



Medina County
Park District

Winter Program Guide 2024-25



Photo by: Jon Slayton

Soup-er Series
Yule Lads Scavenger Hunt
Holidays at the Cabin
Winter Sowing Workshop

Birds & Beverages
Winter Bird Walks
Get Up Groundhog!
Wood Frog Walk

Photography Club
Nature's Valentines
Narrating Nature Book Club
Preschoolers in the Garden

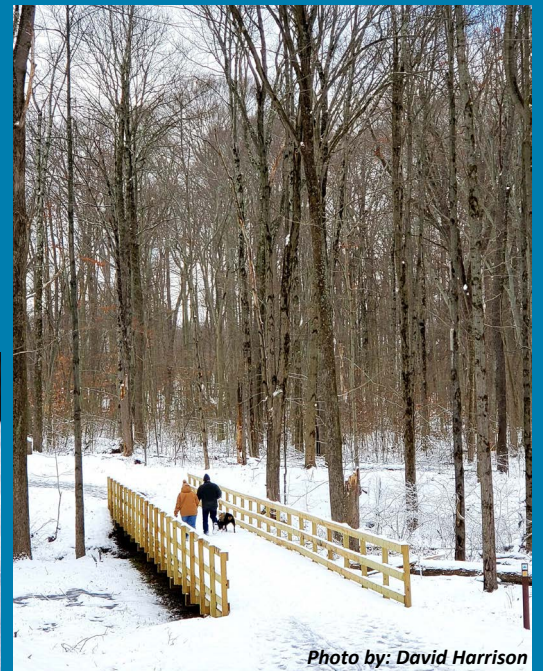


Photo by: David Harrison



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.

Follow us on social media.

 Facebook
[@MedinaCountyParkDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyParkDistrict)

 Formerly Twitter
[@medinacoparks](https://twitter.com/medinacoparks)

 Instagram
[@medinacountyparks](https://www.instagram.com/medinacountyparks)

Park Program Addresses

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

Buckeye Woods Park (BWP)
6335 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

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

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)

Krabill Lodge (KBL)
7597 Ballash Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)

Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve (LiWNP)
3005 Avon Lake Rd.
Litchfield, 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.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

River Styx Park (RSP)
8200 River Styx Rd.
Guilford Township, OH
(use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

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

Susan Hambley Nature Center (SHNC)
1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212



WINTER GUIDELINES

Programs will be cancelled if a level two or three road emergency warning is issued by the Medina County Sheriff's Department. These warnings could be issued within the "two-hour prior to program" cancellation window.

Program Cancellation Information

To find out if a program has been cancelled due to weather or any other reason, call the park district's program cancellation hotline at (330) 239-3305 to hear a recorded message. Notification of program cancellations will be made no less than two hours before a scheduled program when possible. If you need to cancel a reservation you made in a park district program, please call the park office at (330) 722-9364.

Give the Gift of Membership

Do you need an idea for that hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list? Consider giving a gift membership to Friends of Medina County Parks this holiday season. The recipient will enjoy all of the benefits of Friends membership -- including invitations to members-only events, discounts on shelter rentals, and a subscription to *The Acorn* newsletter. It's a way to share your passion for the parks with your friends and family, all while supporting the work



of the Friends. Join online at www.friendsofmedinacountyparks.org. You can also pick up a brochure at the park office, Oenslager Nature Center, or Susan Hambley Nature Center.



FRIENDS

of Medina County Parks

Saturday, December 7 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Oenslager Nature Center - 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.

Wednesday, December 11 - Natural Discoveries - Sharon Nature Preserve - 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 free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, December 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 December 10. Free.

Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15 - Holidays at the Cabin - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. The lights have been strung, the halls have been decked, and the stockings have been hung by the fire with care. The magic of the holidays has made its way to the cabin. Drop by Susan Hambley Nature Center any time between open and close to enjoy festive decorations, activities, and more! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, December 14 - Nature Exposed - Plum Creek Park North - 1 to 2 p.m. A hike to explore what is left behind after the trees lose their leaves. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, December 19 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Green Leaf 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 cabin parking lot. Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, December 21 - Yule Lads Winter Festival - Oenslager Nature Center - 1 to 4 p.m. Join us on the shortest day of the year and celebrate the Winter Solstice by welcoming the Yule Lads back to Oenslager Nature Center! You're invited to cozy up by the fireplace and enjoy the Celtic folk music of artist Virginia Ackley. As you explore the nature center, try out a themed craft and activities, watch a movie, maybe even meet an elf, and more. There will be a hot cocoa and sweets bar to fuel your adventure along this year's Yule Lads trail. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

YULE LADS Winter Festival

CELTIC FOLK MUSIC - CRAFTS - COCOA & SWEETS
MEET AN ELF - ACTIVITIES

Let's celebrate Winter Solstice together!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
1 TO 4 P.M.
OENSLAGER NATURE CENTER
6100 RIDGE ROAD, SHARON TOWNSHIP

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK RHONEMUS, MEDINA GAZETTE

I NY

Yule Lads are back!

Saturday, December 21 through Sunday, January 5
Yule Lads -- Outdoor Scavenger Hunt
Oenslager Nature Center
6 a.m. to one hour past sunset

The Yule Lads are back, but they aren't here to stay. Mischief-making is hard work, so they've decided to wander on their way! A vacation to NYC to visit their friend, Buddy, is just what they need. But Snack Snatcher ate the map because they didn't pack enough feed! The Yule Lads have gotten lost along the way and might even try to hitchhike in a sleigh! The Yule Lads have gotten lost! Can you help them find their way to NYC?

Search for the 13 mischievous Yule Lads hidden along the trail.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK RHONEMUS, MEDINA GAZETTE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 December 2024 ** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED	2	3	4	5	6	7 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series – ONC 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
8	9	10	11 Natural Discoveries ShPr – 10 to 11 a.m.	12 **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC – 2 to 3:15 p.m.	13	14 Holidays at the Cabin – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Nature Exposed – PCPN 1 to 2 p.m.
15 Holidays at the Cabin SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Last day to pick up Trekking Through Autumn awards!	16	17	18	19 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series GLP – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.	20	21 Yule Lads – ONC – 6 a.m. to one hour past sunset through January 5 Holidays at the Cabin – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Yule Lads Winter Festival ONC – 1 to 4 p.m.
22 Holidays at the Cabin – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.	23	24 Park office and ONC closed for the holiday	25 Park office and ONC closed for the holiday	26	27	28 Holidays at the Cabin – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.
Yule Lads Outdoor Scavenger Hunt						
29 Holidays at the Cabin – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.	30	31				
Yule Lads Outdoor Scavenger Hunt						



*Seasons' Greetings from
Medina County Park District
Staff and Board*

A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series

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.



10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the following dates:

- Saturday, December 7 - Oenslager Nature Center**
- Thursday, December 19 - Green Leaf Park**
- Saturday, January 4 - Killbuck Lakes**
- Thursday, January 16 - Oenslager Nature Center**
- Saturday, February 1 - Litchfield Wetlands Nature Preserve**
- Thursday, February 20 - Bluebell Valley (part of Black River Nature Preserve)**

Saturday, December 21 and Sunday, December 22 - Holidays at the Cabin - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. The lights have been strung, the halls have been decked, and the stockings have been hung by the fire with care. The magic of the holidays has made its way to the cabin. Drop by Susan Hambley Nature Center any time between open and close to enjoy festive decorations, activities, and more! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, December 21 through Sunday, January 5 - Yule Lads Oenslager Nature Center - 6 a.m. to one hour past sunset - The Yule Lads are back, but they aren't here to stay. Mischief-making is hard work, so they've decided to wander on their way! A vacation to NYC to visit their friend, Buddy, is just what they need. But Snack Snatcher ate the map because they didn't pack enough feed! The Yule Lads have gotten lost along the way and might even try to hitchhike in a sleigh! The Yule Lads have gotten lost! Can you help them find their way to NYC? Visit Oenslager Nature Center any time during open hours to search for the 13 mischievous Yule Lads hidden along the trail. This self-guided, outdoor scavenger hunt will be available from December 21, 2024 through January 5, 2025. Trails are open from 6 a.m. to one hour past sunset. The Nature Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29 - Holidays at the Cabin - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. The lights have been strung, the halls have been decked, and the stockings have been hung by the fire with care. The magic of the holidays has made its way to the cabin. Drop by Susan Hambley Nature Center any time between open and close to enjoy festive decorations, activities, and more! All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, January 4 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Killbuck Lakes - 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, January 11 - Winter Bird Walk - Oenslager Nature Center 10 to 11 a.m. Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, January 11 and Sunday, January 12 - For the Birds - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Winter is a slow time for many animals, but what are birds getting up to during our coldest time of the year? Stop by to find out and learn more about our feathered friends and take home a fun craft. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Holidays at the Cabin

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

**Saturdays: 12 to 5 p.m.
December 14, 21, and 28**

**Sundays: 12 to 5 p.m.
December 15, 22, and 29**



Sunday, January 12 - Narrating Nature Book Club - Book 1 - Krabill Lodge - 2 to 4 p.m. Dear Gentle Reader, we cordially invite you to join our quarterly Narrating Nature Book Club, which includes two engaging book discussions and a corresponding themed hike. The discussions will be held at Krabill Lodge with light refreshments. Participants are required to pre-register for each book discussion and obtain their own copies of the selected books. Participants who register and attend both book discussions and the hike (no registration is required for the hike), will receive a themed bookmark. This quarter's theme is Winter Wonderland. Book 1 will be "Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival" by Bernd Heinrich with the discussion on January 12 at Krabill Lodge. Register by January 9. The Narrating Nature Book Club Hike will be on February 9 at River Styx Park. No registration is required for the hike. Book 2 will be "Falling for Snow: A Naturalist's Journey into the World of Winter" by Jamie Bastedo with the discussion on March 9 at Krabill Lodge.

Wednesday, January 15 - Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages ten to adult. Register by January 14. Free.

Wednesday, January 15 - Natural Discoveries - Buckeye Woods Park (meet at large shelter) - 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 free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, January 16 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Oenslager Nature Center - 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.



**January 12 - Winter World:
The Ingenuity of Animal Survival**

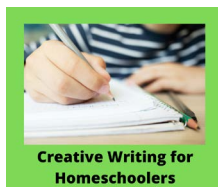
Register by 1/9
Ages 18 +

Dear Gentle Reader,

We cordially invite you to join our quarterly Narrating Nature Book Club, which includes two engaging book discussions and a corresponding themed hike. The discussions will be held at a cozy location with light refreshments. Participants are required to pre-register and obtain their own copies of the selected books. Participants who register and attend both book discussions and the hike will receive a themed bookmark. This quarter's theme is Winter Wonderland. See the 1/12 program listing for more details.

Thursday, January 16 - 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 January 14. Free.



Saturday, January 18 - Soup-er Series: Ice Fishing - Oenslager Nature Center - 12 to 2 p.m.

There is nothing quite like a hot cup of soup to take the chill out of a cold winter day! This winter, join naturalists monthly for soup and a seasonally-themed program in this Soup-er Series. This month's workshop will teach you the techniques necessary to ice fish in Northern Ohio. Topics will include proper clothing, proper footwear, safety on the ice, what kinds of equipment to use, best baits to use, what kinds of fish you can expect to catch, use of an ice auger, and use of an ice shanty and how to keep it warm. This is an indoor program; there will be no actual ice fishing. The class will be taught by our MCPD volunteers who are experienced ice fishermen. Soup will be available while supplies last. Ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, January 18 and Sunday, January 19 - For the Birds Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. Winter is a slow time for many animals, but what are birds getting up to during our coldest time of the year? Stop by to find out and learn more about our feathered friends and take home a fun craft. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, January 19 - Winter Sowing Workshop Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 4 p.m.

Medina County Park District and Wild Ones Greater Cleveland are teaming up to offer this cost-effective, low-maintenance way to add native plants to your landscape! Winter sowing is an outdoor seed-starting technique that requires just two things: miniature greenhouses and Mother Nature. Join us for this informative workshop to learn more about winter sowing and create your own mini-greenhouse of native plants to take home. Please bring one clean, clear, plastic, gallon milk jug with you to the event. All other supplies will be provided. Ages ten to adult. Register by January 16. Free.



Thursday, January 23 - Sunset Stroll - Oenslager Nature Center 5 to 6 p.m.

The temperatures are cooler, and the days are shorter, but this means that sunsets come a little bit earlier! Join a naturalist for a stroll to watch a winter sunset. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, January 25 - Winter Bird Walk - River Styx Park - 10 to 11 a.m.

Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, January 26 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Surviving Winter - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 3 to 4 p.m.

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 what stays active and what hibernates. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, January 26 - Photographers of the Park 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 18 and up. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, January 28 - Preschoolers in the Garden: Let's Grow Ohio Native Plants! - Krabill Lodge - 10 to 11:30 a.m.

What's growing in your backyard? Is it native to Ohio? Join OSU Master Gardeners to learn about some of Ohio's top native plants and how to start some from seed. We will research our state's most common green things and engage in appropriate-age activities. For ages three to nine with an adult companion. Some or the entire program may be held outdoors so please dress accordingly. There is a \$5 program fee that will be collected on the day of the program. Register by January 26.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 2025 ** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED			1 Park office and ONC closed for the holiday	2 ONC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	3 ONC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	4 A Health Dose of Nature: Hiking Series – KL – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ONC and SHNC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open
	Yule Lads Outdoor Scavenger Hunt					
5 LAST DAY for Yule Lads ONC – 6 a.m. to one hour past sunset ONC and SHNC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	6	7 ONC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	8 ONC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	9 ONC closed for annual maintenance, trails remain open	10	11 Winter Bird Walk – ONC 10 to 11 a.m. For the Birds – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.
12 For the Birds – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. **Narrating Nature Book Club KBL – 2 to 4 p.m.	13	14	15 **Birds and Beverages – ONC 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Natural Discoveries BWP – 10 to 11 a.m.	16 A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series ONC – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC – 2 to 3:15 p.m.	17	18 For the Birds – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. Soup-er Series: Ice Fishing ONC – 12 to 2 p.m.
19 For the Birds – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m. **Winter Sowing Workshop ONC – 2 to 4 p.m.	20 Park office closed for the holiday	21	22	23 Sunset Stroll – ONC 5 to 6 p.m.	24	25 Winter Bird Walk – RSP 10 to 11 a.m.
26 Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Surviving Winter SHNC - 3 to 4 p.m. Photographers of the Parks Club Meeting – ONC 3 to 5 p.m.	27	28 **Preschoolers in the Garden: Let's Grow Ohio Native Plants! KBL 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sunset Stroll – BWP 5 to 6 p.m.	29 **Birds and Beverages – ONC 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.	30	31	





**Birds
&
Beverages**

Wednesdays:
January 15 and 29
February 12 and 26

Oenslager
Nature Center
10 to 11 a.m.
OR
1 to 2 p.m.
Ages 10 and up

**REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED!**

Tuesday, January 28 - Sunset Stroll - Buckeye Woods Park - Meet at ballfields - 5 to 6 p.m. The temperatures are cooler, and the days are shorter, but this means that sunsets come a little bit earlier! Join a naturalist for a stroll to watch a winter sunset. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, January 29 - Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages ten to adult. Register by January 28. Free.

Saturday, February 1 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Litchfield Wetlands 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, February 1 - FrogWatch Workshop - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about the frogs that call Northeast Ohio home? Do you want to learn about how you can become involved in studying them in your own community? If so, you're invited to join us for this workshop that will break down the importance of frogs, how to identify them by sight and sound, where they live, and how citizen scientists all over the USA are studying them in their own communities. You can learn more about FrogWatch at <https://www.akronzoo.org/frogwatch>. Ages ten to adult. Register by January 30. Free.



Sunday, February 2 - Get Up, Groundhog! - Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Will the groundhog see its shadow? Will you see yours? Join a naturalist for this family-friendly celebration of Groundhog Day! Enjoy indoor activities and a short hike. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, February 8 - Winter Bird Walk - Buckeye Woods Park Meet at the ballfields - 10 to 11 a.m. Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9 - Nature's Valentines - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. With spring just around the corner, nature is getting ready for a flurry of romance. From birds to frogs and everything in-between, come learn about the different ways animals attract mates. There will be displays, activities, and a Valentine's Day craft. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Sunday, February 9 - Superb-OWL Sunday - Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Who needs football when you can celebrate Superb-OWL Sunday instead? Come learn all about these marvelous nocturnal birds of prey and see live owls up-close! Join your fellow bird nerds for this amazing presentation by the Medina Raptor Center. The Raptor Center can always use assistance in the form of monetary or supply donations. Please consider bringing a donation to the program. Most used supply items include: paper towels, tissues, Dawn dish soap, bleach, Zip Lock baggies, bird seed, suet, peanut butter, and garbage bags. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Wednesday, February 12 - Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages ten to adult. Register by February 11. Free.

Superb-OWL Sunday

Sunday, February 9
Oenslager Nature Center
2 to 3 p.m.





Tuesday, January 28
Let's Grow Ohio Native Plants!
 Krabill Lodge - 10 to 11:30 a.m.
 Register by 1/26
 Ages three to nine

Tuesday, February 25
Let's Play with Plants!
 Krabill Lodge - 10 to 11:30 a.m.
 Register by 2/23
 Ages three to nine



*Nature's
Valentines*

Saturdays: February 8 and 15
 Sundays: February 9 and 16

Susan Hambley Nature Center
 12 to 5 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>February 2025</p> <p>** REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED</p>						<p>1</p> <p>A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series – LiWNP 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.</p> <p>**FrogWatch Workshop ONC – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Get Up, Groundhog! ONC 2 to 3 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Winter Bird Walk – BWP 10 to 11 a.m.</p> <p>Nature's Valentines – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Nature's Valentines – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Superb–OWL Sunday – ONC 2 to 3 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>**Birds and Beverages – ONC 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Natural Discoveries ShPr – 10 to 11 a.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>**Creative Writing for Homeschoolers ONC - 2 to 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Nature's Valentines – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Soup–er Series: Dress for the Weather – ONC – 12 to 2 p.m.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Nature's Valentines – SHNC 12 to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series BBV – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Winter Bird Walk – PCPN 10 to 11 a.m.</p> <p>History of the American Chestnut: Tree, Blight, and Possible Restoration – ONC 2 to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Sugar on Snow – HVP 2 to 3 p.m.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Timberdoodles – ONC 3 to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>**Preschoolers in the Garden: Let's Play with Plants! KBL – 10 to 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>**Invasive Species Training Workshop ONC – 1 to 3 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>**Birds and Beverages – ONC 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Skunk Cabbage GLP – 1 to 2 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Wood Frog Walk KBL – 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.</p>	

History of the American Chestnut: Tree, Blight, and Possible Restoration

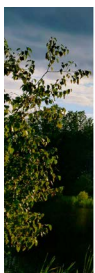


Wednesday, February 12 - Natural Discoveries - Sharon Nature Preserve - 10 to 11 a.m. Join us for an easy walk to observe the unfolding of nature all year long in the parks. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, February 13 - 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 February 11. Free.

Saturday, February 15 - Soup-er Series: Dress for the Weather Oenslager Nature Center - 12 to 2 p.m. There is nothing quite like a hot cup of soup to take the chill out of a cold winter day! This winter, join naturalists monthly for soup and a seasonally-themed program in this Soup-er Series. In this month's workshop learn about how humans and animals, alike, dress for the weather. Naturalists will utilize animal artifacts and activities to discuss and demonstrate these weather-related survival strategies. Plan to dress for the weather as this program will also take us out on the trail. Soup will be available while supplies last. Ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16 - Nature's Valentines - Susan Hambley Nature Center - 12 to 5 p.m. With spring just around the corner, nature is getting ready for a flurry of



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Park District's
YouTube Channel

romance. From birds to frogs and everything in-between, come learn about the different ways animals attract mates. There will be displays, activities, and a Valentine's Day craft. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

Thursday, February 20 - A Healthy Dose of Nature: Hiking Series Bluebell Valley (part of Black River 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, February 22 - Winter Bird Walk - Plum Creek Park North - 10 to 11 a.m. Bundle up, bring a pair of binoculars, and join a naturalist for this walk to search for and observe various bird species, because a winter walk is always enhanced by the sights and sounds of local winter birds! Ages ten to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, February 22 - History of the American Chestnut: Tree, Blight, and Possible Restoration - Oenslager Nature Center - 2 to 3 p.m. Come learn about the history of the fabled American chestnut tree. This in-depth discussion will cover where the tree grew, historical uses of the tree by native people and early settlers, and the reasons behind the ultimate demise from the chestnut blight. You will also hear about attempts by The American Chestnut Foundation to restore the tree to the forest. Ages 12 to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Saturday, February 22 - Sugar on Snow - Hubbard Valley Park - 2 to 3 p.m. A winter hike to explore the basics of maple sugaring followed by a light sugary treat. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.



Saturday, February 22
Hubbard Valley Park
2 to 3 p.m.



Sunday, February 23 - Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Timberdoodles - Oenslager Nature Center 3 to 4 p.m. 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. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of free nature programs designed for ages seven to adult. No registration is required. Free.

Tuesday, February 25 - Preschoolers in the Garden: Let's Play with Plants! - Krabill Lodge - 10 to 11:30 a.m. Apples, strawberries, corn, maple syrup, mint, and almonds! We all love to eat plants, that's for sure! But what else can we do with the plants around us? Join OSU Master Gardeners as we play with plants and learn about their many different uses. From dyes to paper to clothing, plants provide us with so much. We will explore this topic through stories, art, and a variety of hands-on stations. For ages three to nine with an adult companion. Some or the entire program may be held outdoors so please dress accordingly. The \$5 program fee will be collected on the day of the program. Register by February 23.

Tuesday, February 25 - Invasive Species Training Workshop Oenslager Nature Center - 1 to 3 p.m. During National Invasive Species Awareness Week, this workshop will focus on the identification and removal methods of the invasive plant garlic mustard and will include other invasive plant species we may encounter in the spring. Learn about the habitat garlic mustard threatens and about some of the wildflowers we are protecting. This is an excellent training opportunity to prepare for the days of service that are hosted in the parks in the spring. Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor component to observe garlic mustard in the field. Ages eight to adult. Register by February 23. Free.

Wednesday, February 26 - Birds & Beverages - Oenslager Nature Center - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Cozy up in the bird viewing area with a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa and join a naturalist for this



Tuesday, February 25
Invasive Species Training Workshop

Oenslager Nature Center
1 to 3 p.m.

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Ages 8 to adult. Register by February 23. Free.




indoor opportunity to observe various bird species! Ages ten to adult. Register by February 25. Free.

Thursday, February 27 - Skunk Cabbage Green Leaf Park - 1 to 2 p.m. An exploration of a stinky, yet fascinating, flower blooming in February. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.

















Friday, February 28 - Wood Frog Walk - Krabill Lodge - 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. Snow, ice, and cold temperatures are not obstacles for the wood frog! Take a short walk with a naturalist to look and listen for this well adapted frog. All ages are welcome. No registration is required. Free.



WINTER
Bird Watching!

What birds can you find in your backyard or on your next nature hike?

 Dark-eyed junco	 Blue jay	 Red-bellied woodpecker
 Tufted titmouse	 Downy woodpecker	 White-throated sparrow
 White-breasted nuthatch	 American crow	 Northern cardinal
 Black-capped chickadee	 Eastern bluebird	 Mourning dove
 Carolina wren		

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www.audubon.org/field-guide



SLED RIDING

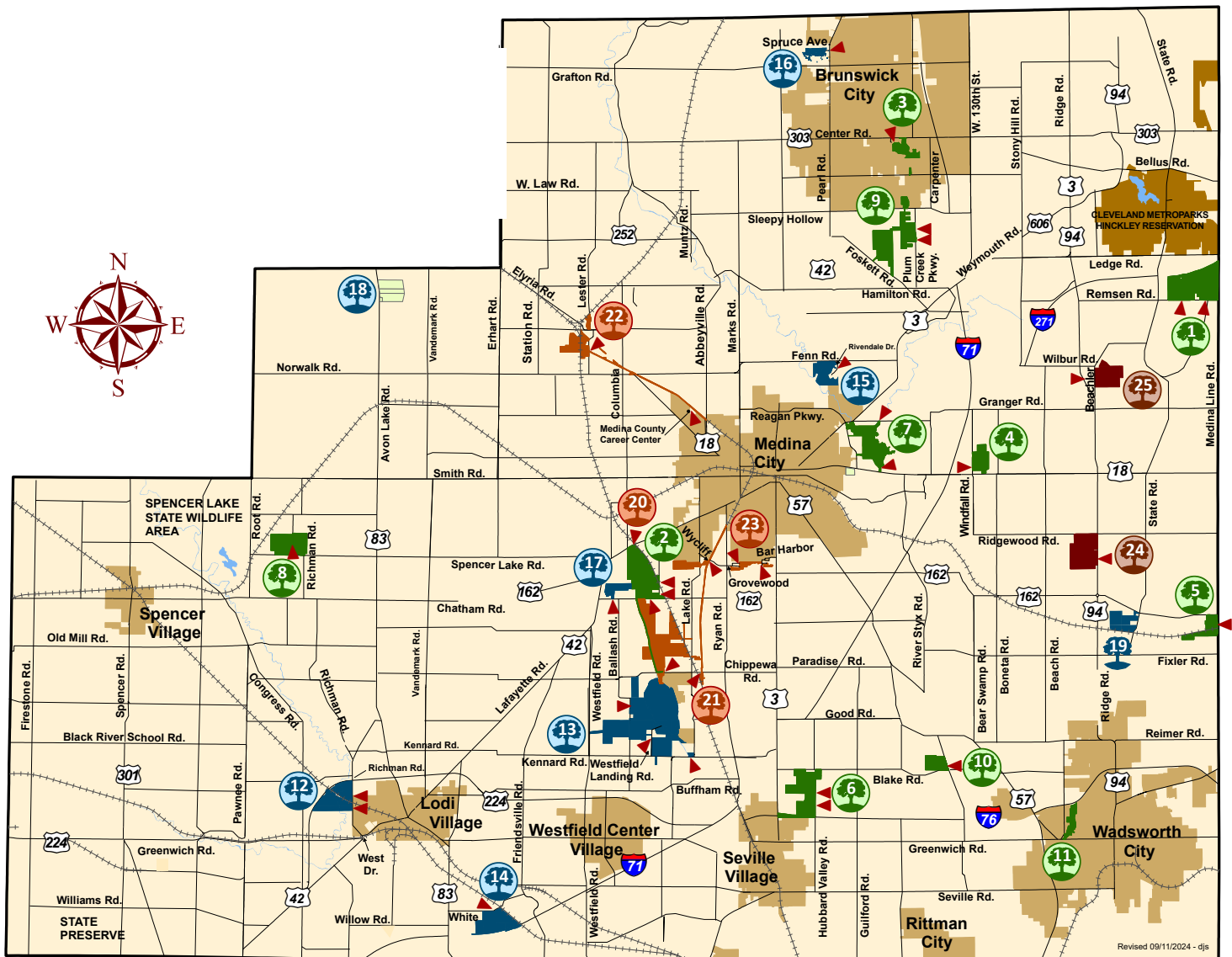
Allardale East - 141 Remsen Road, Granger Township 44256

Carolyn Ludwig Murgage Park - 4985 Windfall Road, Medina 44256

Green Leaf Park - 1674 S. Medina Line Road, Sharon Township (use Wadsworth for the city and zip code 44281 if using a GPS)

Hubbard Valley Park - 8600 Hubbard Valley Road, Seville 44273





PARKS

- 1 Allardale
- 2 Buckeye Woods
Park District Headquarters
- 3 Brunswick Lake
Susan Hambley Nature Center
- 4 Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage
- 5 Green Leaf
- 6 Hubbard Valley/*Buffalo Creek*
- 7 Lake Medina
- 8 Letha House
- 9 Plum Creek
- 10 River Styx
- 11 Holmesbrook Park

NATURE PRESERVES

- 12 Black River
Hidden Hollow Camp
Bluebell Valley
- 13 Chippewa Lake
Krabill Lodge/Boat Ramp/
Paddlecraft Launch
Birding & Bridle Trail
- 14 Killbuck Lakes
- 15 Medina Marsh
- 16 Princess Ledges
- 17 Schleman
- 18 Litchfield Wetlands
- 19 Sharon

MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

- 20 Chippewa Inlet Trail
- 21 Chippewa Rail Trail
- 22 Lester Rail Trail
- 23 Montville Trail

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

- 24 Alderfer-Chatfield
Oenslager Nature Center
- 25 Granger Wetlands



Medina County Park District