Medina County
Park District

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.

AWARDS:

- **Free for all Medina County residents (excluding Hinckley residents)**
- **Out of county and Hinckley residents pay $15 for hiking stick and $3 for patch**
- **First-time participants who complete ten (10) hikes in a calendar year earn a wooden hiking staff (one time only).**
- **Returning participants that 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 12, 2027.

All Sunday hikes begin at 3 p.m.

Owls
January 24
Oenslager Nature Center
6100 Ridge Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Sharon Township)
As some of the most remarkable bird species, owls thrive right here in the pine forest at Oenslager Nature Center. Explore and learn about these amazing creatures on our guided hike.

Bobcats
February 21
Hidden Hollow Camp (Black River Nature Preserve)
8672 Richman Road
Lodi, OH 44254 (Harrisville Township)
Now that bobcats have returned to Ohio, are there any in Medina County? What do they look like, and how can you tell them apart from other animals?

Invasive Species

March 21
Lester Rail Trail
3654 Lester Road
Medina, OH 44256
(York Township)
We will define and discuss buzz words, like “invasive species” and “native species,” while searching the trail for examples.

Botanical Bonanza
April 25
Schleman Nature Preserve
6701 Wedgewood Road
Medina, Ohio 44256 (Lafayette Township)
Spring is always a welcome sight after a long, cold winter. Let’s observe and identify the plants we find along the trail on our walk.

Spring Migration
May 23
River Styx Park
8200 River Styx Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Guildford Township)
Explore what spring migration is all about. Learn a few tips and tricks along the way.

Slime Molds
June 27
Allardale Park
401 Remsen Road
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)
What looks like a fungus, acts like an amoeba, and can even solve mazes? Why the amazing slime mold of course! Join us to find and learn about these unique organisms.

Butterflies
July 25
Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
4023 Beachler Road
Medina, OH 44256 (Granger Township)

Come hike with us and explore the colorful world of local butterflies! Together, we'll learn about the five butterfly families, why their wings are so vibrant, and how host plants support their life cycles.

Animal Architects

August 22
Plum Creek Park North
2390 Plum Creek Parkway
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212
Everybody needs a home! Some find it, some build it, and some move from place to place. Hike with us and search for animal homes in our park.

Need for Seeds
September 26
Rivendell Nature Preserve
7223 Greenwich Road
Seville, OH 44273 (Westfield Township)
Seeds are the next generation of plants waiting to sprout. On our hike, we will identify various seeds and discuss the dispersal strategies plants use to propagate the next generation.

Lichens
October 24
Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Avenue
Brunswick Hills, OH 44212
Join us as we explore the wonderous world of lichens — a unique symbiosis between algae and fungi that can be found all around us.

Turkeys
November 21
Oenslager Nature Center
6100 Ridge Road
Wadsworth, OH 44281 (Sharon Township)
Search the trails at ONC for evidence of the local turkey population and learn more about these big, beautiful birds!

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 13 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
4361 Spruce Avenue - Brunswick Hills, OH 44212

February 10 - Sharon Nature Preserve
6734 State Road
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

March 10 - Green Leaf Park
1674 S. Medina Line Road
Sharon Township (use Wadsworth, OH 44281 for GPS)

April 7 - C.L. Mugrage Park
4985 Windfall Road - Medina, OH 44256

May 12 - Liverpool Meadows Nature Preserve
6601 W. Law Road - Valley City, OH 44280

June 9 - Hubbard Valley Park
8600 Hubbard Valley Road - Seville, OH 44273

July 14 - Buckeye Woods Park (meet at ballfields)
6335 Wedgewood Road - Medina, OH 44256

August 11 - Holmesbrook Park
660 College Street - Wadsworth, OH 44281

September 15 - Letha House Park East
5745 Richman Road - Spencer, OH 44275

October 13 - Killbuck Lakes Park
7996 White Road - Burbank, OH 44214

November 10 - Brunswick Lake (meet at nature center)
1473 Parschen Boulevard - Brunswick, OH 44212

December 8 - Shotwell Gardens at Lake Medina
4581 Foote Road - Medina, OH 44256

Natural Discoveries Checklist

Leader's Initials

___January 13 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
___January 24 - Oenslager Nature Center
___February 10 - Sharon Nature Preserve
___February 21 - Hidden Hollow Camp
___March 10 - Green Leaf Park
___March 21 - Lester Rail Trail
___April 7 - C.L. Mugrage Park
___April 25 - Schleman Nature Preserve
___May 12 - Liverpool Meadows Nature Preserve
___May 23 - River Styx Park
___June 9 - Hubbard Valley Park
___June 27 - Allardale Park
___July 14 - Buckeye Woods Park – meet at ballfields
___July 25 - Granger Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary
___August 11 - Holmesbrook Park
___August 22 - Plum Creek Park North
___September 15 - Letha House Park East
___September 26 - Rivendell Nature Preserve
___October 13 - Killbuck Lakes Park
___October 24 - Princess Ledges Nature Preserve
___November 10 - Brunswick Lake
___November 21 - Oenslager Nature Center
___December 8 - Shotwell Gardens at Lake Medina

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: _____