

FALL 2022

Nature Education Programs

**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**

Great Parks for Great People

OaklandCountyParks.com   

Must-know information for all programs: Programs may take place outdoors or have an outdoor component. Dress for the weather. Outdoor attire, bug spray and sunscreen are recommended. In case of inclement weather, programs may be cancelled or rescheduled. Please be patient as COVID-19 guidelines and protocols are subject to change. At this time, masks are no longer required but are available onsite if you would like one. For current COVID-19 practices, please contact the nature centers directly.



INDEPENDENCE OAKS COUNTY PARK

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

Pre-registration with payment required.

Call 248-858-0916 weekdays.

No weekend registration.

Trail Hikes by Appointment

Fridays: Oct. 7; Nov. 11; Dec. 9

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. No pets.



Exploring Natural Dyes



Saturday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We will explore how to create dye using natural materials and create a range of colors with just a few ingredients from the forest and the kitchen! Everyone will get a piece of fabric to dye and take home. Ages 10 and up. **\$8/person.**

Puddle Jumper Series

Fridays: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Topics: Oct.: Spiders Nov.: Turkeys Dec.: Winter

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. **\$4/child.**



The Art of Nature

Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-Noon

A nature walk will inspire us to notice the colors and shapes of our beautiful surroundings. We will discuss the symmetry and patterns we see as we explore the outdoors. After our walk, we will sketch and paint our own piece of nature to take home. Ages 10 and up. **\$5/person.**



Nature Detectives Series

Saturdays: Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17: 11 a.m.-Noon

Topics: Oct.: Fall Colors Nov.: Wildlife Survival Dec.: Animal Tracking



Children ages 7-10 will go hiking and exploring outside to learn about how plants and animals transition into survival mode to prepare for the winter months. We will observe and witness the changes among the trees and be detectives to learn about how the animals are preparing for the winter. **\$4/child.**

Cryptid Hike

Saturday, Oct. 29, 5-6:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered about the mythical creatures that lurk in Michigan's forests? Have you ever seen something out of the corner of your eye while on a walk? Join one of our naturalists on a hike to learn about Michigan myths and folklore. Meet at the nature center and wear good walking shoes, bug spray and weather appropriate clothes. **\$6/person.**



Kids Holiday Mini Camp

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



Kids, come to the nature center for a morning of holiday fun! This is a Kids-Only Event, so leave your parents at the door. This program will consist of learning about animal adaptations, games and making a holiday gift for someone special. This program is suitable for ages 5-10 years old. A release form is required with registration. **\$15/child.**

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 weekdays.
No weekend registration.

Southward Bound

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2-4 p.m.

Where do the birds go this time of year? For many, the answer is south. Learn about spectacular migrants both locally and globally, then stretch your own wings on a migration obstacle course. Learn how you can help birds on their journey as they travel across the continent toward warmer weather, then hit the trail to seek out some feathered friends. **\$5/person.**



Morning Munchkins Series



Fridays: Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Topics: **Oct.:** Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep
Nov.: Secrets of Animal Camouflage **Dec.:** This is Owl

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. **\$4/child.**

Trail Hikes by Appointment

Fridays: Oct. 14; Nov. 18; Dec. 16

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. No pets.



Leaves of Change



Sunday, Oct. 16, 2-3:30 p.m.

From green to yellow, orange and red, observe the vibrant colors of the leaves this fall and the changes happening in our neck of the woods. Learn why leaves change color this time of the year and then enjoy the crisp day as we head out on the trail. Our adventure will conclude with a leaf critter creation. **\$5/person.**

Eye of Newt & Tail of Dog

Friday, Oct. 28, 6-7 p.m.

Discover common names of plants that are easily confused with animal parts and how they have been used in folk remedies. This is an historic look; no medical advice intended or implied. **\$5/person.**



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.



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.

Superheroes of the Woods

Saturday, Nov. 12, 1-3 p.m.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? There are all kinds of extraordinary abilities to observe in the woods, including invisibility, flight, "supertools" and more. Discover the many ways that animals and plants survive and thrive in their environments. We'll play games, go for an exploratory nature walk and do a super craft! Come dressed as your favorite superhero and join us for an exciting afternoon. All ages are welcome for this family fun event! **\$5/person.**



Gift-Giving: Nature, Community and You



Saturday, Dec. 17, 3-4:30 p.m.

This time of year involves the exchange of gifts in many different traditions. Learn about gift-giving in different cultures, including gift exchanges that may be happening in the natural world – in a forest or pond near you, or even in your own backyard. Craft your own gift to give someone and receive a gift from the Nature Center to take home. A special holiday guest will be making an appearance as well - bring your camera! **\$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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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.

Documenting the Natural World: Field Journaling 101

Kits available for pickup Sept. 30-Oct. 15

Live Zoom instruction on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2-3 p.m.

Practice nature observation and create your own record of the things you've seen. Build your own personal field journal kit, then tune in for a virtual group journaling session. Appropriate for ages 3 to 300. **20 kits available. \$15/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.

Autumn Leaf Candle Holders

Kits available for pickup Nov. 4-18

Recorded instruction provided with kits

Just in time for Thanksgiving, create the perfect centerpiece display for your table or throughout your home. Make colorful candle holders and fun family memories at the same time! Perfect for all ages; adult supervision recommended.

12 kits available. \$10/kit.



Natural Ornaments for Indoors & Out

Kits available for pickup Dec. 2-17

Live Zoom instruction on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2-3 p.m.

Why go to the store and buy holiday ornaments when you can design your own? Create beautiful décor for inside your home as well as some outdoor treats for our winged friends. We'll provide the supplies for the ornaments – you'll bring the creativity and fun! Perfect for families and people of all ages. **10 kits available. \$10/kit.**

