

SUMMER 2023

Nature Education Programs



OaklandCountyParks.com   

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

NatureFit: Stand-Up Paddleboarding on Crooked Lake

Sunday, July 9, 10-11 a.m.

Explore more! Venture out onto the blue expanse of Crooked Lake on a provided paddleboard or bring your own. Enjoy a summer morning with like-minded SUP-ers as we experience the lake from a new perspective. This is not an instructional class, so we ask that all participants have at least basic experience on a paddleboard. Life jackets will be provided and are required

for all participants regardless of experience level. Bring sunscreen and your friends for a beautiful day on the water. Meet at the Boathouse. Ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.**



Puddle Jumpers

Fridays: July 14, Aug. 11, and Sept. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Topics: July - Reptiles Aug. - Fossils
Sept. - Apples and Cider**

Children ages 3-6 can enjoy some nature fun as they increase their love of the great outdoors. A naturalist will engage children with a story, nature talk and a 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.**



Nature Painters

Friday, July 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Kids - and those who are still a kid at heart - will have a chance to look closely at nature and then experiment with different techniques to paint what they see.

Discussion topics include blending, mixing colors and symmetry. Different sized brushes, and combining different art techniques and mediums, will help us accomplish the look we want on canvas. **\$5/person.**



A Walk in the Woods

Fridays: July 28, Aug. 25, and Sept. 22

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.

No pets. Time slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Park entry fee applies.



Do Reptiles Make Good Pets?

Saturday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-noon

Do you prefer scales over fur and fluff? Join us to learn about the modern standards for keeping captive reptiles. Discuss the pros and cons of reptile keeping and decide if an exotic pet is the right fit for you.

Enjoy an informative and interactive encounter with live reptiles to learn firsthand why they are so unique! Both prospective owners and current reptile keepers welcome! **\$5/person.**



Bat Chat

Saturday, Aug. 26, 7-8:30 p.m.

Search for nightlife during an evening stroll along the trails at Independence Oaks County Park. 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.**



Grandparents Day Camp - Mysteries of the Marsh

Saturday, Sept. 9, 1-3 p.m.

Grandparents, grab your grandkids and celebrate National Grandparent's Day with us! Join a naturalist for an afternoon of nature, family and fun. During this program we will discover the wonders of the wetlands. We will learn which animals call the wetlands home, what secrets lie in the waters and more. Plan on a short hike and a make and take craft. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**



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 248-585-0100 for registration.

Morning Munchkins

Fridays: July 7, Aug. 4, and Sept. 8, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Topics: July - Trout, Trout, Trout! A Fish Chant

Aug. - Turtle Splash! **Sept.** - Secrets of the Apple Tree



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. Events in this series take place the first Friday of each month. **\$4/child.**

Savvy Summer Skills

Saturday, July 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

It's wonderful to spend summertime in the great outdoors, whether you're camping, hiking, boating or playing. It's even better when you feel confident about how to be safe during these fun activities. Come learn about Michigan's hazardous plants, insects and animals – how to avoid a run-in with them and what to do if you can't. Be prepared for a short hike. **\$5/person.**



World Snake Day

Sunday, July 16, 1-2:30 p.m.

Slither on over to the nature center and celebrate "World Snake Day." We'll learn what makes snakes so special, meet a few live snakes and do a craft. All ages are welcome. **\$5/person.**



A Walk in the Woods



Fridays: July 21, Aug. 18, and Sept. 15
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 to accommodate social distancing. No pets. Time slots are available on a first come, first-served basis.



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.

Lively Lepidopterans

Saturday, July 22, 2-4 p.m.

Discover the world of butterflies and moths and learn about the role they play in the natural world. Did you know that they make up 10% of the population of all living things? Join Debbie Jackson, Monarch Watch specialist, to meet live caterpillars and butterflies (if available), and to learn fascinating facts and explore magical metamorphosis. **\$5/person.**



Smitten with the Mitten

Saturday, July 29, 10:30 a.m.-noon

What makes the Great Lakes State so unique? Come discover history, fun facts and more about the best state in America. A snack and decorative craft will round out this spirited program. **\$5/person.**

Grandparents Day Camp

Saturday, Aug. 19, 2-4 p.m.

Calling all grandparents and grandkids! Join us for a fun day of learning about butterflies and moths. How are they different? How are they alike? What butterflies are in your backyard? We will be answering these questions and more. Plan on a short hike and a make and take craft. All ages welcome. **\$5/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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