. Bring binoculars.

Small Mammals

**February 20 - Buckeye Woods Park
6335 Wedgewood Road (meet by the large pavilion)
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)**

Mice, moles, voles, and shrews may look similar but, actually, belong in a variety of different families. Discover the importance of these little creatures as we explore their lives and habits.



Statehood Symbols

**March 27 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley
8500 Richman Rd.**

Lodi, OH 44254

(Harrisville Township)

Many of our state symbols represent the unique aspects of Ohio's natural history and showcase the incredible diversity and richness of our state. Learn about several of these symbols as we celebrate 219 years of Ohio's statehood on our hike.

Nature's Recyclers

April 24 - Plum Creek Park North

North: 2390 Plum Creek Pkwy.

Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

In celebration of Earth Day, join us for this hike about nature's recyclers that are at work around the clock in the parks.

Swifts and Swallows

May 22 - Killbuck Lakes

7996 White Rd.

Burbank, OH 44214

(Westfield Township)

It's not unusual to see swallows swooping around our barns and fields after insects, but do we know which kinds we are seeing? Take a hike searching for swifts and swallows and learn what makes them amazing.



Amazing Amphibians

June 12 - Chippewa Inlet Trail North

5803 Lafayette Rd.

Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

The restored wetlands at Chippewa Inlet North are home to many amphibians. Join us for a walk as we look and listen for frogs and toads.



Water Weasels

June 26 - Hubbard Valley Park
8600 Hubbard Valley Rd.
Seville, OH 44273
(Guilford Township)

Join us as we explore the habitat and interesting adaptations of the American mink, a weasel often found near water.

Buzzing Bumbles

July 24 - Green Leaf Park
1674 S. Medina Line Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

Ohio is home to about a dozen different bumblebee species, all of which play important roles as pollinators of crops and wild plants. Join us on this hike as we search for bumbles and learn how to identify them.

Camouflage

August 14 - River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Rd.
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guilford Township)

Animals use camouflage to hide from predators and to ambush their prey. We'll search carefully on our hike to see if we can discover any wildlife hiding in plain sight.



Sounds of Summer

August 28 - Letha House Park West
West: 5800 Richman Rd.
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

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

Spiders

September 25 - Allardale West
401 Remsen Rd. Medina, OH 44256
(Granger Township)

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

Foxes

October 23 - Hidden Hollow Camp
8672 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)

Foxes have a reputation for being sly and intelligent. On this hike, we'll discuss some of the incredible ways this beautiful creature survives and thrives.



Nature Up Close

November 20 - Schleman Nature Preserve
6701 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Beautiful fall landscapes can make it easy to overlook the little details in nature. On this hike, we will enjoy nature up close.

White-tailed Deer

December 18 - Susan Hambley Nature Center
1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212

White-tailed deer are a familiar sight to many. Join us to learn about their history in Ohio and their life cycles.



All Wednesday hikes begin at 10 a.m.

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

January 12 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Ave.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

February 9 - Oenslager Nature Center
6100 Ridge Rd. Sharon Township, OH
(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

March 9 - Chippewa Inlet Trail North
North Parking Lot – 5803 Lafayette Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

April 6 - Hubbard Valley Park
8600 Hubbard Valley Rd.
Seville, OH 44273 (Guilford Township)

May 11 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley
8500 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)

June 8 - Medina Marsh Nature Preserve
4266 Fenn Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Medina Township)

July 13 - Buckeye Woods Park
6335 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

August 10 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park
4985 Windfall Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

September 7 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Ave.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

October 12 - Killbuck Lakes
7996 White Rd.
Burbank, OH 44214 (Westfield Township)

November 9 - River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Rd.
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guilford Township)

December 7 - Oenslager Nature Center
6100 Ridge Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)



*Wetlands along the Chippewa Inlet Trail North
Photo by: David Harrison*





Medina County Park District


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