

WINTER 2023

Nature Education Programs



Must-know information for all programs: Programs may take place outdoors or have an outdoor component. Dress for the weather. Outdoor footwear and attire are recommended. In case of inclement weather, programs may be canceled or rescheduled. Please do not attend a program if you are ill. Refunds will be issued for illness or inclement weather.



INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

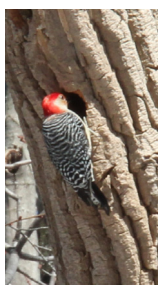
9501 Sashabaw Road
Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-6473

Pre-registration with payment required.
Call 248-858-0916 weekdays.
Call nature center for weekend registration.

Nature Center Tea Party & Birdwatch

Saturday, Jan. 7, 10-11 a.m.

Come to the nature center to enjoy a warm beverage and spend some time observing the birds. This will be a relaxing, informal event, and we'll have field guides available to identify our winter bird residents. For those who are feeling creative, materials will be provided for drawing and painting the beautiful scenery. Bring your own mug if you wish! Ages 12 and up. **\$5/person.**



A Walk in the Woods

Fridays: Jan. 13; Feb. 10; Mar. 10

Time slots available: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Call to set up a **FREE** personal, naturalist-guided nature hike. Participants will learn about seasonal topics while getting some exercise and enjoying the great outdoors. No pets. Time slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Puddle Jumper Series

Fridays: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Topics: Jan.: Turtles Feb.: Woodpeckers Mar.: Camouflage

Children ages 3-6 can have some nature fun as they increase their love for the great outdoors. A naturalist will engage children with a story, nature talk and a related activity. Each child will also make a craft to take home. This series meets the 2nd Friday of each month. **\$4/child.**



Survival Must Haves

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-Noon

Ever wonder what you should have in your hiking backpack in case of emergency? Worried about packing too much? This presentation and Q & A session will help you prepare for a fun day of hiking, but also be ready for the unexpected. Be sure to dress for the weather as we will be outside. Ages 12 and up. **An ASL Interpreter will be provided for this program. \$5/person.**



Owl Moon Hike

Friday, Jan. 20, 5:15-6:45 p.m.

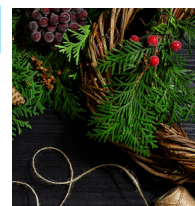
Gather at the nature center to learn owl fact from fiction and then hit the trail to attempt to find our secretive quarry. Quiet nature lovers are a must at this event, so it is only open to participants ages 6 and up. Dress warmly as this program has outdoor components, including an after-dark hike. Waterproof hiking boots are recommended. **\$6/person.**



Winter Crafts and Storytime

Saturday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m.-Noon

Bring a blanket and your favorite stuffed animal to the nature center for storytime by the fireplace. After storytime, we will make a special winter craft to take home! Ages 5-9. **\$4/child.**



Wellness in the Woods: Yoga with Studio 8 Fitness

Sunday, Mar. 19, 2-3 p.m.

Train your brain to achieve an increased state of calm through a walking meditation, mini-hike, and some gentle yoga. Spending time in nature and mindfulness practices like yoga decrease stress, increase emotional regulation and just feel good! Donna Tomassi from Studio 8 Fitness will lead this class which will take place outdoors or indoors depending upon the weather. Bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat. Great for all abilities. Ages 7 and up. **\$5/person.**



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Preregistration with payment is required for all nature center programs. Park entry fee waived if registered by end of business day prior to event. No walk-ins are allowed at this time. There is no refund for advance payment unless program is cancelled.

Register and pay: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. Call 248-858-0916 to register during regular business hours or call the nature centers during open hours.

Programs take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather as programs may be held outdoors. Programs will be cancelled if weather is inclement.



Scout Badge Days are Back!

Field trips targeting scout badge requirements are also available. Visit OaklandCountyParks.com for our scout badge schedule or call the nature center for more information. Online registration is now available!



RED OAKS COUNTY PARK

30300 Hales Street
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-585-0100

Pre-registration with payment required.
Call 248-858-0916 weekdays.
Call nature center for weekend registration.

Morning Munchkins

Fridays: Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Topics: Jan.: Snowflake Bentley Feb.: Bear Snores On
March: Salamander Rock**

Join us for an exciting series just for children ages 3-6. Bring your munchkin to the nature center for a favorite story and a related hands-on, nature-based discovery activity. This series will be offered the first Friday of each month. **\$4/child.**

A Walk in the Woods

Fridays: Jan. 20; Feb. 17; Mar. 17

Time slots available: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Call to set up a **FREE** personal, naturalist-guided nature hike. Participants will learn about seasonal topics while getting some exercise and enjoying the great outdoors. Up to three family groups will be admitted per time slot to accommodate social distancing. No pets. Time slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



NatureFit: Owl Prowl

Friday, Jan. 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

Stroll the trail at Friendship Woods in search of hoots and whinnies from our nighttime neighbors. Learn fact from fiction about owl anatomy. Quiet nature lovers are a must at this event, so it is only open to participants ages 6 and up. Dress warmly as this program has outdoor components, including an after-dark hike. Waterproof hiking boots are recommended. **\$6/person.**



Michigan Legends

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2-3:30 p.m.

Stay warm this winter by cozying up by the fire and learning about famous legends of Michigan. Join a naturalist for an afternoon of storytelling, games and crafts. A snack will also be served. All ages welcome. **\$7/person.**



Birds & Beans

Saturday, Feb. 18, 10-11 a.m.

There is nothing better on a Saturday morning than a warm drink while birdwatching. Join us for a global bird day: the *Great Backyard Bird Count of 2023*. We'll start off inside to learn basic bird identification, and then grab some warm beverages and hit the trails! Checklists and birding apps will help us to track which birds we spot, and data will be entered online following the program. **\$5/person.**



Attention Teachers and Parents:

The Nature Education team offers virtual take-and-learn field trips for classrooms this winter, via Zoom. Programs are designed to meet Michigan Science Standards. Check the website or call the nature centers for more info.

The Sweetest Season

**Saturday, Feb. 25 and March 25,
1:30-3:30 p.m.**

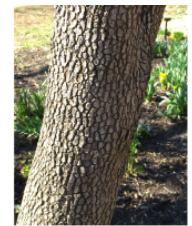
Michigan has a history steeped in maple sweetness. Learn about the sugaring process, tap a tree in our sugar bush; and hike our storybook trail to read *The Sweetest Season* by Michigan author, Elissa Kerr. Sample maple treats, and take home some maple recipes to make yourself. All ages welcome. *An ASL Interpreter will be provided at the February session.* **\$10/person.**



Barking up the Right Tree

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-3:30 p.m.

Most tree identification is done through examining of the leaves. During the winter and early spring, when branches are bare, we have to rely on other methods. We will work together to examine several trees commonly found in our county so you can learn to identify them by their bark alone. Ages 5 and up. **\$6/person.**



Calling all Homeschoolers!

The Wint and Red Oaks nature centers offer monthly homeschool programs adapted for children ages 6-9 and ages 10-13. Sessions are held 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and are designed as drop-off programs for youth. All students are welcome, whether from a traditional homeschool, pod or virtual learning setting.

A release form must be completed with registration. Programs may be held outdoors, so dress for the weather. **Cost: \$10/session. Preregistration is required. Visit OaklandCountyParks.com for the current schedule.**

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Register and pay: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. Call 248-858-0916 to register during regular business hours or call the nature centers during open hours.

Programs take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather as programs may be held outdoors. Programs will be cancelled if weather is inclement.



Take-and-Make Craft Programs on the next page

Participants will receive instructions on tuning in to a live demonstration to craft along with a naturalist. A recorded demonstration will also be available for those unable to make the meeting time.



Virtual Take-and-Make Craft Programs

Pre-register for programs by calling **248-858-0916** during business hours and select a location to pick up program kits. Limited supply available; first-come, first-served. Unless otherwise noted, participants will receive instructions on tuning in to a live Zoom demonstration to craft along with a naturalist. A recorded demonstration will also be available for those unable to make the meeting time.

Please note the pickup start date for each program.

Kits do not include basic art supplies like crayons, scissors, or glue. If additional supplies are needed, they will be listed in the program kit. After the course, show off your projects by sending pictures to NatureEducation@oakgov.com to have them posted on social media.

Daily Dose of Nature Self Led Kit

Kits available for pickup Jan. 20-31.

Did you know that the average American child spends more than 7 hours each day in front of an electronic screen? Research has long proven the benefits of outdoor, unstructured play and yet many continue to replace outdoor time with screen time. This kit will help you achieve an hour or more outside each day, your daily dose of nature. It includes a packet with seasonal activity ideas, a bag, writing utensils, paints, an idea jar and more. It is perfect for an individual or the family. **12 kits available. \$20/kit.**



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Kit pickup times and locations:



Red Oaks Nature Center

30300 Hales St., Madison Heights, MI 48071

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday, Noon-5 p.m.



Lewis E. Wint Nature Center

9501 Sashabaw Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348

Hours: Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday 1-5 p.m.

EcoFriends: Making Tracks Self-led Kit

Kits available for pickup Feb. 17-28.

(Recorded instruction provided with kits)

Don't throw away those old flip flops (other shoes work, too)! Use our kit to turn old soles into a fun nature craft item that you can use again and again. Kits include materials to turn old shoes (you provide the retired footwear) into animal track stamps and several ideas for crafts and other activities that use them. Appropriate for families and people of all ages. **18 kits available. \$6/kit.**



UV Photography Nature Print Kit

Kits available for purchase until Feb. 19

Kits available for pickup March 9-19

(Recorded instruction provided with kits)

The year is 1843: Scientist and artist Anna Adkins makes the world's first ever photobook using a new photographic process called cyanotypes! Cyanotypes use ultraviolet light to create rich blue and white prints. With her work as your inspiration, use this kit to create countless unique art prints. Will you make a photobook, frame your prints, or give as gifts? All ages. **10 kits available. \$25/kit.**

