



# Medina County Park District

## Natural Discoveries Hiking Series



2023

### Natural Discoveries Checklist

#### Leader's Initials

- \_\_\_ January 11 - River Styx Park
- \_\_\_ January 22 - Oenslager Nature Center
- \_\_\_ February 1 - Schleman Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_ February 5 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park
- \_\_\_ February 19 - Holmesbrook Park
- \_\_\_ March 8 - Green Leaf Park
- \_\_\_ March 26 - Susan Hambley Nature Center
- \_\_\_ April 12 - Hubbard Valley Park
- \_\_\_ April 30 - River Styx Park
- \_\_\_ May 10 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley
- \_\_\_ May 21 - Hubbard Valley Park
- \_\_\_ June 7 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park
- \_\_\_ June 11 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_ June 25 - Schleman Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_ July 12 - Allardale Park
- \_\_\_ July 23 - Oenslager Nature Center
- \_\_\_ August 9 - Plum Creek Park North
- \_\_\_ August 27 - Killbuck Lakes
- \_\_\_ September 13 - Buckeye Woods Park
- \_\_\_ September 17 - Black River Nature Preserve/Hidden Hollow Camp
- \_\_\_ October 11 - Holmesbrook Park
- \_\_\_ October 22 - Allardale Park
- \_\_\_ November 8 - Brunswick Lake
- \_\_\_ November 19 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- \_\_\_ December 6 - Oenslager Nature Center
- \_\_\_ December 17 - Green Leaf Park

### 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 22, 2023.

**All Sunday hikes begin  
at 3 p.m.**

### Beneath the Ice

January 22 - Oenslager Nature Center  
6100 Ridge Rd.

Sharon Township, OH

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

From frogsicles to chill fish, cozy burrows to snowy tunnels, all sorts of wonders are waiting to be explored beneath the ice!



### Winter Birds

February 5 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugar 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.



### Skunks

February 19 - Holmesbrook Park  
660 College Street  
Wadsworth, OH 44281

What's that smell? This hike will focus on the lesser-known facts about the famously smelly striped mammal.

### Squirrels

March 26 - Susan Hambley Nature Center  
1473 Parschen Blvd.  
Brunswick, OH 44212

Do you know that squirrels use their tails to communicate? Or that they can rotate their ankles 180 degrees? Learn some of the other ins and outs of our local species.



## Spring Wildflowers



April 30 - River Styx Park

8200 River Styx Rd.

Wadsworth, OH 44281

(Guilford Township)

Only a brief window of time exists each year when woodland ephemerals are in their glory. Join us for a hike to discover what is blooming at River Styx Park. Prepare for muddy trails and bring your wildflower guide if you have one.

## Dragonflies

May 21 - Hubbard Valley Park

8600 Hubbard Valley Rd.

Seville, OH 44273 (Guilford Township)

It's a bird, it's a plane . . . it's a dragonfly? Join us for this hike to learn about one of nature's aerial acrobats, the dragonfly, and search for some of Medina County's early-season fliers.



## Moss



June 11 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

4361 Spruce Ave.

Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

Mosses are things that stay in the background, but if you pay attention, they are in the background nearly everywhere you

look. Bring mosses into focus as we hike along learning some basics of moss biology and how to distinguish some of the common moss groups.

## Trees

June 25 - Schleman Nature Preserve

6701 Wedgewood Rd.

Medina, OH 44256

(Lafayette Township)

Walk with a naturalist to observe the wide variety of tree species at Schleman Nature Preserve and the organisms the trees support.



## Magic and Medicine of Plants

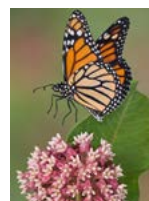
July 23 - Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd.

Sharon Township, OH

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

Plants and flowers have played essential roles in the survival of man from the beginning of time. Discover romantic legends, medicinal histories, and wild superstitions of summer wildflowers on this hike.



## Butterflies

August 27 - Killbuck Lakes

7996 White Rd.

Burbank, OH 44214

(Westfield Township)

There are 137 species of butterflies and skippers recorded in Ohio. Which species do we find in our parks? We'll learn about the common and not so common butterflies found at Killbuck Lakes and talk about the volunteer butterfly surveys being done in several of the county parks to monitor area butterfly populations.

## Animal Architects

**September 17 - Black River Nature Preserve/  
Hidden Hollow Camp**  
8672 Richman Rd.

**Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)**

From small caterpillar tents to massive beaver dams, animal architects are present everywhere! We will explore the park looking for wildlife's natural wonders.



## Fuzzy Caterpillars

**October 22 - Allardale Park**  
401 Remsen Rd.

**Medina, OH 44256**  
(Granger Township)



Fuzzy caterpillars are the rare insects you may be tempted to pet. Come learn why that might be a bad idea and many other fun facts about these crawling critters.

## Rocks & Fossils

**November 19 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve**  
4361 Spruce Ave.

**Brunswick Hills, OH 44212**

From an ancient sea to massive glaciers, Ohio's geologic past was quite fascinating. It's hard to imagine that sea creatures, giant dragonflies, dinosaurs, and woolly mammoths all lived here at one time. At this program, we'll talk about the geology of the area as well as the prehistoric animals that once lived here.



## Celebrations with Nature

**December 17 - Green Leaf Park**  
1674 S. Medina Line Rd.  
Sharon Township, OH  
(use Wadsworth 44281 for GPS)

Discover some of the items our early American ancestors used to decorate for the holidays and learn more about the origins of some of our traditional Christmas customs on this wintery hike.

(330) 722-9364 or (844) 722-9364

website: [www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com)

email: [parcs@medinacountyparks.com](mailto:parcs@medinacountyparks.com)

**Follow the park district on  
social media.**



Facebook  
@MedinaCountyParkDistrict



Twitter  
@medinacoparks



Instagram  
@medinacountyparks

**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 11 - River Styx Park

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

### February 1 - Schleman Nature Preserve

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

### March 8 - Green Leaf Park

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

### April 12 - Hubbard Valley Park

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

### May 10 - Black River Nature Preserve/Bluebell Valley

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

### June 7 - Carolyn Ludwig Mugarage Park

4985 Windfall Rd.  
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

### July 12 - Allardale Park

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

### August 9 - Plum Creek Park North

2390 Plum Creek Parkway  
Brunswick, OH 44212

### September 13 - Buckeye Woods Park

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

### October 11 - Holmesbrook Park

660 College Street  
Wadsworth, OH 44281

### November 8 - Brunswick Lake

1473 Parschen Blvd.  
Brunswick, OH 44212

### December 6 - Oenslager Nature Center

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