

SPRING & SUMMER

Nature Education Programs

OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2025

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 cancelled or rescheduled. Refunds will be issued for extenuating circumstances.



INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK
9501 Sashabaw Road
Clarkston, MI 48348
248-625-6473

Preregistration with payment required.
Call 248-625-6473 for registration



NatureFit: Migration Birding Hike

Sat. April 19, 8:30-10 a.m.

What rare spring migratory birds will we find as we hike through the diverse habitats of Independence Oaks with our partners, the Clarkston Area Backyard Birders? Join us to find out! Suitable for ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.**

Mysteries of the Marsh

Sat. May 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Celebrate the beauty of one of the rarest habitats in North America. Learn how to identify different types of wetlands and the flora and fauna that call them home.

Discover what threatens these areas and how you can help preserve this precious resource with simple but effective everyday activism. **\$5/person.**



Digging into Clay

Sun. June 29, 2-4 p.m.

Learn the incredible story of humanity's oldest material science: Ceramics. We will talk about the technologies and practices used

throughout the ages to find, prepare, use and fire clay. Make your own clay vessel and see how ceramics were fired before the electric kiln. **\$5/person.**

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Sun. July 13, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Explore the lives of dragonflies and damselflies. Search the trails for Odonata and learn to identify the most common types found in Michigan. Make a dragonfly craft to take home. **\$5/person.**



Michigan Avian Experience Birds of Prey

Sat. Aug. 9, 2-3:30 p.m.

Soar on over to Wint Nature Center for this live birds of prey show presented by Michigan Avian Experience of Jackson County. Learn about the remarkable survival adaptations and behaviors of raptors during this up-close opportunity. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**



An ASL Interpreter will be provided.

Apple Cider Pressing

Sat. Sept. 27, 2-3:30 p.m.

Try your hand at grinding apples and pressing cider, taste fresh Michigan cider and donuts and enjoy an early fall hike. Bring a pre-washed, light-colored T-shirt to decorate with apple and leaf prints. **\$5/person.**



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. Walk-ins are accommodated as space allows. Refunds are issued only for extenuating circumstances.

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 St.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-585-0100

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

Birding for Beginners

Sat. April 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Interested in birds, but finding it hard to become a “bird watcher”? Join a naturalist for this introductory birding program and learn the dos and don’ts of birdwatching. After a brief introduction indoors, we’ll walk the trails to look and listen for spring migrants. Bring your own binoculars or borrow one of our pairs (limited supply available). Suitable for school-aged children and adults. **\$5/person.**



Gardening for Pollinators Heritage

Sat. May 31, 10:30 a.m.-noon

What does it take to plant a wildlife- and pollinator-friendly garden, and which visitors can you expect to see there? We will investigate the differences between native and nonnative plants and discuss options that you and the pollinators will both enjoy. Meet live garden guests and take home a native plant for your own garden. **\$5/person.**



Polish Your Own Petoskey Stone

Sat. June 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Michigan’s state stone is the Petoskey stone, a fossil colonial coral. Using different sandpaper grits and some “elbow grease,” participants will pick out and polish their own stone to take home while we talk about other local fossils and minerals. All materials provided. **\$5/person.**



Portable Planetarium

Book our 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 our portable planetarium and how to book.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs cover a wide range of hands-on, nature-centered educational topics. Programs are designed as a drop-off format for students ages 6-13.

[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, preschools, daycare centers, homeschool co-ops, scouts, seniors, church organizations and other community groups. Traveling programs include nature presentations, nature tables and more.

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

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Michigan’s Northwoods

Sat. July 19, 2-3:30 p.m.

Wolves, cougars and bears, oh my! Learn about the animals that make their homes in the Northern region of our great state. **\$5/person.**



An ASL Interpreter will be provided.



Michigan Avian Experience Birds of Prey

Sat. Aug. 16, 2-3:30 p.m.

Live birds of prey will descend upon Red Oaks during this show presented by Michigan Avian Experience of Jackson County. Learn about their remarkable survival adaptations and behaviors during this up-close opportunity. Suitable for all ages. **\$5/person.**

Fall Crafts & Fun

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

Leaves, pumpkins and fun, hooray! Join us to learn what animals and plants are doing to prepare for fall. Then, let your creative juices flow while making festive pumpkin and leaf crafts to get you in the mood for the best season. **\$5/person.**



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Scout Badge Work Field Trips

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



Field Trips

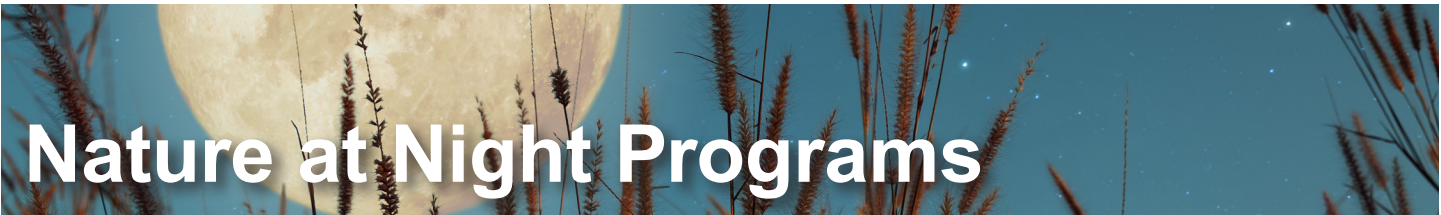
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Wellness Programs

Engaging with nature and being outdoors has many proven physical and mental benefits. From yoga and meditation to drum circles and forest bathing, wellness programming is available for all ages.

View upcoming wellness activities at **OaklandCountyParks.com**. Each nature center offers unique opportunities to connect with our natural surroundings.



Nature at Night Programs

Experience the parks in a whole new way by visiting after dark. Nature at night programs are led by experienced naturalists who share interesting facts about the nighttime sky and the activity that happens after the sun goes down.

Fired Up About Fireflies

Sat. June 28, 8-9:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Celebrate National Insect Week by discovering firefly myths from around the world, why lightning bugs glow, and make a fun glowing firefly craft. **\$5/person.**

Bat Chat

Fri. July 25, 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 Acoustic, which translates the echolocation calls. **\$5/person.**

Bat Chat

Fri. Aug. 15, 8:30-10 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Uncover who's hootin' it up at night in Friendship Woods. Learn about our nocturnal neighbors, dissect their diets and discover their specialized adaptations. Suitable for ages 6+. **\$5/person.**

Summer Star Party

Fri. Aug. 15, 8:30-10 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Summer is one of the best times to look up and discover the wonders of the night sky. Includes an indoor inflatable planetarium show plus an astronomy craft! Suitable for school-aged children and adults. **\$5/person.**



Walk in the Woods

Get your nature questions answered on a free naturalist-guided hike. Participants will learn about seasonal topics while getting some exercise and enjoying the great outdoors. No Pets. Programs are 10:30-11:15 a.m. at both locations.

Red Oaks Nature Center: April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17

Wint Nature Center: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24