



Spring 2025



Photo courtesy of
Craig Scott

Page 3 Summer Day Camps

Summer Day Camps for ages 5 to 14.
Registration begins May 6.

Page 8 Nature Fest

Mark your calendars now for Nature Fest!
Coming to McLean Teddy Bear Park on June 28.

Page 10 & 11 Volunteer Opportunities

Training sessions with the Nature
Education Department and Natural Resource
Department



Director's Corner

Director

Tyler Black

Board of Commissioners

Robert K. Antibus

Kevin P. Bruin

Donna M Creamer

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Director's Corner	2
2025 Metro Park Adventures	3
Naturalist Notebook - "It Starts At Home"	4
Spring Programs	5-7
Meet the W.I.L.D.	8
Updates Coming to Lions Den	8
Nature Fest	8
Campground to Open For Season	8
2025 Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program	9
Donations	9
Volunteer Opportunities	10-11



Tyler Black - Director

Our Core Focus

Spring is a time when everything comes back to life! We have made it through the tough winter months and are dreaming of the green, warm days ahead. I feel like our core focus here at the Park District is magnified during this time of the year.

Our core focus is *to enrich lives, conserve resources, and secure access for future generations.*

We here at the Park District would love for you to see and experience how we live out our core focus. When it comes to *Enriching Lives*, one way I think of how we live this out is school field trip programming. These field trips run from February through May and September through November. They embody what it means to enrich the lives of students in Allen County by learning from some of the best educators around about the ins and outs of the natural world around them, while being out in nature.

When it comes to *Conserving Resources*, I think of the great planning and projects that happen on a yearly basis. Things like conserving 104 acres at Kendrick Woods

through enhancing water quality with floodplain wetlands and planting 43,000 tree seedlings for wildlife habitat. All of this involves planning (budgeting and the actual work) and a lot of dedicated work from staff and volunteers alike.

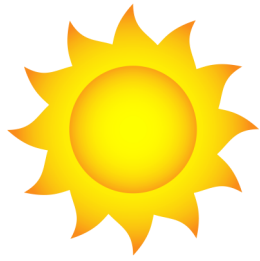
Securing Access for Future Generations is a very real part of our focus. We want our children and our grandchildren to experience these parks and nature in the same way we have. This means taking care of the parks and land we currently have but also always being open to the idea that other opportunities may present themselves over time.

As I look at the three components of our focus, it hits home that they all work together to create your lived experiences within the parks. I know our staff, volunteers, and many other people work tirelessly to make sure that your time with us, however short or long, is one that is memorable and keeps you desiring more time in nature.

So, get out, smell the flowers and as always, please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. We are here to serve you!

Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director



2025 Metro Park Adventures Summer Day Camps



Mark your calendars now for our summer youth day camp series. Each day camp is a unique nature-based program experience designed specifically for that age group. There are three age groups: Metropark Trailblazers are for ages 5 & 6, Metropark Discoverers are for ages 7 to 9, and Metropark Explorers are for ages 10 to 14. Camps include nature walks, outdoor skills, games, crafts and much more. More day camp details will be available soon. Registration begins online May 6 at jampd.com.

METROPARK TRAILBLAZERS (ages 5-6)

Pollinator Party! Day Camp

Tues., & Wed., June 3-4
9 am to 12 pm

OR 1 pm to 4 pm

Location: McElroy Center

ABC's of Nature Day Camp

Tues. & Wed., July 22-23
10 am to 1 pm

OR Thurs., & Fri., July 24-25
10 am to 1 pm

Location: McLean Teddy Bear Park



METROPARK DISCOVERERS (ages 7-9)

Herp, Herp, Hooray! Day Camp

Tues., & Wed., June 17 -18
9 am to 12 pm

OR 1 pm to 4 pm

Location: McElroy Center

Rock On! Day Camp

Tues., Wed., & Thurs., July 22-24
9 am to 12 pm

OR 1 pm to 4 pm
(3 day camp)

Location: McElroy Center



METROPARK EXPLORERS (ages 10-14)

Archery Day Camp

Tues. & Wed., June 3-4

9 am to 12 pm **OR** 1 pm to 4 pm

Location: Allen County Farm Park

Archery Day Camp

Thurs. & Fri., June 5-6

9 am to 12 pm **OR** 1 pm to 4 pm

Location: Allen County Farm Park

Kayak Day Camp

Tues. & Wed., July 15-16 **OR**
9 am to 12 pm **OR** 1 pm to 4 pm

Kayak Day Camp

Thurs., & Fri., July 17-18
9 am to 12 pm **OR** 1 am to 4 pm

Location: Ottawa Metro Park

Naturalist Notebook

“It Starts At Home!”



Often we think that nature is somewhere else. At the local park, or the state preserve, or perhaps far away in that magical place we saw on TV. That is a mistake. Nature lives here. We live in it. It's in your neighborhood, your yards, even in your house. And we don't just live in it, we depend on it.

We rely on healthy nature every day, for the air we breathe and the water we drink, the food we eat, the resources we use, and the green spaces we enjoy. Access to and time spent in nature has been shown to boost economy and value, promote safety and reduce certain risks, stimulate social ties and sense of place, improve our quality of life and our wellbeing, and benefit our mental, physical, psychological, and emotional health (see the “Green Cities: Good Health” website for a summary of research into these topics). The services we get from healthy nature are things we, as a society, cannot live without.

More and more we live in urban settings (80% of US pop). And yet, in our built landscapes we rarely consider how we're incorporating healthy nature (or worse, how we're actively detracting from it). And the same goes for those of us who live “in the country.” So much of our living space is filled with nature in its most unhealthy state. We grow plants that don't belong

and spend massive amounts of time, energy, and chemicals making sure they are the only thing that can exist. We often squander opportunities to intentionally include healthy nature in our living spaces.

Our spaces – where we live and work, pray and play - these are critical and essential spaces not just for our benefit, but for our local ecosystems to survive. With habitat loss and fragmentation, threats from invasives species and a changing climate, the diversity of life in our area needs our support. Important plants and animals, critical parts of our local ecosystems, call your space home. Or they could.

Fostering healthy nature is all our responsibility, as individuals and collectively. Dr. Doug Tallamy, a research professor dedicated to bringing nature into our living spaces, initiated a movement called Homegrown National Park. Put simply, it is a grassroots effort to convert half of the lawn space in the US to healthy native plants, creating 20,000,000 acres of habitat, connecting fragmented spaces, and allowing biodiversity to thrive. He argues that it “is now in the power of individual gardeners to do something that we all dream of doing: to ‘make a difference.’ In this case, the ‘difference’ will be to the future of biodiversity, to the

native plants and animals of North America and the ecosystems that sustain them.”



On March 13th we're hosting a viewing of Dr. Tallamy's presentation “What's the Rush?” to learn more about planting native to support more life. There are things that all of us can do to promote healthy nature in the places we live. This includes planting natives, removing invasives, reducing pollution (including light pollution), and more. And it all starts at home.

Naturally,
Dan Hodges

Nature Education Supervisor

Spring Programs

March, April, May

If program description indicates registration required, please register online at jampd.com or by calling 419-221-1232.

PARKS LEGEND

ACF	Allen County Farm Park
ATA	Antibus Trail Access
AR	Agerter Road River Access
CTA	Cottonwood Trail Access
DC	Deep Cut Historical Park
FA	Fort Amanda Park
HP	Heritage Park
HR	Haver Ridge
HWMP	Hermon Woodlands Metro Park
KW	Kendrick Woods
LBS	Lippincott Bird Sanctuary
LHF	Lauer Historical Farm
MEEC	McElroy Environmental Education Center
MMP	Motter Metro Park
MTB	McLean Teddy Bear Park
OMP	Ottawa Metro Park
OMP/ AMP	Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater

March

SUGAR BUSH STROLL Sat., Mar. 1 - 11 am - MTB

Do you know what it takes to go from sap to syrup? Come walk the woods with us to find out! In this program for adults and families we'll meander through the maples and learn the steps in the maple syruping process. A sweet surprise is sure to be in store! Register by Feb. 28.



WOODCARVING: WILDFLOWERS Mon., Mar. 3 - 7 pm - MEEC

This is the season to enjoy wildflowers, out in the woods and made out of wood! Join the Lima Area Woodcarvers to carve a beautiful piece of spring! This is a project that can be enjoyed by all skill levels, beginners included. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by Mar. 2.

TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY: Birds/Bugs/Botany: Connections in Nature

Tues., Mar. 4 - 6:30 pm - Visitor Center at OSU Lima
Join the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to welcome conservation specialist, field biologist and naturalist Judy Semroc. Judy has 25+ years of experience offering hands-on exploration-based learning programs. She has co-authored 2 natural history guides, founded the first Ohio chapter of the North American Butterfly Association, serves on the board of the Ohio Biological Survey, the Ohio Ornithological Society, and has recently started her education organization, Nature Spark! As a former Petroleum Geologist and science teacher, Judy loves to learn about and share her passion for the natural world. Learn more about her experience and how birds, bugs, and botany connect!

SPRING VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW Thur., Mar. 6 - 6 pm - Park Office Conference Room

See *Volunteer Opportunities* on page 10. Register by Mar. 6.

NATURE PALS: REMARKABALE RACCOONS

Thurs., Mar. 6, Fri. Mar. 7, & Sat., Mar. 8 - 10 am OR 1 pm - MEEC
Children ages 3-5 along with an adult companion are invited to come learn all about the mischievous mammals known as raccoons! Register by Mar. 6.



JOGGING WITH JOHNNY Mon., Mar. 10 - 5 pm - OMP

Jumpstart your joints and spring into fitness with a Johnny Appleseed accountabili-buddy! Join Naturalist Lindsey for a warm-up walk and a few easy laps. All ages and abilities are welcome, whether you consider yourself a seed, a sapling, or cider! Choose a pace that is comfortable for you. Dress for the weather and come out rain or shine! Meet at the Wyandot Shelter to sign in. Register by Mar. 9.



WHAT'S THE RUSH? Thurs., Mar. 13 - 6 pm - MEEC

Dr. Doug Tallamy, a well-respected author and professor, presents the science-based solution to the biodiversity crisis and explains why it's so urgent. Dr. Tallamy is the co-founder of Homegrown National Park, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and urgently inspiring everyone to address the biodiversity crisis by adding native plants and removing invasive ones where we live, work, learn, pray, and play. We'll watch the ~50 min recording (popcorn provided!), followed by a Q&A with a naturalist. Register by Mar. 12.

KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP Sat., Mar. 15 - 9 am - MEEC

Join a naturalist and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area as we look for waterfowl and much more! We'll do some walking, but we will mostly be driving between points of interest. Prepare for the weather and pack a lunch/snacks/beverages. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. A caravan will depart at 9 am from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). We will meet at the **Killdeer Upground Reservoir at 10 am**. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the late afternoon. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Register by Mar. 14.

MARCH (cont'd)

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE Thurs., Mar. 20 – 5:30 pm - MTB

Although modern technologies are making our life easier, more and more people are experiencing a sense of unease and anxiety. New scientific research is concluding our disconnect from nature may be the cause. Scientists are finding that a connection to the natural world is crucial for our health and well-being. Join a Certified Natural Mindfulness Guide on the third Thursday evening of each month this spring to reap the health benefits of being in nature. Register by Mar. 19.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY Mon., Mar. 24 – 5 pm – HP

Join us on the opposite side of the county to jumpstart your joints and spring into fitness with a Johnny Appleseed accountability-buddy! Join Naturalist Lindsey for a warm-up walk and a few easy laps. All ages and abilities are welcome, whether you consider yourself a seed, a sapling, or cider! Choose a pace that is comfortable for you. Dress for the weather and come out rain or shine! Meet at the Veterans Shelter to sign in. Register by Mar. 23.

DUKE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!- Open House Tues., Mar. 25 –4:30 pm to 6 pm – MEEC

Come celebrate one of the park's most charismatic employees- Duke the sulcata tortoise! Duke is an education animal who has worked with many of the citizens of Allen County helping us teach people about reptiles. There will be tortoise trivia, crafts, and even cake! Duke will be roaming around to accept gentle pats on his shell and happy birthday wishes from his guests. This event is open to people of all ages and abilities. Register by Mar 24.



FEEDING DAY Thurs., Mar. 27 – 4 pm – MEEC

The Park District maintains several education animals in the McElroy Environmental Education Center, using them throughout the year for nature presentations and programs. Join the Critter Care volunteers to help (or watch) them clean and feed all our animals at 4 pm on the

last Thursday of the month! Register by Mar 27.

APRIL

TRI-MORAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY: FAMILY FUN NIGHT Tues., April 1 – 6:30 pm – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Join the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society for our annual Family Fun Night! Come share the experience with friends of all ages. Several games and activities will be sponsored by local environmental groups including the Park District.

NATURE PALS: HELLO HUMMINGBIRDS! Thurs., April 3, Fri., April 4, or Sat., April 5 – 10 am OR 1 pm - MEEC

Let's prepare for the spring arrival of hummingbirds! Children ages 3-5 along with an adult companion are invited to learn about these beautiful birds and what we can do to help them. Register by April 3.



JOGGING WITH JOHNNY Mon., April 7 – 5 pm – OMP See Mar. 10 program description. Register by April 6.

WOODCARVING: WHITTLING WITH INVASIVES Mon., April 7 – 7 pm– MEEC

Join the Lima Area Woodcarvers to enjoy a project while utilizing plants that need to be removed from the parks! Invasive plants (and animals) are non-native organisms that cause damage to local natural systems. Let's put them to good use – cut them up! This is a project that can be enjoyed by all skill levels, beginners included. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by April 5.

THE POWER OF POLLINATORS Tues., April 8 – 6 pm – Lima Public Library

The simple, yet vitally important job of moving pollen from one flower to another to grow the next generation of flowering plants is done by the best of the best. Join a naturalist to learn about pollinators - the birds and bugs that help sustain the

world. We'll discuss why and how they do their work, the different pollinators that live in our area, and how you can make them part of the nature in your yard. Register by April 8.

HOMESCHOOL SERIES: HERP, HERP, HOORAY! Thurs., April 10 – 11 am – MEEC

Our native herptiles—those awesome amphibians and remarkable reptiles—are something to be celebrated! Let's get the party started as children ages 5 and up learn the unique adaptations and behaviors that make these critters so cool! Activities will be differentiated for a variety of ages, with a focus on ages 5 – 10. Registration is required for all participating children; parents or guardians should accompany registered participants. Register by April 9.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE Thurs., April 17 – 5:30 p.m. - MTB See Mar 20 program description. Register by April 16.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY Mon., April 21 – 5 pm – HP See Mar 24 program description. Register by April 20.

FEEDING DAY Thurs., April 24 – 4 pm – MEEC See Mar 27 program description. Register by April 24.

EARTH DAY ADVENTURE Sat., April 26 – 10 am – KW, HP, HR, MTB

Join the naturalists for an Earth Day Adventure in some of our favorite parks! Walk through the wildflowers and soak up the sunshine as we experience springtime on the trails. Choose to explore Kendrick Woods, Heritage Park, Haver Ridge, or McLean Teddy Bear Park. Register by April 25.



APRIL (cont'd)



BEGINNING ARCHERY
Wed., April 30 – 6 pm to 7 pm OR 7 pm to 8 pm – ACF
Enjoy the great outdoors while learning a new skill!

Participants ages 9 to adult are invited to join us on the range to explore this unique recreational sport and appreciate the role of archery in wildlife management. Certified archery instructors will lead participants in proper shooting technique and highlight important safety considerations. All materials will be provided by the park district; participants must use the equipment provided. Wear closed-toe shoes and secure long hair. Please register for only one evening session. Register by April 29.

MAY



NATURE PALS: WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS!
Thurs., May 1, Fri., May 2, Sat., May 3 – 10 am OR 1 pm MEEC

Children ages 3-5 along with their adult companion are invited to learn more about the fresh green plants popping up all around us this season! Registration required by May 1.

WILD HYACINTH HIKE

Sat., May 3 – 5 pm – HR

Imagine being in the forest surrounded by beautiful blue wildflowers- what would it look like, smell like, feel like? You can find out! Experience this hidden gem of Allen County as we hike to find the wild hyacinth grove of Haver Ridge. Wear sturdy/mud-resistant footwear. Register by May 2.



BIG BIRDING DAY!

Mon., May 5 – 6:30 am – MEEC

Join a naturalist as we partner with the Tri Moraine Audubon Society to visit some of the hottest birding locations in the world! This is peak migration for songbirds, and our birding trip will start with the boardwalk at Magee Marsh and potentially include the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge driving tour, Howard Marsh, and more! A carpool with park

vans will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the evening. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome! Be sure to register early for a seat in the van. Register by May 4.

WOODCARVING: BIRD CARVING

Mon., May 5 – 7 pm – MEEC

Join the Lima Area Woodcarvers to create a beautiful bird carving! This project can be enjoyed by all skill levels, beginners included. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by May 3.

TRI-MORAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY:

The Women Who Saved Birds

Tues., May 6 – 6:30 pm – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Join the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to welcome Rebecca Rose, Conservation Liaison for Ohio Wildlife Center. Rebecca joined the Ohio Wildlife Center after serving previously as environmental education specialist and field conservation manager for the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. She is on the board for the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Friends of Bonobos, and the Center for Conservation Peacebuilding in Washington, D.C. Come learn about the Ohio Wildlife Center, how others have helped animals, and how you might play a bigger role in conservation of species on earth.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., May 12 – 5 pm – OMP

See Mar 10. program description. Register by May 11.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE

Thurs., May 15 – 5:30 pm - MTB

See Mar 20 program description. Register by May 14.

NATURE DIY: BEST NESTS

Sat., May 17 – 11 am - MEEC

Let's give our feathered friends a helping hand this spring! We'll learn how birds



build and use nests during a brief presentation, then craft handmade nesting balls for our backyard birds. All ages and skill levels are welcome! Register by May 16.

JOGGING WITH JOHNNY

Mon., May 19 – 5 pm – HP

See Mar 24. program description. Register by May 18.



PEDAL THE PARKS!

Wed., May 21 – 6 pm – OMP

Join park staff to explore the trails on two wheels! Enjoy an interpretive bike tour and "wheel"-derness ride as we travel along the Rotary Riverwalk and Ottawa River Bikeway through Lauer Historical Farm to Schoonover Park and back again. Total distance traveled will be 7 miles. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Helmets are required. Meet at the Wyandot Shelter. Register by May 20.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., May 28 – 6 pm OR 7 pm – Evans Archery Range

See April 30 program description. Register by May 27.

SUMMER VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW

Wed., May 28 – 6 pm – Park Office Conference Room

See Volunteer Opportunities on page 10. Register by May 28.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., May 29 – 4 pm – MEEC

See Mar 27 program description. Register by May 29.

SKY FISHING

Fri., May 30 – 9 pm – KW

The last Friday of each month from May to Sept., a naturalist will set up equipment to go 'sky fishing'- a way that scientists sample the insects flying through our night sky. Each month should bring new insects as different species emerge at different times of year. Help us identify and record the insects we find, or simply enjoy the show! Event starts at sunset each month. Register by May 30.



Save the date for

Nature Fest



Saturday, June 28
 McLean Teddy Bear Park
 2004 N. Dixie Hwy., Lima, OH 45801



You know and love this program, so do we! Look for this engaging, family program in October 2025!

Enjoy a Saturday afternoon exploring and engaging with nature! Learn the Park projects and programs that help conserve nature in our area. Engage with local partners whose efforts benefit nature in our community. Take a short walk to meet the Park Education Animals, grab a net and go on an insect safari, experience butterflies up close, enjoy activities and games all things nature! With a native plant sale, food trucks, entertainment, and more, there's sure to be something for everyone!

More information to come in the Summer Newsletter



Campground To Open For Season



Ottawa Metro Park Campground at 2632 Ada Road, will open on Friday, April 18 at 8 am and remain open through Sun., October 19, 2025.

- 30 family campsites with 3 handicap accessible sites on a first-come, first served basis. Each site has water, electric, picnic table, and fire ring.
- Campsites can be occupied by a maximum of 2 tents, or 1 tent and 1 mobile camping unit.
- Cost per night is \$30
- \$25 per night (Seniors 60+ with proper ID)

Updates Coming To Lions Den!

We are committed to honoring our promise of caring for our community's assets while preparing for the future. We are thrilled to announce that, over the next several months, the playground at Heritage Park – Lions Den will be

completely replaced. This upgrade will provide a modern and safe space for families to enjoy their time at the park.

We look forward to sharing these improvements with you!



Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program (CPIGP) Continues to Make an Impact

The Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program (CPIGP) continues to make an impact on village and city parks in Allen County. The CPIGP was started in 1994 and to date has awarded over \$2 million dollars to help build playgrounds, restrooms, shelters, baseball diamonds and more in the twelve eligible political subdivisions.

Each eligible political subdivision appoints a representative by their legislative body to be on the CPIGP Review Team. On December 12, 2024 the grant review

team met to review the grant applications submitted from seven political subdivisions and select projects for funding. Projects are selected for funding by:

- 1) Health and Safety Issues
- 2) Major Repairs to Upgrade Existing Facilities
- 3) New Outdoor Recreation Needs
- 4) Special Opportunities (Grants, Emergencies, Joint Efforts, Etc.)

The Park District Commissioners approved a total of \$203,848.20/year revenue sharing for 2025 provided by the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District.

Summary of 2025 Awarded Grants

Village of Beaverdam * Constructing new entrance for park	\$6,318.75
Village of Cairo * Replace light poles and lights at Village Park	\$25,000.00
Village of Harrod * Restroom, water & sewer line at Harrod Park	\$52,448.29
Jackson Township Park District * Increase certified playground mulch in play area, remove & replace asphalt and concrete pad.	\$25,015.00
City of Lima * Replace bleacher system & backstop, new turf at Simmons Field	\$45,000.00
Spencer Township Park District * New playground equipment	\$13,615.16
Sugar Creek Township * Build new shelter house, ADA sidewalks, drill & install new water well for rental building	\$36,451.00

Donations

In Honor Of

Charlotte Apfelbeck

Corinne Piper

In Memory Of

Carolyn Corey

Richard Phillips

Dick & Judy Evans

Kimberly Selover

Elizabeth "Monica" Finn

Harry Shutt

Francis J. Guagenti

Stephen L. Spahr

Chuck Miller

Jimmie Steed

Michael C. Murphy

Ron Weaver

Betty J. Moening



Interested in Volunteering?

Please join us to learn about volunteering at the park. Two informational sessions will be held to provide an overview of opportunities during the spring and summer months in our Nature Education department, Natural Resources department, and more! Following the overview, we will help new volunteers get set up with our volunteer portal. First-time and long-time volunteers are welcome!

SPRING OVERVIEW SESSION

Thurs., Mar. 6 – 6 pm

Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

(Register at jampd.com or 419-221-1232 by Mar. 6)

SUMMER OVERVIEW SESSION

Wed., May 28 - 6 pm

Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

(Register at jampd.com or 419-221-1232 by May 28)



Volunteer Opportunities

With the Nature Education Dept.

CRITTER CARE VOLUNTEERS

**Training Session: Mar. 13; Apr. 10;
May 8 - 4 pm – MEEC**
**Continuing Opportunities:
Every Thursday - 4 pm - MEEC**

The Park District maintains several live animals as ambassadors for environmental education. Mostly reptiles and amphibians with a few invertebrates and fish, these animals need to be cared for – and that’s where we need your help! We’re looking for excited teenage volunteers to help with our Critter Care program. We tend to the animals in the MEEC every Thursday at 4 pm for 1-1½ hrs. Each volunteer will be required to attend a training session, stressing animal care and sanitary standards, which includes a volunteer manual. For more information contact Dan Hodges at dhodges@jampd.com and sign up to be a volunteer at jampd.com

WILDFLOWER MONITOR TRAINING

Mon., Mar. 17– 2:30 pm OR 5:30 pm
Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

Do you enjoy hikes in the woods, beautiful flowers and seek-and-find activities? We have a volunteer opportunity for you! Wildflower monitoring data helps us assess the vegetation in our parks and contributes to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources annual bloom reports. We can’t do it without people like you! If you would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity, please attend this informational session. If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please let us know at 419-221-1232
MWalton@jampd.com. Register on the Volunteer Portal , Vic Net by Mar. 16.

BUTTERFLY MONITORING TRAINING

Wed., Mar. 12– 4 pm
Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

The Ohio Lepidopterists Society has been monitoring butterflies throughout Ohio for 29 years. Butterfly monitoring is an excellent way to measure change in the environment over time and we have been contributing data towards this state-wide initiative since 2012. We need people like you to hike the trails and record the butterflies that you see along the way. We submit the data you collect. It’s a fun way to enjoy the outdoors, learn more about nature, and contribute to scientific knowledge! If you are interested in learning how you can help, please attend this informational session. If you are interested but cannot attend the meeting, please let us know at 419-221-1232 or MWalton@jampd.com. Register on the Volunteer Portal , Vic Net by Mar.11.

KINDERGARTEN FIELDTRIP TRAINING

Tues., April 29 – 9 am – MTB

The Park District “Givin’ A Livin’” Kindergarten Field Trip is an interdisciplinary, hands-on program focused on the characteristics of living things. Naturalist-led student groups rotate to volunteer-led/assisted stations at McLean Teddy Bear Park. Please join us on Tuesday, April 29 from 9 am to 12 pm for an in-depth training on the program. Register on the Volunteer Portal, VicNet by April 27.



Volunteer Opportunities

With the Natural Resource Dept.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTBOX & PURPLE MARTIN MONITORING



Wed., Mar. 19 - 3 pm
Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

This is for all current monitors and anyone interested in becoming a monitor for the Eastern bluebird boxes located in our parks. Monitors must be able to walk over uneven ground and be prepared for wet conditions in spring. To monitor the Purple martins, you must also be able to lower and raise the boxes using a crank winch. The nest boxes are checked once a week from late March/early April until the end of August. New monitors can take any available routes, pair with a seasoned monitor, or offer to monitor routes when assigned individuals are unavailable. Training information will be shared, and monitoring materials will be supplied. Please rsvp for this event at www.jampd.com or 419-221-1232. If you are interested in helping, but cannot attend the training, contact Anne Smedley at asmedley@jampd.com or call the office.

***Available routes include: Purple Martin boxes at LHF, Bluebird boxes at LBS & Evans Archery Range, and MMP will require a six week assistance**

OFF TRAIL INVASIVE SPECIES MONITORS

The Natural Resources Department is looking for volunteers to monitor specific invasive species in Kendrick Woods, Haver Ridge, Heritage Park and Lippincott Bird Sanctuary. Interested individuals will need to attend a Landscape training in order to monitor and must be comfortable going off trail self-directed. Please rsvp by emailing naturalresources@jampd.com

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS

Help us save our beautiful spring wildflowers from garlic mustard and dame's rocket, invasive weeds from Europe. Pulling will take place Mondays, Thursdays, and an occasional Wednesday starting on **April 3rd through May 29th**. **Volunteer shifts will be from 8 am to 11 am and 12 pm to 2:30/3 pm**. Work takes place off trail, so bring mud boots. Sign up for shifts in the Volunteer Portal, VicNet. Locations are subject to change, and anyone registered through VicNet will be emailed. If you have questions, please contact us at 419-221-1232 or naturalresources@jampd.com. If you have any sturdy woven plastic bags to put the pulled mustard in, please bring them along or donate at the park office.

Garlic Mustard Pull Locations

KW – April 3 & 17, May 1, 15, & 19
HW – April 7 & 23, May 12
HR – April 10 & 24, May 7
ACF – April 14
MTB – April 21
OMP/LHF – April 28
MMP – May 5
HP – May 8
LBS – May 22
Location TBD – May 29

****Locations subject to change, sign up in VicNet to receive updates****

NATIVE GARDEN CARETAKER

We will be holding weeding sessions at the Schick Memorial Garden at Ottawa Metro Park on **Wednesdays, April 16 & 30, May 14 & 28 8 am to 12pm**. The garden is located just west of the hill and contains a variety of native plants to help promote pollinators. Sign up for shifts in the Volunteer Portal, VicNet.

GREENHOUSE HELP

Volunteers are needed to help water plants and help transplant seedlings from germination trays into individual pots. Familiarity with growing plants and distinguishing one plant from another is preferred. Volunteers will work with a Natural Resource staff member for the first time or two. Afterwards, volunteers may work self-directed. All watering and planting will take place at the Lauer Historical Farm. Volunteer shifts will be listed in the Volunteer Portal, VicNet. A shift will be listed for each day of the week. Any shifts not filled will be cared for by staff.

MONITORING APP TRAINING

Sat., March 22 - 10am OR
Wed., March 26 - 3 pm
Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

Volunteers who are currently helping the Environmental Ed or the Natural Resources Depts. with monitoring, or are interested in helping with a variety of monitoring programs such as wildflowers, bluebirds, and invasive species are invited to attend a training session to learn to use Landscape. This is a monitoring app to help collect information. Participants will need an email address and a smartphone or tablet to use during data collection. Please RSVP to attend one of the two training times offered. This training is required for anyone new to monitoring using Landscape and is suggested for returning monitors who want to refresh their memories. New monitors will need to follow log-in information prior to attending training. RSVP at www.jampd.com or 419-221-1232. For more information, contact Anne Smedley at asmedley@jampd.com or call the office.



PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 LIMA OH
 PERMIT # 27

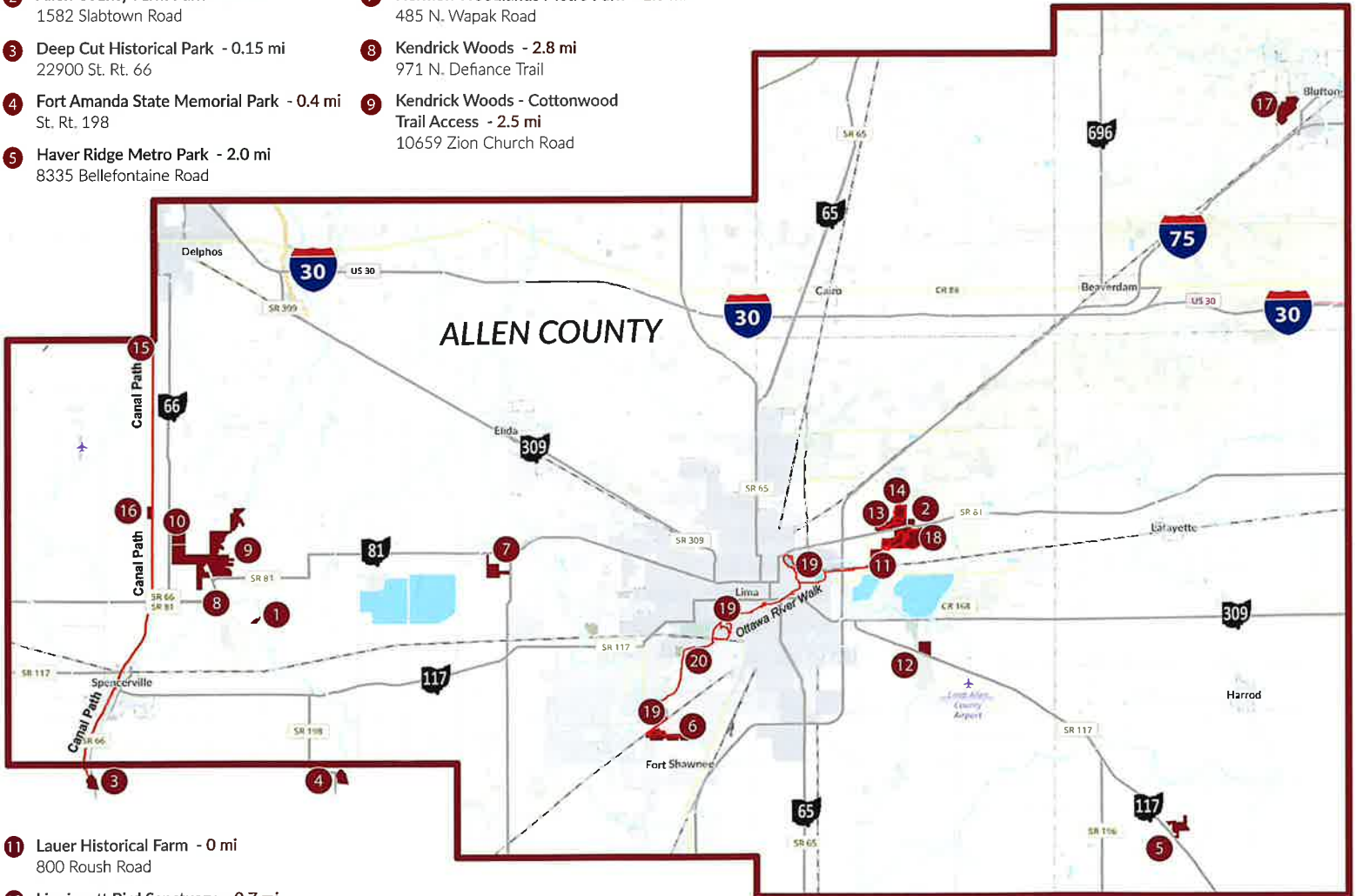
Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

1682 Slabtown Road
 Lima, OH 45801

Phone: 419-221-1232
 eMail - jampd@jampd.com
 JohnnyAppleseedParks.com

To be placed on the newsletter mailing list, please call the Park District Office.

- 1 Agerter Road River Access - 0 mi
16410 Agerter Road
- 2 Allen County Farm Park - 2.5 mi
1582 Slabtown Road
- 3 Deep Cut Historical Park - 0.15 mi
22900 St. Rt. 66
- 4 Fort Amanda State Memorial Park - 0.4 mi
St. Rt. 198
- 5 Haver Ridge Metro Park - 2.0 mi
8335 Bellefontaine Road
- 6 Heritage Park - 3.8 mi
2092 Reed Road (West Ent) 1772 Reed Road (East Ent)
- 7 Hermon Woodlands Metro Park - 1.5 mi
485 N. Wapak Road
- 8 Kendrick Woods - 2.8 mi
971 N. Defiance Trail
- 9 Kendrick Woods - Cottonwood Trail Access - 2.5 mi
10659 Zion Church Road
- 10 Kendrick Woods - Evans Archery Range - 0 mi
1376 N. St. Mary's Road



- 11 Lauer Historical Farm - 0 mi
800 Roush Road
- 12 Lippincott Bird Sanctuary - 0.7 mi
3093 Bellefontaine Road
- 13 McElroy Environmental Education Center - 0 mi
2355 Ada Road
- 14 McLean Teddy Bear Park - 2.25 mi
2004 N. Dixie Hwy.
- 15 Miami and Erie Canal Towpath Trail - 12.5 mi
Miami and Erie Canal
- 16 Robert K. Antibus Trail Access - 0.20 mi
12395 Zion Church Road
- 17 Motter Metro Park - 2.0 mi
10740 Columbus Grove Bluffton Rd. Bluffton
- 18 Ottawa Metro Park - 5.0 mi
2632 Ada Road
- 19 Rotary Riverwalk/Ottawa River Bikeway - 4.6+ mi
from Heritage Park to Ottawa Metro Park
- 20 Veterans Freedom Flag Monument - 0 mi
1191 Buckeye Road