Natural Discoveries

Hiking Series

2026

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 13, 2026.

All Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.

Camouflage
January 25
C.L. Mugrage Park
4985 Windfall Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)
Let's see what is hiding! Learn about the different kinds of camouflage that animals use in the wild. If we look carefully, we may discover what is concealed right under our noses.

Winter Birds
February 22
Bluebell Valley (Black River Nature Preserve)
8500 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)
February is a great time of year to observe our non-migratory songbirds and a few winter visitors. These birds are predominantly seed eaters and often visit our backyard feeders. Join us to search for our winter birds. You are welcome to bring binoculars if you have them.

Frog Chorus
March 22
Green Leaf Park
1674 S. Medina Line Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)
From the wooded wetland of Green Leaf Park come the calls of male frogs including spring peepers, wood frogs, and western chorus frogs. Join us as we listen to this spring chorus and discover the life history of these amazing amphibians. Prepare for muddy trails.

Spring Wildflowers
April 26
Hubbard Valley Park
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. Be prepared for muddy trails.

Wings Over Wetlands
May 24
Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
4023 Beachler Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)
Wander through the wetland in search of the winged wonders that make this habitat home during the spring and summer months.

Searching for Snakes
June 28
Letha House Park West
5800 Richman Rd.
Spencer, OH 44275 (Chatham Township)
Join us as we hike in search of reptiles like milk snakes, northern water snakes, and garter snakes. Learn about their amazing lives and the important role that these animals play in our environment.

Summer Wildflowers
July 26
Allardale West
401 Remsen Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)
As mid-summer approaches, the landscape explodes in a rainbow of color. Join us to learn about the diverse array of summer wildflowers found along the restored stream corridor of Allardale Park.

Birds of Prey

August 23
Chippewa Birding and Bridle Trail
7782 Ballash Rd. Medina, OH 44256 (Westfield Township)
Birds of prey are a group of carnivorous birds also known as raptors that can be found in many places throughout the parks. Join us to learn about various raptors and the unique adaptations that help them hunt for their prey. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Incredible Insects

September 27
River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Rd.
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guilford Township)
Late summer is the perfect time to look for insects because many of them have achieved their final form. This will be a hands-on hike, and we will search to see them up close.

Seasonal Adaptations

October 25
Plum Creek Park North
2390 Plum Creek Pkwy.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212
The seasons are changing – can you see and feel it? Hike with us to search for signs that plants and animals are adapting to better survive this seasonal shift.

Mushrooms and More

November 22
Schleman Nature Preserve
6701 Wedgewood Rd.
Medina, OH 44256 (Lafayette Township)
From fungi that look like fingers to millipedes that smell like cherries and beyond, there's much to discover about the world of decomposers! Join us as we search the fallen leaves for members of nature's clean-up crew.

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

February 11 - Sharon Nature Preserve
6734 State Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

March 11 - Shotwell Gardens at Lake Medina
4581 Foote Rd.
Medina, OH 44256

April 8 - Killbuck Lakes
7996 White Rd.
Burbank, OH 44214 (Westfield Township)

May 13 - Holmesbrook Park
660 College St.
Wadsworth, OH 44281

June 10 - Brunswick Lake – meet at nature center
1473 Parschen Blvd.
Brunswick, OH 44212

July 8 - Sharon Nature Preserve
6734 State Rd.
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

August 12 - Hidden Hollow Camp
8672 Richman Rd.
Lodi, OH 44254

September 9 - Buckeye Woods Park
6335 Wedgewood Rd. (meet at large shelter)
Medina, OH 44256

October 14 - Rivendell Nature Preserve
7223 Greenwich Rd.
Seville, OH 44273

November 11 - Liverpool Meadows Nature Preserve
6601 W. Law Rd.
Valley City, OH 44280

December 9 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Ave.
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

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: _____

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's Initials

___January 14 - Oenslager Nature Center
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___October 25 - Plum Creek Park North
___November 11 - Liverpool Meadows Nature Preserve
___November 22 - Schleman Nature Preserve
___December 9 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve

Medina County Park District
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