

SPRING & SUMMER

Nature Education Programs

APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2024

OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS

OaklandCountyParks.com

REGISTER ONLINE NOW! ➔

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 248-625-6473 for registration



Spring Migration Birding Hike

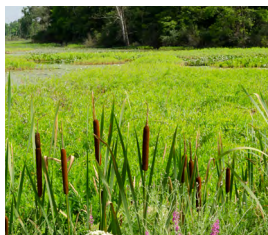
Sat. April 27, 8:30-10 a.m.

With spring migration ramping up, join us to hike through Independence Oaks County Park with our partners, the Clarkston Area Backyard Birders, to explore different bird habitats and see which migrants have returned. Suitable for ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.**

Wander Through the Wetlands

Sat. May 18, 1-2:30 p.m.

Join us for a "fen-tastic" day of discovering the mind "bog-gling" wetland habitats in your own backyard. Learn about these unique areas and the plants and animals who live there through a guided exploration of Independence Oaks County Park. **\$5/person.**



Where the Wild Things Live Summer Camp

Tues. June 25 - Thurs. June 27, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



During this three-day camp, we will discover local habitats and the animals that call them home. Each day we will have an interactive talk, hike, activities and more. This is a drop off program for ages 6-12. A release form must be completed **\$10/child/day.**

World Nature Conservation Day

Sun. July 28, 1-2:30 p.m.

Join us in the field to discover the beauty of nature while learning about local endangered plant and animal species. Learn how to practice appreciation of nature through nature journaling and explore how you can be an advocate for wildlife and nature conservation efforts. **\$5/person.**



Pond Study 101

Sat. Aug. 17, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Net some macroinvertebrates living in our waterways to see them up close and personal and learn how biologists use their presence to determine water quality. **\$5/person.**

Grandparent's Day Camp - Nature's Night Life



Sat. Sept. 7, 1-2:30 p.m.

Grab your grandkids and celebrate Grandparents Day! Discover what it takes to be one of Michigan's nocturnal animals and learn how we know the animals are here. Enjoy making a craft together to light up your nights. **\$5/person.** An ASL interpreter will be provided.



Preschool Programs

Children ages 3-6 can enjoy some nature fun as they increase their love of the outdoors.



A detailed program schedule is available on OaklandCountyParks.com. Each nature center has unique programming.

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.



RED OAKS COUNTY PARK

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

Pre-registration with payment required.
Call 248-858-0916 for registration.



Warble Into Spring

Sat. April 13, 10-11:30 a.m.

Spring migration has begun and that means the warblers are on their way. Join us as we learn about these colorful birds and take a short hike to observe them. **\$5/person.**



Make Your Own Bee Hotel



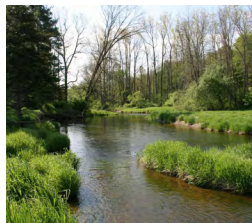
Sat. May 18, 2-3:30 p.m.

Bees are crucial for human survival. Don't "bee-lieve" us? Come learn more about these important insects that are responsible for most of our food and economy. Also, make an eco-friendly bee hotel. **\$5/person.** An ASL interpreter will be provided.

Water Wonderland

Sat. June 15, 2-3:30 p.m.

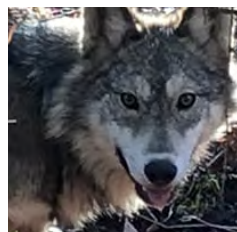
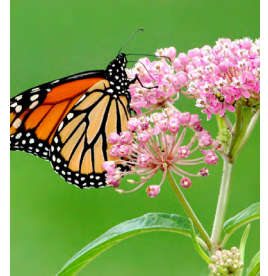
Water is all around us, literally! We'll learn about animals that call our local waterways home, conduct water experiments and make an aqua-themed craft. **\$5/person.**



Meet a Monarch

Sat. July 20, 2-3:30 p.m.

What are the differences between butterflies and moths? Why do Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed? Learn the answers to these questions and more while also making a caterpillar craft. Suitable for ages 5 and up. **\$5/person.**



Who Barks in Red Oaks Park?

Sun. Aug. 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Search for canine creatures lurking around the bends of Friendship Woods and make a craft celebrating International Wolf Day. Suitable for ages 5 and up. **\$5/person.**

Apple Cider Pressing



Sat. Sept. 28, 3-4:30 p.m.

Try your hand at grinding apples and pressing cider. Bring a pre-washed, light-colored T-shirt to decorate with apple prints. **\$5/person.** An ASL interpreter will be provided.



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 in case of illness or the 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.

StarLab

StarLab is a portable, inflatable planetarium that brings the wonder of the night sky indoors. You can take a naturalist-guided tour of the current night sky.

[Click Here](#) or visit OaklandCountyParks.com to learn more about StarLab and how to book.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs cover a wide range of hands-on, nature-centered educational topics. All students are welcome – whether from a traditional homeschool, pod or virtual learning setting.

[Click Here](#) for a list of current Homeschool programs and information about how to register.

Field Trips

Field trip programs are available by appointment year-round (for a nominal fee) to school and youth groups, preschoolers, homeschoolers, scouts, seniors, church organizations and other community groups. Traveling programs include nature presentations, nature tables and more. Email NatureEducation@oakgov.com for more information about field trip options.

[Click Here](#) for a list of 2024 Nature Center Field Trip programs and information about how to register.

Scout Badge Work Field Trips

Attention troop leaders and parents of scouts: Both OCP nature centers offer year-round interactive sessions that meet Girl Scouts or Scouts of America badge requirements for the badges offered. Programs for Scouts are available by appointment.



Wellness Programs

Full Pink Moon Meditation & Bonfire

Sat. April 20, 8-9 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Following the moon cycle connects us with nature in a meaningful way. Enjoy a mini hike, cozy fire and calming meditation during the full moon. No meditation experience necessary. Ages 7 and up. Dress for the weather. **\$5/person.**

Forest Bathing: The Healing Power of Nature

Sat. May 4, 1-2:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Feeling stressed? Unplug from the daily grind and join us in the woods. Alicia from Sacred Lotus Experience will show us easy practices to help us reduce anxiety, re-prioritize the to-do list, and bolster a sense of well-being. "The trees offer us a bridge to our own wisdom." - M. Amos Clifford. Appropriate for adults. Please dress for the weather. **\$5/person.**

Forest Bathing: The Healing Power of Nature

Sun. May 5, 1-2:30 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Program Location: Meet at the Boathouse

Did you know healing and connection are right outside your door? Join Amy from Earthly Connections LLC to experience nature's ability to boost mental and physical health. Balance the stresses of everyday life through simple practices to reconnect with nature. Take these stress-relieving tools with you to incorporate into your everyday life. Appropriate for adults. Dress for the weather and bring water. **\$5/person.**

Full Flower Moon Meditation & Bonfire

Sat. May 18, 8-9 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Following the moon cycle connects us with nature in a meaningful way. Enjoy a mini hike, cozy fire and calming meditation during the full moon. No meditation experience necessary. Ages 7 and up. Dress for the weather. **\$5/person.**

NatureFit: Chair Yoga for Adults

Sat. July 13, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Chair yoga offers adults of all ages an accessible way to enhance balance and flexibility, reduce stress and maintain an active lifestyle. Join a certified yoga instructor to learn simple ways to strengthen and improve your physical and mental wellbeing. Bring a friend or make new ones in this easy and fun class. Water will be provided or bring your own water bottle. Program will be held indoors. Appropriate for adults. **\$5/person.**

NatureFit: Equinox Drum Circle

Sat. Sept. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Join us for an immersive drumming experience to celebrate the arrival of fall and connect with the natural rhythms of the season. Led by Teri Williams from Soul Practices. No experience necessary. This unique event invites participants of all ages to join in the collective joy of creating harmonious beats, fostering a sense of community and tapping into the spirit of the fall equinox. Rain or shine. Drum circle will move indoors if needed. **\$5/person.**



Nature at Night Programs

Bat Chat (two sessions available)

Fri. July 19, 8:30-10 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Sat. Aug. 10, 8:30-10 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Search for nightlife during an evening stroll through our trails. Listen for bats using the Echometer Touch by Wildlife Acoustics, which translates the echolocation calls into a range that humans can hear. Bring bug spray and your questions about bats. Dress for the outdoors. **\$5/person.**



Walk in the Woods

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. Park entry fee applies at Wint Nature Center.

Red Oaks Nature Center

- Fri. April 19 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. May 17 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. June 21 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. July 19 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. Aug. 16 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. Sept. 20 10-10:45 a.m.

Wint Nature Center

- Fri. April 26 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. May 24 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. June 28 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. July 26 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. Aug. 23 10-10:45 a.m.
- Fri. Sept. 27 10-10:45 a.m.