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medinacountyparks.com  
(330) 722-9364

# Leaflet

Your Connection to Nature  Medina County Park District

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Jason C. Venner

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Jill M. Teubl, Editor

## Community Education

By: Nichole Schill, Community Education Coordinator

The Interpretive Services Department has a team of naturalists and educators on staff that can provide a nature education program for your community organization! Naturalists are not to be confused with a language interpreter, rather they interpret science information and relay it to folks in an approachable manner. We use educational techniques to build a connection between the natural world and you.



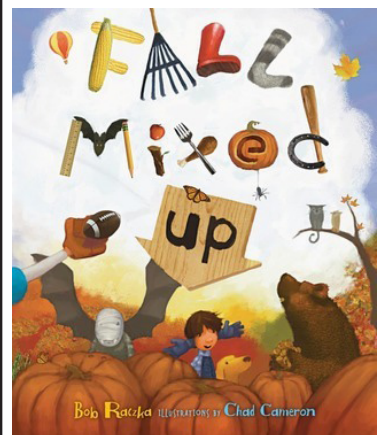
Community groups, such as (but not limited to) scouts, day cares, assisted health facilities, home-schoolers, hobby clubs, church groups, and non-profits may request a program. As often as possible, we take people into nature with activities and hikes, as we feel this is the best experience. However, we can also meet folks in our nature center or in their facilities with nature artifacts. We will entice your curiosity and emphasize the wonderful wildlife that is right here in Medina County. There is also a lot of scientific evidence about the benefits of spending time in nature. New to the parks? New to nature? Ask for a presentation all about the Medina County Park District.

We have continued to emphasize the importance of bringing children into nature to learn. Programs for schools are outdoors and have been designed to support the Ohio Science Standards for K-6th grade. There are plenty of indoor activities teachers provide in their classrooms, but an outdoor program brings tangibility to textbook topics. It is more than just science class; it is building connection to the community and natural world of Medina County. Out on the trail, we can see insects in their various life cycles, observe how wildlife, like groundhogs and beaver, change the land and/or adapt to their environment, discover sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks, or witness the food chain as a snake engulfs a toad.



The Connecting Children with Nature Grant, funded through the Friends of Medina County Parks, provides reimbursement for busing expenses to public schools within the county after their field trips to Oenslager Nature Center. This generous grant contributes to narrowing the equity gap by making it possible for field trips that would have, otherwise, been denied due to unavailable resources.

True to its mission, Medina County Park District remains active in “enhancing the quality of all life through education, conservation, and the protection of natural resources” by providing access to safe and enriching opportunities for recreation, education, relaxation, and community engagement. We hope you will share this information, and we welcome all to the parks!



## StoryWalk Trail at Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park

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 Road in Medina.



Visit [medinacountyparks.com](http://medinacountyparks.com) for fall programs.



Medina County Park District’s self-guided hiking program, Trekking Through Autumn, is the perfect opportunity for families and individuals to get out and experience the crisp days and spectacular colors of fall.

Back for its 18th year, Medina County Park District’s popular annual hiking program offers participants the opportunity to enjoy the splendor of the season and earn awards by completing at least eight designated hikes between September 1 and November 30. Hikers complete the walks at their own pace and on their own schedules.

Trekking Through Autumn offers a choice of 12 parks and nature preserves that show off the beauty and natural diversity of Medina County. To participate, pick up a Trekking Through Autumn form at Medina County Park District Headquarters, Oenslager Nature Center, or simply print one at [www.MedinaCountyParks.com](http://www.MedinaCountyParks.com). Check trails off the list as you complete them.

### 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).