

Natural Discoveries

Hiking Series

2025



Medina County
Park District

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series

Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven (7) to adult. Themed hikes are held on Sundays, and hikes that explore seasonal happenings are offered on Wednesdays. No pre-registration is required.

AWARDS:

- Participants may earn only one (1) award per year (stick or patch).
- Free for all Medina County residents (excluding Hinckley residents)
- Out-of-county and Hinckley residents pay \$15 for hiking stick and \$3 for patch.
- Participants who complete ten (10) hikes in a calendar year earn a wooden hiking staff (one time only).
- Participants who complete five (5) hikes in a calendar year earn a completion patch.

Hikers can claim awards by presenting completed forms to the naturalist leading the program. All awards must be claimed by December 14, 2025.

All Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.

Surviving Winter

January 26

Susan Hambley Nature Center

1473 Parschen Blvd., Brunswick, OH 44212

The cold temperatures and scarcity of food in winter can be challenging for plants and animals. Find out different strategies in nature for surviving the winter. Discover who stays active and who hibernates.

Timberdoodles February 23



Timberdoodle

Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd. Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

Timberdoodles, bog suckers, mud snipe, whatever you call them, these cryptic birds are all a flutter for spring mating season.

Come join us on a hike to search for signs of this harbinger of spring.

Tree Flowers

March 23 - Allardale Park

401 Remsen Rd.

Medina, OH 44256

(Granger Township)

In spring, we often overlook the flora above us, while focusing on the flora at our feet. Join us to discover the flowers in the sky during this early spring hike.

Spring Wildflowers

April 27 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

4361 Spruce Ave.

Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

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



Long-spurred violet



Chestnut-sided warbler

Migratory Birds

May 18 - River Styx Park

8200 River Styx Rd.

Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guilford Township)

May is a great time of year to observe migrating song birds including warblers, vireos, and thrushes as they pass through Ohio on their way

to Canada to nest. You are welcome to bring binoculars and bird ID books if you have them.

Cavity Nesting Birds

June 22 - Letha House Park West

West (Lodge): 5800 Richman Rd.

Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

All birds have particular requirements when it comes to nesting. Join

us as we explore the nesting boxes at Letha House Park West and learn more about birds that use cavities for raising their families.

Pollinators

July 27 - Litchfield

Wetlands Nature Preserve

3005 Avon Lake Road

Litchfield Township, OH

44253

We depend on pollinators in many ways, from chocolate to coffee, every three bites we take is thanks to pollinators. Together, we will explore the world of pollinators and their importance.



Buckeye butterfly



Brown bat

Bats

August 24 - C.L. Mugar Park

4985 Windfall Rd.

Medina, OH 44256

(Granger Township)

Bats are scary, ugly, and dangerous, right? Of course, they are not. Discover the truth about Ohio's furry flying mammals.

Spiders

September 28

Killbuck Lakes Nature Preserve

7996 White Rd.

Burbank, OH 44214 (Westfield Township)

Spiders are beneficial in nature and are creatures we should not fear. Join us this weekend 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.



Northern red-bellied snake

Slither and Slime

October 26

Plum Creek Park North

2390 Plum Creek Pkwy.

Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

Embrace the season of spooks and frights by joining us on this not-so-scary hike to look for creatures that slither and slime!

Decomposition Dawdle

November 23 - Oenslager Nature Center

6100 Ridge Rd. Sharon Township

(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

While the world is seemingly slowing down, and the colors of fall are dwindling, enjoy a casual dawdle through the park. Search for signs of decomposition, a sort of silent change, happening all around us.

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 15 - Buckeye Woods Park – shelter by pond
 6335 Wedgewood Rd.
 Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

February 12 - Sharon Nature Preserve
 6734 State Rd.
 Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

March 12 - Plum Creek Park South
 2500 Plum Creek Pkwy.
 Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

April 9 - Hubbard Valley Park
 8600 Hubbard Valley Rd.
 Seville, OH 44273 (Guilford Township)

May 7 - Bluebell Valley
 8500 Richman Rd.
 Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)

June 11 - Brunswick Lake – meet at nature center
 1473 Parschen Blvd.
 Brunswick, OH 44212

July 9 - Lake Medina - Granger Rd. entrance
 3733 Granger Rd., Medina, OH 44256

August 13 - Letha House East
 East: 5745 Richman Rd.
 Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)

September 10 - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
 4023 Beachler Rd., Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

October 8 - Green Leaf Park
 1674 S. Medina Line Rd.
 Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

November 12 - Holmesbrook Park
 660 College Street, Wadsworth, OH 44281

December 10 - Schleman Nature Preserve
 6701 Wedgewood Rd.
 Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's

Initials

- ___ January 15 - Buckeye Woods Park
- ___ January 26 - Susan Hambley Nature Center
- ___ February 12 - Sharon Nature Preserve
- ___ February 23 - Oenslager Nature Center
- ___ March 12 - Plum Creek Park South
- ___ March 23 - Allardale Park
- ___ April 9 - Hubbard Valley Park
- ___ April 27 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
- ___ May 7 - Bluebell Valley
- ___ May 18 - River Styx Park
- ___ June 11 - Brunswick Lake - meet at nature center
- ___ June 22 - Letha House Park West
- ___ July 9 - Lake Medina - Granger Rd. entrance
- ___ July 27 - Litchfield Wetlands
- ___ August 13 - Letha House East
- ___ August 24 - C.L. Mugarage Park
- ___ September 10 - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
- ___ September 28 - Killbuck Lakes
- ___ October 8 - Green Leaf Park
- ___ October 26 - Plum Creek Park North
- ___ November 12 - Holmesbrook Park
- ___ November 23 - Oenslager Nature Center
- ___ December 10 - Schleman Nature Preserve



**Medina County
 Park District**

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

website: www.medinacountyparks.com
 email: parks@medinacountyparks.com

Participant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Medina County resident Non-resident Age: Over 16 7 to 16

Award Earned - only one per year

Hiking Stick (one time only; ten hikes completed)

Completion Patch (five hikes completed)

Payment amount recorded for non-residents: \$ _____ Circle: CASH CHECK # _____

Date award given: _____ Staff initials: _____