

SUMMER 2021

Nature Education Programs

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
Great Parks for Great People
OaklandCountyParks.com   



Must-Know Information for All Programs: All programs will take place outdoors - under a tent, or on a trail. Dress for the weather. Masks are encouraged for Appointment-based Hikes and required for programs conducted under the tent. Masks are available on site if participants do not have their own. Staff will wear masks. Screening questions and touchless temperature checks are required upon arrival. Check-in at the white tent near the nature center. In case of inclement weather programs will be cancelled. Please be patient as COVID-19 guidelines and protocols are subject to change.



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.

Element-tree Tree ID

Sunday, June 27, 1-3 p.m.

Get to the root of tree ID! Take a naturalist-guided stroll through the woods to become acquainted with some common Michigan tree species, learn their different characteristics and discover the roles they play in their ecosystem. \$4/person.



Puddle Jumper Series



Fridays, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

July: Worms, Aug.: Monarch Butterflies,
Sept.: Nature Art

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

Trail Hikes by Appointment

Fridays and Saturdays:

July 9-10, Aug. 13-14, & Sept. 10-11

Time slots available: 10 a.m., 11 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 per time slot. No pets.



Toadbugs at the Beach

Friday, July 30, 7-8 p.m.



Ever heard of a toadbug? They're cute, hopping, ferocious little predators who are prowling at a beach near you! Because they're tiny with extreme camouflage, most people never see them. We'll try to find some along the shoreline, as well as other animals that live in the beach habitat. This program does not include swimming. Insect repellent is recommended. Ages 5 and older. \$4/person.

Meet at Independence Oaks Beach.



Nature Art

Saturday, August 7, 1-3 p.m.

Experience nature and create masterpiece art using objects found in nature. Use flowers and a hammer to make a colorful piece of artwork. You can also experiment with different kinds of natural paintbrushes and more. All ages welcome. \$10/person.

Solar Spectacular

Saturday, Aug. 21, 1-2:30 p.m.

Astronomers look at the sun through special solar telescopes. Join the Park Naturalists and the Oakland Astronomy Club to share this view safely. Find out more about the closest star to Earth in this family-friendly program. \$5/person.



Grandparents' Day Camp at Wint

Sunday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Grandparents, grab your grandkids and celebrate National Grandparent's Day! Head to the nature center for a morning of nature, fun and COLORS! You will learn all about colors in nature: colors that are warnings, colors that keep animals safe and some colors that are seen only once a year. Program includes a short hike and a craft. All ages welcome. \$7/person.



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Pre-registration 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 weekday business hours. No Saturday registration.

Programs take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather as programs will be held outdoors. Programs will be canceled for inclement weather.

Calling all homeschoolers!

Both Wint and Red Oaks nature centers offer monthly homeschool programs adapted for students ages 5-9 and ages 10-17. 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 will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather. Cost: \$10/session. Pre-registration is required. Visit OaklandCountyParks.com for complete schedule.



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.

Savvy Summer Safety

Saturday, June 26, 11 a.m.-noon

It's wonderful to spend time in the great outdoors in the summer, and even better when you feel confident about how to be safe during outdoor activities. Learn about Michigan's hazardous plants, insects, and animals - how to avoid a run-in with them, and what to do if you do encounter them. Be prepared for a short hike. \$4/person.



Celebrate the Solstice

Sunday, June 27, 1-2:30 p.m.

Astronomers look at the sun through special solar telescopes. Join the Park Naturalists and the Oakland Astronomy Club to share this view safely. Find out more about the closest star to Earth in this family-friendly program. \$5/person.

Morning Munchkins

Fridays: July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 10: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

July: *Where Should Turtle Be?*

August: *Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug*

September: *From Seed to Pumpkin*

Join us for an exciting series just for preschoolers. Bring your munchkin to the nature center for a favorite story and a related hands-on, nature-based discovery activity. Unless noted, events in this series take place the first Friday of each month. \$4/child.



Trail Hikes by Appointment

Fridays and Saturdays: July 16-17, Aug. 20-21, & Sept. 17-18

Time slots available: 10 a.m., 11 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 per time slot. No pets.

Monarchs and More

Sunday, July 18, 2-4 p.m.

What starts out as an egg the size of a pinhead, grows 100 times bigger, and then completely changes its body? Why, a caterpillar of course. Join Monarch Watch Specialist Debbie Jackson to learn about attracting, observing, and marveling at these magnificent munchers. Have you ever wondered: How are moths and butterflies different? What species live in Michigan? What you can do to help those that are endangered? Become a lepidopterist, see live caterpillars and learn the answers! \$7/person.



eNature

Saturday, July 31, 2-3:30 p.m.

Nature-based technology is redefining our outdoor experiences. Whether your interest lies with the basics of app-based outdoor exploration or you are a devoted citizen scientist, you will learn the capabilities of nature-based technology and how to utilize it. Smartphones are not required but recommended. \$5/person.

Grandparents' Day Camp at Red Oaks

Saturday, Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Grandparents, grab your grandkids and head to the nature center for a morning of nature, fun and COLORS. You will learn all about colors in nature: colors that are warnings, colors that keep animals safe, and some colors that are only seen once a year. Plan on a short hike and a craft. All ages welcome. \$7/person.

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.



Kit pickup times and locations:

Red Oaks Nature Center

30300 Hales Street, Madison Heights, MI 48071
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday Noon-5 p.m.



Independence Oaks Contact Station

9501 Sashabaw Rd, Clarkston, MI 48348
Hours: Friday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Super-Natural Shapeshifters: Caterpillars



Available for pickup July 16-17

Live Zoom instruction Friday, July 16, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to raise a black swallowtail caterpillar? Join us via Zoom to learn how these caterpillars grow and change into adults, and how to properly care for them. Then raise your own using readily available plants. Kit includes a black swallowtail caterpillar and a seedling of their host plant. Note: you will need to purchase or procure additional dill, parsley, fennel as you raise your caterpillar. **8 kits available. \$10/kit.**

EcoFriends: Back to School with (Re)purpose!

Available for pickup Aug 1-21

Live Zoom instruction Saturday, August 21, 3-4 p.m.



Discover sustainable ways to create school supplies using natural and repurposed items. Transform a plastic bottle into a pencil holder, a milk jug into a sandwich container, and other materials into a journal. A hot glue gun is not included in the kit, but useful for this program. Suitable for ages 8 and up. **20 kits available. \$6/kit.**

Rock Out

Available for pickup: September 3-18

Live Zoom instruction: Saturday, September 18, 1-2

Sept. 16 is National Collect Rocks Day – what better way to celebrate than to learn about rocks and add one to your collection? Included in this kit will be all the supplies (except for a bit of elbow grease) needed to polish your own Petoskey Stone. While working on your stone, a ZOOM-ing naturalist will chat about rocks that are found in Michigan. **20 kits available. \$7/kit.**

