Restoring a meadow habitat with help from a small research grant

Plan to check out your newest park in Bainbridge Township

Sign the kids up for Adventure Camp to get them outdoors this summer!

How to combat the non-native invader garlic mustard
Saturday, April 27 • 11 AM - 3 PM • The West Woods
• Wildlife presentations • Live animals • Nature craft
• Amphibian/reptile displays • Wild edible cooking demo
• Garlic mustard challenge with prizes • Bird banding • Food truck
Registration 7 AM • Costume Contest 8:30 AM • Race/Walk 9 AM

Sunday, June 9 • The West Woods

Claridon Woodlands’ high ropes course re-opens Sunday, May 26
Hours: Friday through Tuesday, 12:30 PM - 8 PM (last group up at 7 PM)

Headwaters Park’s kayak and canoe borrowing resumes Sunday, June 2
Hours: Friday through Tuesday, 1 PM - 8 PM (last boat out at 7 PM)

Pick up a free milkweed plant to help the ailing Monarch population. (One pot per person, please.)

Mother’s Day Giveaway: Sunday, May 12, 10 AM-12:30 PM at The West Woods Nature Center

Father’s Day Giveaway: Sunday, June 16, 9:30 AM-Noon at Claridon Woodlands

Nights Out in the Parks
A great way to spend a summer evening!

Amphitheater concerts at Big Creek Park (BC) or Claridon Woodlands (CW): 7 to 8:30 PM
Jayson & the Mean Eyed Cats 6/8 (BC)
Foster Brown & Friends 7/6 (CW)
Tom Todd – The Amazing One Man Band! 7/20 (BC)
Night Dawgs 8/24 (BC)

Outdoor movie nights at Observatory Park; activities begin at 8 PM, movies at dark
Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) 6/22
Harry Potter & the Sorcerer’s Stone (PG) 7/27
First Man (PG-13) 8/10

Ropes & Boats
Visit website for complete details and restrictions

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Ralph Breaks the Internet (PG) 6/22
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Frog Fest “Party Line” Call List
Witness the noisy courtship of Gray Tree Frogs and Green Frogs as they come to woodland pools to breed. Details on page 10.

Spring Programs on pages 8-13

• Registration is required in advance for limited enrollment programs on a first come, first served basis. Registration can be completed online or at 440-286-9516.
• Programs may be cancelled in the event of severe weather or a storm warning.
• Programs are generally free of charge; those with fees are noted. Payment of fees must be made at the time of registration with a credit/debit card.
• Registration fees are refundable up to five days prior to the event, or if the Park District cancels the program.
• If you or a member of your family has special needs, please call the Park District regarding available accessibility accommodations.

Volunteers Needed
Fully Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible
Partially Wheelchair/Stroller Accessible
Nature’s Not To Be Missed - Program focused on unique encounters with Nature
Nature Scopes - Program recommended for our fifth-grade Nature Scopes students

UPCOMING EVENTS [Image]
Park Mission
The mission of Geauga Park District is to preserve, conserve and protect the natural features of Geauga County and to provide outdoor recreational experiences to our residents of every age, every ability and at all times of the year.

Park Hours
Daily 6 AM - 11 PM
Big Creek Park’s Donald W. Meyer Center is open weekdays 10 AM - 4:30 PM
The West Woods Nature Center is open daily 10 AM - 4:30 PM
Observatory Park is open daily until 1 AM from Memorial Day to Labor Day and until 11 PM from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Observatory Park’s Robert McCullough Science Center and Oberle Observatory are open 2nd & 4th Fridays & Saturdays of each month 6 - 11 PM and every other Sunday of each month 1 - 4 PM
The Maple Highlands Trail is open daily dawn till dusk
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve is open daily 6 AM - 9 PM
For more information on your parks, programs or events Phone: 440-286-9516 Fax: 440-286-1285
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org info@geaugaparkdistrict.org

Dear Geauga County Friends and Neighbors,

Congratulations to Director Oros, the hardworking Park Staff, and the dedicated Park Board for another excellent “Frozen Fest,” blizzard-like weather notwithstanding.

As Geauga County residents, we will all benefit from the Park District’s acquisition of the Wicked Woods property, which will help preserve, conserve, and protect more of our county’s natural beauty. In the fall, the view to the east from the west end of this property is particularly special. The presence of the already paved paths will allow seniors and those with disabilities the ability to access and enjoy the site’s natural beauty. The new park would be ideal for a Veterans’ Memorial Park, dedicated to our County’s Veterans.

As spring reawakens the natural wonders in our Parks, I hope you and your family will take some time to use and enjoy them.

Hope to see you at the Parks!

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Grendell
Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge
Over the past few years, you may have seen my team and I in the Geauga parks, standing in the middle of Observatory Park, staring intently at a plant or wading through the tall wildflowers and grasses at Frohring Meadows. Have you ever wondered what we were up to? We are a part of Dr. Rauschert’s Plant Ecology Lab at Cleveland State University, collaborating with Geauga Park District to research meadow habitats and restoration.

Meadows are a key habitat for wildlife, especially for pollinators like butterflies and bees. Pollinators depend on the nectar and pollen of flowering plants for food. The flowers and meadow also benefit from pollinators, since pollination is what initiates seed formation and propagates plants in the habitat. Providing pollinator habitat by seeding a mix of native species is oftentimes the goal of restoring meadow habitats. Researching meadow habitats gives a better understanding of how we can best conserve and manage these important habitats.

The research I have been working on can be used in the restoration planning and monitoring of meadow habitats within the park. Surveying Observatory Park throughout the restoration process
has revealed that seeding efforts are changing the plant community. Seeding by using a machine to place seeds in the ground (drill seeding) has increased the abundance of native species. We’ve also seen that broadcasting seed by hand can increase the conservation value of a meadow.

At Frohring Meadows, we compared areas of the park that were seeded to those areas that were not seeded and also found interesting results from this research. We found that areas that were seeded to restore the meadow had more native species than those that were not seeded. Seeded native species at Frohring like foxglove beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis), early goldenrod (Solidago juncea), and spotted joe pye weed (Eupatorium maculatum) provide food to pollinators throughout the year. Even more exciting is that the native plants that have established in seeded areas are spreading to other meadow areas of the park that were not seeded. This is a great indicator that restoration efforts are meeting park management goals by increasing native plants and providing pollinator habitat.

Our research on meadow restorations was funded in part by Geauga Park District’s 2018 Small Research Grant Program. Each year, the Parks District awards grants to those interested in conducting research within the park system. This program has helped foster collaboration between the parks and local researchers like our lab at Cleveland State. For example, Dr. Rauschert previously investigated the impacts of lesser celandine, an invasive plant, on the native plant community at Orchard Hills Park. This program also helps achieve the Park District’s mission to conserve and protect natural areas.

Research is a valuable part of Geauga Park District that has many benefits. Surveys can identify species of interest or concern that the natural resources team may need to manage by protecting desirable species and removing invasive species. Multiple surveys can track changes over time and determine how a species population or a habitat might be different from previous years. Tracking change over time is particularly important for monitoring restorations and any changes in the plants that are there. Together, this information is used to help Geauga Park District plan for the future.

About the author

Keri Plevniak is a Masters graduate student in plant ecology at Cleveland State University. Her research compares the plant communities of restored, seeded meadows to those that were not restored. She plans to graduate this spring.
Your newest Geauga park to explore is Holbrook Hollows, 129 acres located at 7250 Country Lane in Bainbridge Township, within two miles of downtown Chagrin Falls. Opening this April, four trails total 2.65 miles, mostly traversing mature beech-maple forest. Topdressing and final work on the property will finish this spring. Tributaries protected here feed into the Aurora branch of the Chagrin River, and diverse habitats include forested canopy, uplands, wetlands, streams and open areas.

The name Holbrook Hollows comes from a hybrid of past owners of the property and the natural “hollows” created by the topography of valleys and scenic hillsides, offering vistas of forest and streams.

Because of this property’s popularity with horseback riders, as well as the former presence of a barn here, Holbrook Hollows’ 99-person-capacity lodge is designed with a “contemporary barn look.” It features community space in the front, large fans to keep guests cool, and a garage door that opens the entire back side. Doing so allows access to a unique tiered patio with a fire pit, picnic tables and more community space – a stage set for many memorable gatherings of family and friends to come.

Near the lodge, a Nature-themed/based playground features hillside slides and agility ropes, providing opportunities for fun for the young and the young at heart.

Watch our website early this season to learn when we will begin accepting lodge reservations!

Park Spotlight
Spend Some Time at Holbrook Hollows

**Field Notes:**

**Discover Old Ironsides Run**, which connects to Cleveland Metroparks' existing bridle trails, to find a 350-foot-long boardwalk and “outdoor classroom” seating area. A little farther on, a viewing platform overlooks the wetlands along South Franklin Street.

**At half a mile, White Pine Way is a tranquil wheelchair/stroller-accessible trail not far from the parking lot and lodge.**
Finding Art in Nature

Save the Date! Sunday, August 4 • 10 AM - 5 PM • Big Creek Park

Under the bright summer sun, or shaded by the dark green leaves of early August, make a plan to find your time away – and bring home something for yourself or a friend – during our long-running, much-beloved Nature Arts Festival!

Located in recent years at scenic Big Creek Park, this juried festival celebrates the artistry that can be found everywhere in Nature. From the curves, crags and catches of driftwood to the melody of a treetop breeze to a green frog’s glassy, ornate eyes, all kinds of Nature-inspired artwork is for sale here at many different price points. And entertainment is totally free for the whole family: strolling balloon art, face painting, live music, make-n-take activities and more.

Last but not least, this festival is just a fun (and free) Lolly the Trolley shuttle ride from the Chardon Arts Festival, featuring plenty more artwork of other inspirations for sale. Park there and ride over to start your day among the trees!

As details are posted this summer, find a schedule of events on our website under Activities, then Special Events & Art Shows.

Enter the 24th Annual Nature Writing Contest

Entries will be accepted through May 1 – and did you know that winners in youth, adolescent and adult categories receive cash prizes and accolades during the Nature Arts Festival? Both writers and readers love this event, and it couldn’t be easier to enter a piece of Nature-inspired poetry or prose. Get details on our website under News & Updates.

Thank You to All of Our Generous Donors

Donations to Geauga Park District November 2018 through January 2019

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<tr>
<th>Donor Name</th>
<th>Donor Details</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Observatory Park Nassau Donation 3,000.00</td>
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<td>Memorial Bench Plaque in Memory of Rick &amp; Thelma Payne 565.00</td>
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<td>Bench Plaque Donation 500.00</td>
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<td>Geauga Walkers</td>
<td>Unrestricted Donation 100.00</td>
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<td>Georgie Steigerwald</td>
<td>Nature Scopes in Memory of Marsha Simon 50.00</td>
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<td>Georgie Steigerwald</td>
<td>Naturalist Dept. in Memory of Carl White 50.00</td>
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<td>Scott &amp; Carol Kenney</td>
<td>Unrestricted Donation 50.00</td>
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<td>Patterson Farms</td>
<td>Chip Henry Institute Donation 1,000.00</td>
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<td>Foundation for Geauga Parks</td>
<td>2018-19 Nature Scopes Donation 22,656.09</td>
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<td>UH Geauga Medical Center</td>
<td>Caveman Crawl Sponsorship 1,000.00</td>
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APRIL arrives with spring in the air!

5 April Evening Adventure
Friday, April 5, 7:30-9 PM
Eldon Russell Park
A memorable spring evening hike for families to see an American Woodcock air show accompanied by a chorus full of Spring Peeper piping, Barred Owl bantering, beaver tail-slappping and Great Blue Heron flapping. ✭

6 Hunter Education Course
Saturday, April 6, 9 AM-3 PM
(Day 1), Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Geauga Park District will train young and beginner hunters on safety, archery, ammunition, ethics and conservation during this two-day Hunter Education Course. Day 2 is April 13. Attendance required both days to complete the coursework, which ends with a quiz. Under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required through the Ohio Division of Wildlife at http://bit.ly/ gpdhunt-april2019. ✭

6 Monarchs & Milkweed
Saturday, April 6, 10:30 AM-Noon
The West Woods, Nature Center
This in-depth presentation will cover Monarch biology and migration. Get the latest on this well-known insect's plight as it struggles to survive. Afterwards, plant your own pot of native milkweed seeds to take home and grow. ✭

7 Bald Eagle Hike
Sunday, April 7, 1-3 PM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Learn amazing facts about Bald Eagles and hike to an active nest, rain or shine, hopefully to observe eagle activity! Participants should be able to hike 2 miles over rolling terrain. Registration required. ✭

7 Buckeye Trail: 250-Mile “Little Loop”
Sunday, April 7, 2-3:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Did you know Northeast Ohio has a 250-mile section of the Buckeye Trail called the Little Loop? Take a virtual tour around this section and learn about the Little Loop Challenge - a collective effort to hike the entire Little Loop in one day! ✭

9 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, April 9, 1-2:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Deep Woods
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 1/2 miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2126. Also April 23 at Sunnybrook Preserve. ✭

12 Spring Terrarium Workshop
Friday, April 12, 6-8 PM
Claridon Woodlands, Judge Lester Taylor Lodge
Fee: $40 ($44 out-of-county)
Join artisan Holly Michniak to welcome springtime by creating a beautiful glass terrarium with live plants and decorative accents. Refreshments will be provided. Ages 10+. Registration required. ✭

12 Mapping Mars
Friday, April 12, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park, Robert McCullough Science Center
Participate in a citizen science project to map the features of Mars! We’ll show you how to join an online effort to puzzle out the features of “the Red Planet.” Followed by night sky viewing until 11 PM if weather permits. ✭

12 Warbler Warm-up
Saturday, April 13, 1:30-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Celebrate spring by following clues indoors and outdoors to hidden eggs and fun facts. Find all the eggs and get a fun prize! Drop in anytime during program hours. Scavenger hunts for both preschool and school age children. ✭

13 Hunter Education Course
Saturday, April 13, 9 AM-3 PM
(Day 2), Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
See description for April 6. ✭

13 Egg Hunt: Nature Style
Saturday, April 13, 1:30-3 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Celebrate spring by following clues indoors and outdoors to hidden eggs and fun facts. Find all the eggs and get a fun prize! Drop in anytime during program hours. Scavenger hunts for both preschool and school age children. ✭

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14 Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, April 13, 8-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead. ✭

14 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series
Sunday, April 14, 7:30-9:30 AM
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
See a variety of birds as they return to prime breeding habitat during spring migration. Experienced leaders will assist participants with observation and identification. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and bird guide. At different locations April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19. ✭

14 Loonacy: Loons in Life, Legend & Local Waters
Sunday, April 14, 1-2:30 PM
Bass Lake Preserve, Lodge
Learn about the amazing aquatic abilities, ecology, lore and conservation issues of this iconic bird of the North Woods. Outdoor viewing of migratory Common Loons follows. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes provided. ✭

14 Timbertots: Spring Things
(Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Sunday, April 14, 2-3 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Join Nora the Explorer on an adventure to discover the wonderful Nature that awakens in the spring. Program outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly. Registration required. Also April 15. ✭

14 Warbler Warm-up
Sunday, April 14, 3:30-5 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Noted local birders Matt Valencic and Kelly Kozlowski present techniques for ID’ing spring warblers using color patterns, habitat, behaviors and song. For novice to intermediate birders, with handouts provided. Walk follows to find early songbird migrants. A collaboration with the Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. ✭
15 Timbertots: Spring Things
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Monday, April 15, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
See description for April 14. Registration required.

18 Snipe Hunt & Woodcock Watch
Thursday, April 18, 7:30-9 PM
Frothing Meadows
Ever been on a snipe hunt? No joke, this is the real deal. Witness the aerial courtship displays of Wilson’s Snipe and American Woodcock, two memorable rites of spring.

19 Nature Explorers: Wonderful World of Wildflowers
(Ages 6-7 & 8-11) Friday, April 19, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Big Creek Park, Deep Woods
Nature Explorers, venture into the forest to discover the wonderful world of wildflowers! Drop-off program. Outdoors, so dress appropriately. Registration required.

19 The Full Frog Moon
Friday, April 19, 8:30-9:30 PM
Observatory Park
Come learn what makes a full moon, meet a few frogs, and observe the rising “Frog Moon” using the park telescopes!

20 Nature Trek Fitness Hike
Saturday, April 20, 10 AM-Noon
The West Woods
Let’s move it, people! Burn off calories along the trails of The West Woods and learn some cool Nature facts along the way! Participants should have the ability to hike at least 3 miles over hilly terrain. Held rain or shine, so dress accordingly and bring water.

20 Advanced Nature Craft: Build A Box Turtle
Saturday, April 20, 1-3:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Meet Mikey the Box Turtle and learn some amazing facts about him with a brief presentation. Then cut, fold and glue your very own paper craft turtle. This high-level craft creates a 3D life-sized turtle for you to enjoy. Registration required.

20 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS
Saturday, April 20, 7-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope! Stop in to discover this amazing facility and all it has to offer.

21 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series
Sunday, April 21, 7:30-9:30 AM
Frothing Meadows
See description for April 14. Also April 28.

23 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, April 23, 1-2:30 PM
Sunnybrook Preserve
See description for April 9.

25 Elderberries: April Foolery
Thursday, April 25, 11:30 AM-2 PM
Claridon Woodlands
Take in a short, easy walk with puns and fun as plants and animals are represented by objects, making for an entertaining guessing game, followed by a Tai Chi session led by UH Geauga. Light lunch served. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and UH Geauga Medical Center. Registration required.

25 Maple Town Tune Traders
Thursday, April 25, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Come to play, sing or enjoy as audience. Musicians present short performances followed by sharing of songs in the round. All musical genres, instruments and levels welcome. Snacks to share welcome. For information call 440-279-0883.

26 Astrotots: Moon Mysteries
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Friday, April 26, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM
Explore weird wonders of our moon: how it got there, what’s it doing, what’s it made of and more! Don’t miss out on the far-out facts, loony legends, a crater craft and moon tunes! Registration required. Also April 27.

26 Meet the Artists: Tri-County Artists
Friday, April 26, 7-9 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Meet the Tri-County Artists, with members from Geauga, Cuyahoga and Lake counties, and view their diverse collection of Nature-inspired artwork. Refreshments served. Show runs through July 23.

27 Astrotots: Moon Mysteries (Ages 3-5 w/adult)
Saturday, April 27, 10-11 AM, Observatory Park
See description for April 26. Registration required.

27 Earth Day Extravaganza
Saturday, April 27, 11 AM-3 PM
The West Woods
Celebrate Earth Day with live animals and amphibian/reptile displays, bird banding, wildlife presentations, a wild edible cooking demonstration, a garlic mustard challenge with prizes, a food truck, a Nature craft for kids and more! Featured will be bat expert Maria Monarchino discussing the ecological importance of Red Bats. See website for schedule of events.
**May** mixes fun with Nature!

**4** Tea & Wildflowers
Saturday, May 4, 10-11:30 AM
Headwaters Park, Boathouse
Celebrate spring with a wildflower talk by park naturalists while you enjoy a variety of teas and pastries. Then head out on a short trail for a hike to look at the wildflowers in bloom. Held rain or shine. Registration required.

**4** Scout Day: Girl Scout Outdoor Skills Field Day
Saturday, May 4, 9 AM-Noon
Chickagami Park
Cadette, Senior & Ambassador Scouts, let’s put our scouting skills to the test! Practice fire building, orienteering, outdoor cooking and knot tying as we work toward making a delicious campfire treat. For Girl Scouts grades 6-12. Registration required.

**4** Scout Day: Boy Scout Outdoor Skills Field Day
Saturday, May 4, 1-4 PM
Chickagami Park
Boy Scouts, let’s put our scouting skills to the test! Practice fire building, orienteering, outdoor cooking and knot tying as we work toward making a delicious campfire treat. For those who have crossed to Boy Scouts grades 5-12. Registration required.

**4** Amazing Amphibians
Saturday, May 4, 3-4:30 PM
The West Woods
Learn about frogs and salamanders during a fun indoor presentation, then head outdoors for a half-mile hike to experience the sights and sounds.

**5** Annual Spring Bird Walk Series
Sunday, May 5, 7:30-9:30 AM
Eldon Russell Park
See a variety of birds as they return to prime breeding habitat during spring migration. Experienced leaders will assist participants with observation and identification. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and bird guide. At different locations May 12 and 19.

**5** Beautiful Blooms Wildflower Hike
Sunday, May 5, 1-3 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Take a naturalist-led hike to one of the best locations in Geauga Park District to find beautiful spring-blooming wildflowers! Hike up to 2 miles with rolling terrain and stream crossings.

**5** Lost Lake Kayak Expedition
Sunday, May 5, 1-4 PM
Upper Cuyahoga River, Rt. 87 Parking Lot
Experienced kayakers, take a rugged but rewarding kayak trip to a remote, seldom-seen wild marsh and lake accessed from the Upper Cuyahoga River. Ages 16+. Be prepared for the possibility of wading, muddy portages, climbing over felled trees and other obstacles – not for inexperienced kayakers! Bring spare clothes and water. Registration required starting April 28.

**5** Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, May 7, 1-2:30 PM
Headwaters Park, Rt. 322 Parking Lot
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2126. Also May 21 at Swine Creek Reservation.

**5** Magee Marsh Birding Van Trip
Wednesday, May 8, 6 AM-6 PM
The West Woods
Fees: $10 ($25 out-of-county)
Join us for a trip to one of the best bird-watching spots in the country to witness the spring spectacle of bird migration along the shores of Lake Erie. We'll provide transportation and naturalists to assist with bird identification; bring your own binoculars, water and bag lunch. Registration required.

**5** Henrietta Leavitt: Visionary Astronomer
Friday, May 10, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
Learn the history of pioneering astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. Program followed by night-sky viewing until 11 PM, weather permitting. Also May 24.

**10** Frog Fest “Party Line” Call List
Anytime May 10-31, 8-9:30 PM
The West Woods
Get your name on the call list to witness the noisy courtship of Gray Tree Frogs and Green Frogs as they come to woodland pools to breed. We’ll call when conditions are right, so expect short notice. Registration required.

**11** Catwalk Bird Count
Saturday, May 11, 6:30-11:30 AM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Ascend the stairs of the Nassau Observatory to the outside catwalk, where we will conduct a bird count from our elevated perch closer to the tree canopy. Drop in or out anytime during program hours and help add some bird species to the list. Bring binoculars.

**11** Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, May 11, 8-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead.

**12** Annual Spring Bird Walk Series
Sunday, May 12, 7:30-9:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
See description for May 5. Also May 19.

**12** Mother’s Day Milkweed Giveaway
Sunday, May 12, 10 AM-12:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
What better gift can you give your mother than a plant? Stop by anytime during specified hours to pick up a free pot of native milkweed to plant and help the ailing Monarch Butterfly population. One pot per person, please.

**16** Elderberries: Bird in the Hand
Thursday, May 16, 9-11:30 AM
Big Creek Park, Aspen Grove
See colorful migratory songbirds close up as they are netted and banded for scientific study. Binoculars available. Short distance bird walks also held. Pancake breakfast included. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. Registration required.
17 Secret Lives of Salamanders
Friday, May 17, 7-8:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Robertta Muehlheim, assistant curator of vertebrate zoology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, relates the biology, mating and biodiversity of Ohio’s salamanders, complete with displays of live local salamanders.

18 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS
Saturday, May 18, 7-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope! Stop in to discover this amazing facility and all it has to offer.

19 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk Only)
Sunday, May 19, 1-3 PM
Observatory Park
Bring your own horse to enjoy the spring woodlands for this walk-only naturalist-led trail ride. Must trailer your own horse. Helmets recommended. Please bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. May register for both trail rides with a lunch break between. Registration required.

19 Annual Spring Bird Walk Series
Sunday, May 19, 7:30-9:30 AM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge
See description for May 5. Also May 12.

19 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk, Trot & Canter)
Sunday, May 19, 10-11:30 AM
Observatory Park
Bring your own horse for this naturalist-led trail ride at a walk, trot and canter. Enjoy the spring woodlands from a seat in the saddle and move out at a faster pace on trail. Must trailer your own horse. Helmets recommended. Please bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. May register for one or both trail rides with a lunch break between. Registration required.

19 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk Only)
Sunday, May 19, 1-3 PM
Observatory Park
Bring your own horse to enjoy the spring woodlands for this walk-only naturalist-led trail ride. Must trailer your own horse. Helmets recommended. Please bring a shovel to clean up after your horse in the parking lot. May register for both trail rides with a lunch break between. Registration required.

21 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, May 21, 1-2:30 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
See description for May 7.

21 Rewa River Adventure
Tuesday, May 21, 7-8:30 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Bruce Bennett shares the adventures of his 110-mile trip up the Rewa River in Guyana. Guided by the indigenous Makushi, their trip included 40 miles in dugout canoes encountering the incredible wildlife of this South American country. A collaboration with the Blackbrook Audubon Society.

22 After Work Wildflower Walk
Wednesday, May 22, 6:30-8 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Woods Edge
Enjoy the diversity of wildflowers in this lush beech-maple forest. Hike is 1-1½ miles on hilly terrain. A collaboration with The Native Plant Society of Northeastern Ohio.

23 Maple Town Tune Traders
Thursday, May 23, 7-10 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as an audience as musicians present short performances followed by the sharing of songs and tunes in the round. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Snacks to share welcome. For more information call 440-279-0883.

24 Henrietta Leavitt: Visionary Astronomer
Friday, May 24, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
See description for May 10.

25 Timbertots: Animal Babies
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Saturday, May 25, 10-11 AM
Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve
Join Nora the Explorer on an adventure to discover that spring is a time for animal babies! Program outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly. Registration required.

25 Ansel’s Cave Hike: Spring Exploration
Saturday, May 25, 1-3 PM
The West Woods
Join a naturalist for this two-mile hike exploring the Ansel’s Cave Trail in spring with a rare opportunity to enter restricted areas! Held rain or shine. Registration required.

25 Nassau Night Sky Viewing
Saturday, May 25, 8-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead.

26 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Sunday, May 26, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park
Join us for a planetarium presentation about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment.

28 Timbertots: Animal Babies
(Ages 3-5 w/adult) Tuesday, May 28, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM, The Rookery, Great Blue Heron Lodge
See description for May 25. Registration required.

31 Homeschool Days: Habitat Hide and Seek
(Ages 5-7 & 8-12) Friday, May 31, 2-3:30 PM, Big Creek Park, Meyer Center
Join a naturalist to learn all about habitats! Search pond, forest and meadow for small critters that call these places home. Adults may attend (need not register) or drop off child with waiver. Ages 8-12 meet at Aspen Grove picnic shelter. Program mostly outdoors, so dress accordingly. Registration required.
2 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk, Trot & Canter)  
Sunday, June 2, 10 AM-Noon  
Holbrook Hollows  
Enjoy the spring woodlands from the seat in the saddle of your horse. Naturalist-led ride at a fast pace walk, trot and canter. Must trailer your own horse. Helmets recommended. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse. May register for both rides with a lunch break between. Registration required.  

2 Horseback Trail Ride (Walk Only)  
Sunday, June 2, 1-3 PM  
Holbrook Hollows  
Enjoy the spring woodlands from the seat in the saddle of your horse. Naturalist-led ride at a leisurely walk-only pace. Must trailer your own horse. Helmets recommended. Bring a shovel to clean up after your horse. May register for both trail rides with a lunch break between. Registration required.  

8 Basic Learn to Kayak  
Saturday, June 8, 9 AM-Noon  
Bass Lake Preserve  
Learn basic kayak-handling techniques for safe kayaking on flat water. Ages 10+ with adult. Registration required starting May 25.  

8 Basic Learn to Canoe  
Saturday, June 8, 1-4 PM  
Bass Lake Preserve  
Learn basic canoe-handling techniques for safe canoeing on flat water. Ages 10+ with adult. Registration required by phone starting May 25.  

8 Nights Out in the Parks: Jayson & the Mean Eyed Cats in Concert  
Saturday, June 8, 7-8:30 PM  
Big Creek Park Amphitheater  
Enjoy a mixture of high-energy rockabilly with some country and blues thrown in for good measure! Refreshments served. Held inside if inclement weather.  

8 Nassau Night Sky Viewing  
Saturday, June 8, 9 PM-Midnight  
Nassau Astronomical Station  
Observe the wonders of the night sky using this facility’s giant research-grade telescope! If weather prevents sky viewing, join us for a planetarium presentation in the McCullough Science Center instead.  

9 Caveman Crawl 5K Trail Run & 1-Mile Fun Walk  
Sunday, June 9, 7-11 AM  
The West Woods  
Fee: $20 Advance, $25 Race Day  
A 5K trail run through the wooded hills of The West Woods, now in its ninth year. Caveman costumes encouraged! Online registration available at http://bit.ly/gpdcaveman; forms can also be found on that website and at The West Woods Nature Center or Big Creek Park’s Meyer Center. Registration required.  

9 Welton’s Gorge Backcountry Ravine Exploration  
Sunday, June 9, 9 AM-Noon & 1-4 PM  
Welton’s Gorge, Burton  
Venture into the rocky woodland ravines of this preserve to discover deep rock ledges, cool streams, salamanders and other stream life. Wear sturdy shoes with good traction for slippery stream bottoms, steep grades and off-trail obstacles like downed trees and stream crossings. Held rain or shine. Registration required; directions provided upon registration.  

9 Timbertots: Forest Explorer (Ages 3-5 w/adult)  
Sunday, June 9, 1-2 PM  
B Benner Metzenbaum Park  
Discover the amazing things that call a forest home. Program outdoors, so dress accordingly. Stroll hill; strollers not recommended. Registration required.  

9 Timbertots: Forest Explorer (Ages 3-5 w/adult)  
Tuesday, June 11, 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM  
Claridon Woodlands, Judge Lester Taylor Lodge  
See description for June 9. Registration required.  

12 Scout Day: BSA Astronomy Merit Badge Workshop  
Wednesday, June 12, 7-10:30 PM  
Observatory Park  
Geauga Park District is pleased to offer this badge at this International Dark Sky Park. Pre-work will be required for certain requirements. An astronomy Merit Badge Counselor will be on site. Registration required; more information emailed upon registration.  

14 Veterans Picnic  
Friday, June 14, 4:30-8 PM  
Holbrook Hollows  
Geauga Park District celebrates our veterans on Flag Day with a special picnic to say thank you for serving our country! Veterans and a guest are welcome to enjoy food and fun at this new park. Registration required.  

15 Authorized Access Hike: Wildlife of the Landfill  
Saturday, June 15, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Lake County Landfill  
Back by popular demand! Explore the grasslands and wetlands of a restored landfill to see how the former solid waste site protects and is naturally re-claimed by an amazing diversity of animals and plants. Carpooling to reach some locations. Registration required; directions sent prior to program.
15 Nassau Astronomy Night with CVAS
Saturday, June 15, 7-11 PM
Nassau Astronomical Station
Join members of the Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society to take in the wonders of the night sky using our newly restored telescope! Stop in to discover this amazing facility and all it has to offer.

16 Father’s Day Milkweed Giveaway
Sunday, June 16, 9:30 AM-Noon
Claridon Woodlands
In an effort to aid the ailing Monarch Butterfly population, stop by anytime during specified hours to pick up a free pot of native milkweed to plant. One pot per person, please.

16 Explore Wicked Woods
Sunday, June 16, 1-3 PM
Former Wicked Woods Golf Course
Join a naturalist exploring the trails of this new park, discovering nature in forest, meadow and stream. Dress for the weather as this is an outdoor program. Expect hilly terrain. Registration required.

17 The Full Strawberry Moon
Monday, June 17, 9:30-10:30 PM
Observatory Park
June’s full moon is known as "The Strawberry Moon." Come get a taste of some strawberries and their history, then watch the full moon rise using park telescopes.

18 Toddler Time: Sensing the Summer
(Ages 1-2 w/adult) Tuesday, June 18, 10-11 AM, Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve, Sunset Shelter
Enjoy the start of summer with your little one as we see, smell and touch summertime in the park. Strollers and carriers welcome! Registration required.

18 Geauga Walkers
Tuesday, June 18, 1-2:30 PM
Whitlam Woods
Hikes for active seniors 1 to 1 ½ miles long. Naturalist led. Call Geauga Senior Center for full schedule: 440-279-2126.

20 Elderberries: Finny Dipping at the Pond
Thursday, June 20, 9 AM-11:30 AM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Relive your childhood adventures catching frogs, tadpoles, newts and wildly amazing aquatic insects. Pancake breakfast included. A collaboration with the Geauga Department on Aging and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. Registration required.

21 Asteroid Search
Friday, June 21, 7-8 PM
Observatory Park
See description for June 7.

21 Music of the Night Bike Ride
Friday, June 21, 8-10 PM
Headwaters Park, Maple Highlands Trail Parking Lot
“Nighttime sharpens, heightens each sensation...” as the phantom sings. Find out if he is correct on this leisurely evening six-mile round trip bike ride between Headwaters and Tare Creek Parkway. In darkness we will rely on a sharpened sense of hearing to discover bird and animal life along the way. Our electronic bat detector will amplify echolocation signals sent out by bats as they hunt insects. A bike or helmet light is recommended. Program will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain/storms; check website or Facebook for status.

22 Prairie Plant Pollinator Promenade
Saturday, June 22, 9:30-11 AM
Frohring Meadows
Celebrate Pollinator Week with a leisurely walk among these prairie trails. Learn about the importance of our pollinating insects, their association with all our blooming prairie plants, and their amazing diversity.

22 Cross-County Van Trip
Saturday, June 22, 10 AM-3 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Visit three unique parks. Learn the history and explore the trails of Metzenbaum Park, Observatory Park and our newest park (the former Wicked Woods Golf Course). Bring a packed lunch and bottled water. We’ll stop at an Amish farm stand, so bring money if interested in purchasing goods. Registration required.

22 Nights Out in the Park: Movie Night - Ralph Breaks the Internet
Saturday, June 22, 8-11:30 PM
Observatory Park
View the recent hit “Ralph Breaks The Internet” (rated PG)! Pre-show activities begin at 8 PM and include the Geauga County Public Library’s Fun Bus. Free popcorn and lemonade. Bring blankets and lawn chairs. Movie shown indoors if inclement weather. Night sky viewing after the movie, weather permitting.

23 Native Solitary Bees: Beneficial Pollinators
Sunday, June 23, 1-2 PM
The West Woods, Nature Center
Solitary insects like mason and leafcutter bees are gentle, native pollinators for our farms, gardens and parks. Join Cristin Smith of Nature’s Way Bird Products for tips on attracting and increasing the abundance of these beneficial wild bees. Also enter a raffle for a beneficial insect house and take home seeds to plant in your garden.

23 The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Sunday, June 23, 2-3 PM
Observatory Park
Find out about what to watch for in the night sky this week. Building open house 1-4 PM. Weather permitting, also view the sun using our safe solar-viewing equipment.

27 Maple Town Tune Traders
Thursday, June 27, 7-10 PM
The West Woods
Come to play, sing or simply enjoy as audience as musician present short performances followed by sharing of songs and tunes in the round. All musical genres, instruments and musicianship levels welcome. Snacks to share welcome. For more information call 440-279-0883.

29 Bird House Van Tour: Bluebirds, Martins & More
Saturday, June 29, 9 AM-Noon
Burton Wetlands Nature Preserve
Look in on bluebirds, swallows, kestrels and other cavity-nesting birds featuring an Amish Purple Martin colony. Also gain information on attracting your own bird house tenants. Registration required.

29 Epic Firefly Adventure
Saturday, June 29, 9-11 PM
Swine Creek Reservation, Lodge
Bring the kids or the kid-in-you for this good ol’ fashioned lightning bug hunt, helping capture enough of these elusive insects to fill a giant jar with light! Program kicks off in the lodge with a short, amusing presentation on firefly biology. Then grab a net (provided) and head outside – an exhilarating adventure for any age!

30 Tree Frogs, Tadpoles & Toadlets
Sunday, June 30, 1-3 PM
The West Woods, Deer Run Shelter
Discover the tiny toads and treefrogs hiding in plain sight near the springtime pools that were their nurseries. Also dip into the water with nets (provided) to find tadpoles that have not yet emerged while we share some natural history on the lives of these amazing amphibians and other creatures that share these pools.
**GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT**

2019 summer camps

Get out for some fun!

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT**

440-286-9516

**Junior Naturalist**
9 AM-4 PM - $150/week
(out-of-county $175/week)

**Youth entering grades 5-7**
Monday-Friday, June 24-28
Ready to explore and learn how to be a naturalist? If so, sign up for this exciting week of exploring streams, lakes and forests for exciting wildlife such as macro-invertebrates, birds, amphibians, insects and more!

**Adventures Day Camps**

9 AM-4 PM - $150/week
(out-of-county $175/week)

**Youth entering grades 5-7**
Mondays-Fridays:
June 10-14
July 8-12
July 15-19
July 29-Aug 2
August 5-9

Are you adventure ready!? When you sign up for one of these exciting weeks, you’re in for a great time exploring, hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, sending rockets high into the sky and more!

**Teens entering grades 8-10**
Mondays-Fridays:
June 17-21
July 22-26

Get ready for an exciting week of exploring, biking, kayaking, fishing, archery, sending rockets high into the sky and tackling the new ropes course at Claridon Woodlands!

**X-TREME Days**

9 AM-4 PM - $30/day
(out-of-county $35/day)

**Teens entering grades 8-10**

Monday, July 2
**X-treme: Wilderness Skills Challenge**
Big Creek Park
Get a taste for wilderness travel and backwoods navigation skills as we traverse Big Creek Park! There’s no bridge connecting the two halves of this park, but our intrepid campers will be finding their own off-trail routes through the ravines and waterways. Please wear footwear appropriate for an “X-treme” hike, and be prepared to cross several creeks.

Tuesday, July 2
**X-treme: Kayak River Challenge**
Eldon Russell Park
The wilds of the Upper Cuyahoga River are home to a wondrous variety of birds and beasts. Join naturalist staff on this 10-mile “X-treme” adventure as we paddle our way, discovering plants and wildlife in and along the river.

Wednesday, July 3
**X-treme: Natural Science Challenge**
The Rookery
Join Park Biologist Paul Pira and Naturalist Dottie Drockton to participate in natural resource projects using scientific tools. Program is outdoors and includes slippery stream bottoms, steep grades, off-trail obstacles like downed trees, and stream crossings. Please wear sturdy shoes that can get wet and will provide traction on/off trail.

Friday, July 5
**X-treme: High Ropes Adventure Challenge**
Claridon Woodlands
Explore the high ropes course here towering more than 30 feet high — camp staff can’t wait to challenge you on eight challenge elements and a thrilling 100-foot zipline finish!

*All camps except X-Treme Days begin and end each day at The West Woods. Transportation provided to other park locations for activities facilitated by highly qualified staff. Waivers required of each participant, and other details are sent upon registration. Each camper must daily bring lunch, water and a raincoat in a backpack. Sunscreen and insect repellent also suggested. More equipment provided and included in the fee. Financial assistance available; please call for details.*

*Photos by Abby Smith*
This February, I was invited to the annual Geauga Economic Leadership gathering at Kent State University Geauga and asked to give a presentation on the state of arts and leisure in our county. There, I updated those in attendance on the status of the new Holbrook Hollows park. Opening this spring, Holbrook Hollows is one of three new park properties now ready for you to explore, the other being the former Wicked Woods Golf Course and Russell Uplands Preserve.

While new parks are exciting, I also received some questions and compliments about creating special places for people based on a “sense of place.” Quite simply, this concept asks, what attracts people to a certain place? There’s something special that attracts people to a successful community, school, restaurant or a park that we know and love. But what it is, and how can we enhance this quality in our parks so that everyone finds them a great place to visit?

In the case of your Geauga Park District, what attracts you to your favorite park? Is it kayaking or camping at Headwaters Park? Is it the great birding at Eldon Russell Park or Big Creek Park? Or maybe it’s those special spring wildflowers at The West Woods or Swine Creek Reservation? Whatever it is, I hope you find your special “sense of place” this spring in one of your 25 parks.

In closing, I’m happy to share that a special Geauga County place has been recognized by TourismOhio this year. Observatory Park’s Nassau Astronomical Station is featured on the front page of the official 2019 State of Ohio Official Travel Guide. Congratulations to Geauga County – what a great place, and what a great county to receive recognition!

Thank you,

John Oros
Executive Director
# Park Locations and Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City/Location</th>
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**Access to trail also from Claridon Woodlands, Headwaters Park & Swine Creek Reservation; horses permitted on south section only**

**City of Chardon: 1.2 and City of Middlefield: 0.5**

**MILEAGE OF LINK ACCESSING TMHT: 0.4**
Explore the former Wicked Woods property to track down this geocache!

Expires January 1, 2020
Details on our website under Activities

### ACCESSIBLE TRAILS • PAVED TRAILS • OPEN SHELTERS • ENCLOSED LODGES • RESTROOMS • PLAYGROUNDS • HIKING • X-COUNTRY SKIING • HORSES • BICYCLES • CAMPING • FISHING • BOATING • SLED HILL

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<td><img src="image" alt="Accessibility Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Open Shelters Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Enclosed Lodges Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Restrooms Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Playgrounds Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Hiking Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="XC Skiing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Horses Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Bicycles Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Camping Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Fishing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Boating Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Sled Hill Icon" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nassau Astronomical Station</td>
<td>10350 Clay Street, Montville, 44064</td>
<td>Total Trail Mileage: 3.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orchard Hills Park</td>
<td>11340 Caves Road, Chester, 44026</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Accessibility Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Paved Trails Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Open Shelters Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Enclosed Lodges Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Restrooms Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Playgrounds Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Hiking Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="XC Skiing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Horses Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Bicycles Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Camping Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Fishing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Boating Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Sled Hill Icon" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>★ Russell Uplands Preserve</td>
<td>15200 Russell Road, Russell, 44022</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunnybrook Preserve</td>
<td>12474 Heath Road, Chester, 44026</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Accessibility Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Open Shelters Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Enclosed Lodges Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Restrooms Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Playgrounds Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Hiking Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="XC Skiing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Horses Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Bicycles Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Camping Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Fishing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Boating Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Sled Hill Icon" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Swine Creek Reservation</td>
<td>16004 Hayes Road, Middlefield, 44062</td>
<td>5.8</td>
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<td>The Rookery</td>
<td>10110 Cedar Road, Munson, 44026</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>The West Woods</td>
<td>9465 Kinsman Road, Russell, 44072</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Accessibility Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Open Shelters Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Enclosed Lodges Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Restrooms Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Playgrounds Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Hiking Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="XC Skiing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Horses Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Bicycles Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Camping Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Fishing Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Boating Icon" /> <img src="image" alt="Sled Hill Icon" /></td>
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<td>The West Woods - Affelder House</td>
<td>15139 Chillicothe Road, Russell, 44072</td>
<td>Total Trail Mileage: 6.7</td>
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<td>Walter C. Best Wildlife Preserve</td>
<td>11620 Ravenna Road, Munson, 44024</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>Whittam Woods</td>
<td>12500 Pearl Road, Hambden, 44024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodin Road Park</td>
<td>12205 Woodin Road, Chardon, 44024</td>
<td>NO TRAILS AVAILABLE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

★ NEW PARK ADDED THIS YEAR

View the current fee schedule on our website under Reservations. All enclosed lodges, but not all open shelters, are equipped with electricity. Boating on Bass Lake requires a permit. Permitted watercraft are kayaks, canoes and electric motors; gasoline engines are permitted only in Eldon Russell Park. Learn more on our website under Activities.
Garlic Mustard

Pulling for a Healthier Ecosystem

By Jen Safick, Land Steward

SPRING IS HERE!

Soon Geauga Park District will be full of various spring wildflowers like trillium, bloodroot, Dutchman’s breeches, yellow trout lily, and the list goes on. In their midst, though, a foreign invader called garlic mustard is threatening these spring beauties and the wildlife that depend on them.

Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) is a biennial, which means it completes its life cycle over a two-year period. Seedlings will germinate in the spring and form rosettes. Then the immature plants will overwinter and photosynthesize whenever the temperature is above freezing. This gives them a head start over native desirable plants. In their second year, the plants will send out a tall slender stalk with large green leaves and clusters of small white flowers. Then they will produce seed in small slender pods and die, and the whole process will begin again.

Eradicating garlic mustard is difficult, but can be done with hand pulling or herbicide. Pulling garlic mustard is a time-consuming task but shows instant results. When pulling, be sure to remove the whole taproot from the ground or else the plant will sprout again. Also be sure to bag all the pulled garlic mustard to dispose of the plants.

Do you have a group interested in volunteering to pull garlic mustard in the parks this spring? Please contact us!
“Leaves of Three, Let Them Be!”

Can you spot poison ivy?

Poison ivy is a very hearty plant that can grow pretty much anywhere. It creeps along the ground, climbs trees and fences, and grows as a bush. Making it even more tricky to detect, its leaves look different from plant to plant, and its color changes throughout its life cycle. Still, here are a few clues to help you avoid that tell-tale rash:

Poison ivy is a compound leaf and always has 3 leaflets, never more.

**Leaves:** Poison ivy leaf edges may be smooth or irregularly shaped. Leaves start as red, then turn green, then change in the fall to yellow, orange or red.

**Flowers & Berries:** Poison ivy blooms with small yellow-green flowers May through June, and small white berries form in the fall.

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**Urushiol:** An oil by this name, produced by this plant, is what causes the itchy, blistery rash you may feel quickly or even days after coming into contact with it. It’s in the leaves, stems and roots.

**Beware:** Even brushing up against a bare winter vine can still cause the rash. Despite all of its physical changes, this plant is poisonous year-round. Thankfully, knowledge is power!

**False Alarm:** Above are some examples of compound leaves with 5 leaflets that are sometimes mistaken for poison ivy.

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Poison to Us ... But Helpful to Wildlife

Try to find animals names below to discover which ones use poison ivy to survive, whether by eating it or using it for shelter or nesting. You’ll be surprised by how many there are!

-C A T E R P I L L A R
-B E X M W U F G
-F N A C L O V Z B D Y E I K O M R O
-B U T T E R F L Y G P E X M O N H L
-L D U E G A S I C T O T S L D O J D
-A K L J I B E E U H A L K R P O C F
-C E N R O B I N C R F E B I E C K I
-K W G V U I P A K L T A O G C C P N
-B N A D P T L S Y J L E I S K A R C
-E H E L F C U X W O L K L M E R V H
-A E L J I M T P H C B P S J R I D F
-R P C A R D I N A L B E A L K O V A
-G C A L X E B E O H P N R E T S A E
-B E E G O L D F I N C H
-B E E T L E M U S K R A T
-B L A C K B E A R R A B B I T
-B U T T E R F L Y R A C C O O N
-C A R D I N A L R O B I N
-C A T E R P I L L A R W O O D P E C K E R
-D E E R
-E A S T E R N P H O E B E

Words can be forward, backward, down, or diagonal. Good Luck!

Answer key found on bottom of back cover.

Did you know...?

Our pets, such as dogs and cats, will not get a rash from poison ivy, but you may get a reaction by petting an animal whose fur has come into contact with it!
FIND YOUR ADVENTURE
IN ONE OF YOUR 25 OPEN PARKS!

www.geaugaparkdistrict.org
440-286-9516