

FALL & WINTER

Nature Education Programs

October 2023 - March 2024

OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS

OaklandCountyParks.com   

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 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

Pottery Workshop: Mini Succulent Garden

Feb. 10, 2024 1-2 p.m.

Work with the earth to create a mini succulent garden to take home the same day. All supplies provided, including succulents. Participants will need to heat their clay creations in the oven at home. Ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.**

Creatures of the Night Hike

Oct. 21, 2023 6:30-8 p.m.

When the last guest leaves, the park comes alive. Learn about the creatures that go bump in the night. We'll hike to search for our nocturnal friends before we end with a tasty bonfire treat. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**

Polish Your Own Petoskey Stone



Nov. 11, 2023 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Turn a petoskey stone into a gem of a gift for this holiday season or keep it as a treasure for yourself. **\$5/person.** An ASL interpreter will be provided.

Rustic Decorating: DIY Yule Log

Dec. 9, 2023 1-2 p.m.

Create your own festive centerpiece as you learn the history of the Yule Log tradition. All supplies will be provided, but please bring a glue gun if you have one. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**

Hibernation Investigation



Jan. 20, 2024 10-11:30 a.m.

Learn about the animals who are snoozing the snow away. Who is a true hibernator and who has been fooling you? Come in your pajamas and cozy up by the fire as a naturalist answers these questions, reads a story and more. **\$5/person.** An ASL interpreter will be provided.

Maple Madness

March 16, 2024 1-2 p.m.

Flapjacks and waffles just wouldn't be the same without maple syrup. Join us to learn how to identify maple trees in the winter, how to tap a tree and the process of maple sugaring. All ages welcome. **\$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

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 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 for registration.

Fun in the Fall



Oct. 22, 2023 2-3:30 p.m.

Fall is the time for plants and animals to get ready for winter. Join us to learn about the ways they prepare and bring your own white t-shirt for colorful leaf printing. Ages 5 and up. **\$5/person.**
An ASL interpreter will be provided.

Scientist for a Day

Nov. 4, 2023 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Have you ever wanted a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to be a scientist? Join us for a fun afternoon of hands-on learning and experiments! Suitable for families and ages 5 and up. **\$5/person.**

Create Your Own Rustic Yule Log

Dec. 2, 2023 1-2 p.m.

Make a festive centerpiece as you learn the history of the Yule log tradition. All supplies will be provided, but please bring a glue gun if you have one. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**

Pottery Workshop: Mini Succulent Garden



Jan. 13, 2024 1-2 p.m.

Work with the earth to create a mini succulent garden to take home the same day. All supplies provided, including succulents. Participants will need to heat their clay creations in the oven at home. Ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.** *An ASL interpreter will be provided.*

Maple Magic

Feb. 24, 2024 3-4:30 p.m.

Ever wondered how maple syrup is made? Participate in this Michigan tradition as we identify and tap maple trees, and learn the process of maple sugaring. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**

X Marks the Spot

March 16, 2024 1-3 p.m.

Those sneaky leprechauns are at it again! Solve clues to find the pot of gold in this interactive session. All ages welcome. **\$5/person.**



JUST FOR TEACHERS

Nature center programs meet numerous Michigan Department of Education Science Standards K-12 and make ideal hands-on experiences for students.

When applicable, programs include use of pelts, taxidermy and limited live animals (reptiles and amphibians). **School and Home School Field Trips** are available to enrich your science curriculum.

StarLab

StarLab is a portable, inflatable planetarium that brings the wonder of the night sky indoors. You can take a naturalist-guided tour of the current night sky.



Scan the QR code or visit OaklandCountyParks.com to learn more about StarLab and how to book.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs cover a wide range of hands-on, nature-centered educational topics. All students are welcome – whether from a traditional homeschool, pod or virtual learning setting.



Scan the QR code 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, preschoolers, homeschoolers, scouts, seniors, church organizations and other community groups. Traveling programs include nature presentations, nature tables and more. Email NatureEducation@oakgov.com for more information about field trip options.



Scan the QR code for a list of 2023/24 Nature Center Field Trip programs and information about how to register.

Scout Badge Work Field Trips

Attention troop leaders and parents of scouts: both OCP nature centers offer year-round interactive sessions that meet Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts of America badge requirements for the badges offered.

Program offerings and registration details can be found at the Nature Center page on OaklandCountyParks.com.

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Nature at Night Programs

Beaver Moon Star Party

Nov. 25, 2023 5:30-7 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Join us for an evening of learning about the moon and stars. Explore the current and soon to come constellations in StarLab, our inflatable planetarium. Then head out to look for the "Beaver Moon" and discuss its lore. **\$5/person.**

Geminid Meteors Astro Evening

Dec. 9, 2023 6-7:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

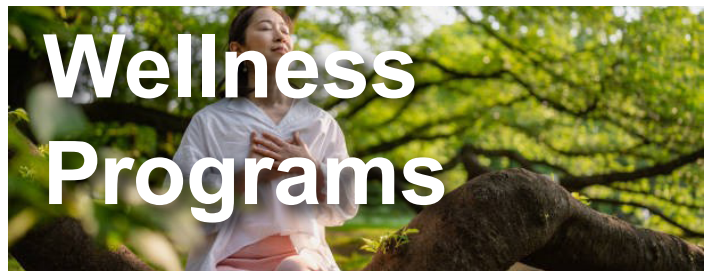
With the Geminid meteor shower peaking, we'll explore the history of the Geminids and learn about the winter constellations in our inflatable planetarium, StarLab. **\$5/person.**

Owl Prowl (2 sessions available)

Jan. 19, 2024 6-7:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

Jan. 27, 2024 5:30-7 p.m. at Wint Nature Center

Join us to search for some of nature's most fascinating nocturnal creatures - owls! Learn about the types of owls in Michigan and how to recognize them by their voices. Then head out for a chance to see or hear some on the trail. Quiet nature lovers are a necessity at this event. Suitable for ages 6 and up. **\$5/person.**



Wellness Programs

The Healing Power of Nature (Forest Bathing)

Oct. 8, 2023 10-11:30 a.m. at Wint Nature Center

Did you know healing and connection is right outside your door? Learn how time spent in nature can help boost mental health while providing physical health benefits. This session will focus on simple ways to reconnect with your surroundings, which can balance the stresses of everyday life. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. **\$12/person.**

Nature's Medicine: Forest Bathing

Oct. 21, 2023 1-2:30 p.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

"The trees offer us a bridge to our own wisdom." M. Amos Clifford. Feeling stressed? Unplug from the daily grind and head to the woods. Learn some easy practices that help us reduce anxiety, reprioritize the to-do list, and bolster a sense of wellbeing. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. **\$12/person.**

Playful Yoga for Little Ones (2 sessions available)

Feb. 16, 2024 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Red Oaks Nature Center

April 5, 2024 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Wint Nature Center

Want fewer meltdowns? Learn science-backed emotional regulation practices for you and your little one with a playful, interactive yoga story and a calming "soundbath." Leave with tools to boost your child's self-control and self-confidence. Ages 3-6 and caregiver. **\$5/child** (no charge for accompanying adult).



Walk in the Woods

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 at Wint Nature Center.

Oct. 20, 2023 10-10:45 a.m. Red Oaks Nature Center

Nov. 17, 2023 10-10:45 a.m. Red Oaks Nature Center

Oct. 27, 2023 10-10:45 a.m. Wint Nature Center

Nov. 24, 2023 10-10:45 a.m. Wint Nature Center

*Note: Walk in the Woods will not be offered December through March.