



Johnny Appleseed
Park District

Newsletter



Page 2 Summer Amphitheater Series
Begins May 30!

Page 4 Summer Day Camps
For ages 5 to 18

Pages 5 - 8 Summer Program
Schedule



Director's Corner

Executive 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
Amphitheater Program Series	3
Summer Day Camps	4
Summer Programs	5-8
Naturalist Notebook - Why Fireflies Flash: A Summer Courtship	9
Volunteer Opportunities with Nature Education & Natural Resources	10-11
All Ability Kayak Adventure	10
Lima Area Woodcarvers	11
Photography Contest	11



Tyler Black - Executive Director

Your Newest Getaway

Beil's Buck Run Nature Area, located at 2380 Sunderland Road, offers a great opportunity to immerse yourself in a natural setting unlike any other in Allen County. Generously donated to the Park District in 2019 by Herbert and Elfriede Beil, this property is and will be a staple for years to come.

Visitors will find a peaceful escape as they explore a variety of habitats, including wooded areas, an open meadow, and the gently flowing Buck Run creek and Auglaize River that wind their way along the property. The soothing sounds of water, birdsong,

and rustling leaves create a calming environment perfect for walking, bird-watching, photography, or simply taking a break from the busyness of everyday life.

The Park District has worked to preserve the natural beauty of the area while making it more accessible for the community to enjoy. A developing trail system invites guests of all ages to experience the property at their own pace, whether for a short stroll or a longer nature hike. Seasonal changes ensure that no two visits are ever the same, from spring wildflowers and the green of summer to vibrant fall colors and the quiet stillness of winter.

Beil's Buck Run Nature Area stands as a testament to conservation, community generosity, and the importance of protecting natural spaces for future generations. Whether you're seeking solitude, recreation, or a deeper connection with nature, this hidden gem in Allen County is well worth a visit.

Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director



Summer Amphitheater Series

FREE!!!

* Note time for children's programs!

Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater
2632 Ada Road, Lima, OH

419.221.1232
www.jampd.com

May 30 7 pm	ROSCOMMON SESSIONS <i>Traditional Irish Music</i>	July 11 7 pm	F J BOEROG <i>Cover Band for 60's to 80's music</i>	August 8 7 pm	BLACK CAT FIVE <i>Blues</i>
June 6 11 am	*MARK'S ARK <i>Live exotic animals</i>	July 18 11 am	*DR. INSECTA <i>Bug Genius</i>	August 15 7 pm	ANTIQUÉ MAYHEM <i>Cover Band for 70's to 90's. Soft/yacht rock</i>
June 13 7 pm	TWO GROOVY <i>Cover Band for 60's & 70's music</i>	July 18 7 pm	TRILOGY BAND <i>Rock, pop & country - 70's to current</i>	August 29 11 am	* FIREFIGHTER DAVE <i>Magician. Family Entertainment</i>
June 20 7 pm	VERNON MCINTRYE'S APPALACHIAN GRASS <i>Folk & Bluegrass</i>	July 25 11 am	* MIKE HEMMELGARN <i>Magician. Family Entertainment</i>	September 5 7 pm	SPITTIN IMAGE <i>Music & Comedy</i>
June 27 7 pm	60's SURVIVOR BAND <i>60-80's music</i>	July 25 7 pm	SERENADE EVENTS <i>String Trio</i>	A special thank you to Thora Davis and Jerry Johnson for sponsoring our Summer Amphitheater Series	



Mark's Ark



Two Groovy



F J Boerog



Mike Hemmelgarn



Spittin' Image



Johnny Appleseed
Park District

2026 Summer Day Camps

TRAILBLAZERS (AGES 5 & 6)

COLOR CRAZY!

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3
9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm -
MEEC

The natural world is full of animals in every color of the rainbow! From foxes to frogs, and from birds to butterflies, color is utilized for many different purposes throughout the animal kingdom. For ages 5-6. Please bring a packed lunch, water bottle and wear close toed shoes for a hike in the woods. Registration, along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by May 20.

DISCOVERERS (AGES 7 to 9)

SUPER SURVIVORS

Mon., June 15 & Tues., June 16
OR Wed., June 17 & Thurs., June 18
10 am to 1 pm - HW

All animals have special adaptations to help them survive. But how do they work? Join us to discover how different types of adaptations work with different types of animals. During this 2-day camp, children ages 7 to 9 will participate in lessons and activities that explore how animals use their special adaptations to survive in the wild. Dress for the weather and bring any bug spray or sunscreen needed, along with water and lunch. Meet at the West Shelter. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$10 is required by June 8.

DISCOVERERS (AGES 7 to 9)

CREATURE QUEST

Wed., July 1 & Thurs., July 2
9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm -
MEEC

Get ready for an adventure! During this 2-day camp children ages 7-9 will participate in interactive lessons and activity stations learning more about our local wetland wildlife and their life cycles. Dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, bug spray, a water bottle, and a light snack. Registration, along with a nonrefundable fee of \$10 is required by June 22.

EXPLORERS (AGES 10 to 16)

BULLSEYE BASICS ARCHERY CAMP

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3 OR
Thurs., June 4 & Fri., June 5 - 8 am to
11 am - ACF

During this 2-day camp, children ages 10-16 will be learning the basics of archery. Certified archery instructors will teach participants everything from the parts of the bow to how to shoot with proper technique. Materials are provided from the park district, and participants may only use materials provided. Dress for the weather, bring water bottle, a snack, sunscreen and bug spray if needed. Participants **must** wear closed-toe shoes and pull back any long hair. Each participant may only sign up for one session each. Registration, along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by May 25.

EXPLORERS (AGES 10 to 18)

Advanced Level—must meet requirements as described below

NEXT LEVEL ARCHERS

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3 OR
Thurs., June 4 & Fri., June 5
12 pm to 3 pm - ACF

Have you spent time with us at archery camp and you're ready to get past the basics? Join us for advanced archery. **Participants must have completed two summer archery camps with JAMPD previously to sign up for this camp.** Materials are provided from the park district, and participants may only use materials provided. Dress for the weather, bring water bottle, a snack, sunscreen and bug spray if needed. Participants **must** wear closed-toe shoes and pull back any long hair. Each participant may only sign up for one session each. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by May 25.



EXPLORERS (AGES 13 to 15)

KAYAK QUEST

Tues., July 14 and Wed., July 15
9 am to 12 pm at OMP Erie Shelter
Youth, ages 13-15 years old, are invited to learn to kayak! With the support of the ODNR Boating Safety Education Grant, we'll learn safe boating practices and do some kayaking. This class focuses on kayaking basics, as well as building strength and confidence on the water. Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen, closed-toed water shoes and a light snack. Dress to be outdoors and to get wet! Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by July 4.

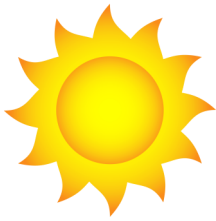
EXPLORERS (AGES 16 to 18)

KAYAK ADVENTURES

Thurs., July 16 and Fri., July 17
9 am to 1 pm - OMP Lima Lake
Youth, ages 16-18 years old, are invited to learn to kayak! With the support of the ODNR Boating Safety Education Grant, we'll learn safe boating practices and do some kayaking. This class focuses on kayaking basics, kayak safety, and kayak games on the water! Please bring a water bottle, sunscreen, closed-toed water shoes and a light snack. Dress to be outdoors and to get wet! Meet at the boat ramp near Lima Lake. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by July 6.



REGISTER ONLINE AT JAMPD.COM or call 419-221-1232. All programs are supervised and led by Park District Staff. Summer camps that do not meet minimum registration requirements are subject to cancellation. All programs are weather dependent and may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.



Summer Programs

June, July & August

Registration is required for most Park District Programs as indicated. Programs that do not meet minimum registration requirements are subject to cancellation. All programs are weather dependent and may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. 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
BBR	Beil's Buck Run
DC	Deep Cut Historical Park
FA	Fort Amanda Park
HP/EE	Heritage Park East Entrance
HP/WE	Heritage Park West Entrance
HR	Haver Ridge
HW	Hermon Woodlands Metro Park
KW	Kendrick Woods
KW/CTA	Kendrick Woods/ Cottonwood Trail Access
KW/EAR	Kendrick Woods/ Evans Archery Range
KW/HH	Kendrick Woods/Heron Hollow
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
OMP/CG	Ottawa Metro Park Campground
OMP/LL	Ottawa Metro Park/Lima Lake

May

ROSCOMMON SESSIONS

Sat., May 30 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

June

BULLSEYE BASICS ARCHERY CAMP (ages 10-16)

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3 OR
Thurs., June 4 & Fri., June 5
8 am to 11 am -ACF
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

COLOR CRAZY DAY CAMP (ages 5-6)

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3
9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm -
MEEC
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

HOMESCHOOL HIKING CLUB

Tues., June 2 - 10 am - MTB
Homeschool Hiking Club invites families with children ages 6-10 on a monthly hike to connect with nature, engage with their community, and explore the forest ecosystem in each season. Dress for the weather & come out rain or shine! Meet at the Hornung Shelter. Registration required by May 31.

DAY CAMP - NEXT LEVEL ARCHERS (see requirement on page 4)

Tues., June 2 & Wed., June 3 OR
Thurs., June 4 & Fri., June 5
12 pm to 3 pm - ACF
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

KAYAKING 101

Fri., June 5 - 9 am OR 10:30 am -
OMP/LL
See the article on page 8 for more

information! Registration required by June 3.



NATIVE PLANTS

Sat., June 6 - 9 am to 12 pm
- Allen Soil & Water Conservation District (ASWCD) - 1870 Slabtown Rd.

Join representatives from the Park District and the ASWCD for a native plant and rain barrel sale! Enjoy a presentation about the importance and impact of native plants on local ecosystems and take part in an optional grapevine craft. Native Pathways Nursery will have native plants for sale and ASWCD will assist with rain barrel purchasing and rebates. Registration required by June 4.

MARK'S ARK

Sat., June 6 - 11 am - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

TWO GROOVY (60'S and 70's)

Sat., June 13 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

DAY CAMP - SUPER SURVIVORS (ages 7-9)

Mon. June 15 and Tues., June 16 OR
Wed., June 17 and Thurs., June 18
10 am to 1 pm - HW
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

VERNON MCINTYRE'S APPALALCHIAN GRASS

Sat., June 20 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

June (Cont'd)

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., June 24 – 5 pm to 6 pm OR 6:30 pm to 7:30 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. Certified archery instructors will lead participants in proper shooting technique while developing consistency and accuracy in their shot. 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. Registration required by June 22.

WEEKLY WALKS

Thurs., June 25 – 9 am – OMP

Enjoy the warm, sunny mornings of summer while we get our steps in! Join a Naturalist as we walk the paths of Ottawa Metro Park. Together we can achieve our fitness goals, while also enjoying nature. Dress for the weather, rain or shine! Registration required the day before each walk.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., June 25 – 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 watch (or help!) them clean and feed all our animals at 4 pm on the last Thursday of the month! Registration required by June 23.



KAYAKING 101

Fri., June 26 – 9 am OR 10:30 am – OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by June 24.

TRASH WARRIORS: SAVE THE RIVER, SAVE THE PLANET!

Sat., June 27 – 9 am – AR

Let's clean up the Auglaize River together – on kayaks! Together we will become Trash Warriors, saving the Earth by cleaning up our local river. This has a huge impact on both local water quality and wildlife habitat. Trash bags, nets, and kayaks will be provided. Each kayak holds a maximum of one person per boat. This experience is designed for guests ages 13 and older; participants under 18 must have a registered parent or guardian participating in the program. **All participants must have previous kayaking experience.** Prepare for the weather, bring snacks, drinking water, and sunscreen. Registration required by June 25.

60's SURVIVOR BAND

Sat., June 27 – 7 pm – OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

HOWL @ THE MOON: STRAWBERRY MOON

Mon., June 29 – 9 pm – KW

Across time, people all over the world have utilized the moon to track the seasons. Giving each full moon a special name was one way to honor nature's signs and traditions. Experience the outdoors under the light of the full moon and learn about the names and folklore associated with June's full moon. Meet at the Hickory Shelter. Registration required by June 26.

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., June 30 – 10 am OR 1 pm – HW

Come play with us at the Imaginature Playscape! Join Nature Education staff for a mini program at the West Shelter, then spend the remaining time playing and exploring in the playscape and creek. Feel free to pack a picnic lunch and extra shoes and clothes for the ride home. Registration required by June 28.



July

KAYAKING 101

Wed., July 1 – 9 am OR 10:30 am – OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by June 29.

WEEKLY WALKS

Thurs., July 2, 16, 30 – 9 am – OMP

See June Weekly Walk description. Registration required the day before each walk.

HOMESCHOOL HIKING CLUB

Tues., July 7 – 10 am – MTB

See June 2 program description. Registration required by July 5.

KAYAKING 101

Wed., July 8 – 9 am OR 10:30 am – OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by July 6.

FJBOEROG

Sat., July 11 – 7 pm – OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

July (cont'd)

DAYCAMP - KAYAK QUEST

(ages 13-15)

Tues., July 14 & Wed., July 15

9 am to 12 pm - OMP Erie Shelter

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

DAY CAMP - KAYAK ADVENTURES

(ages 16-18)

Thurs., July, 16 and Fri., July, 17

9 am to 1 pm - OMP Lima Lake

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

DR. INSECTA

Sat., July 18 - 11 am - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

TRILOGY BAND

Sat., July 18 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

MIKE HEMMELGARN

Sat., July 25 - 11 am - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

SERENADE EVENTS

Sat., July 25 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

NATURE BY BOAT!

Sat., July 25 - 9 am - AR

Let's kayak together on the Auglaize River to appreciate nature on the water. From majestic blue herons to adorable turtles, you never know what you might find when you get outside in a kayak! Each kayak holds a maximum of one person per boat. This experience is designed for guests ages 13 and older; participants under 18 must have a registered parent or guardian participating in the program. **All participants must have previous kayaking experience.** Prepare for the

weather, bring snacks, drinking water, and sunscreen. Registration required by July 23.

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., July 28 - 10 am OR 1 pm - HW

See June 30 program description. Registration required by July 26.

HOWL @ THE MOON: BUCK MOON

Wed., July 29 - 9 pm - BBR

Across time, people all over the world have utilized the moon to track the seasons. Giving each full moon a special name was one way to honor nature's signs and traditions. Experience the outdoors under the light of the full moon and learn about the names and folklore associated with July's full moon. Registration required by July 27.



BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., July 29 - 5 pm to 6 pm OR 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - ACF

See June 24 program description. Registration required by July 27.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., July 30 - 4 pm - MEEC

See June 25 program description. Registration required by July 28.

KAYAKING 101

Fri., July 31 - 9 am OR 10:30 am - OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by July 29.

August

HOMESCHOOL HIKING CLUB

Tues., Aug. 4 - 10 am - MTB

See June 2 program description. Registration required by Aug 2.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tues., Aug. 4 - 6 pm to 9 pm - HP and Local Communities

Come join family and friends at your community's National Night Out! JAMPD hosts the Shawnee community at Heritage Park and has had a presence around the county, including Bluffton, Allen Co Fairgrounds, Elida and more! There will be food, activities for the kids, and displays from your local Fire and Law Enforcement Departments. Take this opportunity to spend an evening with your family and meet some of your local first responders!

KAYAKING 101

Wed., Aug. 5 - 9 am OR 10:30 am - OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by August 3.

WEEKLY WALKS

Thurs., Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 - 9 am - OMP

See June Weekly Walk description. Registration required the day before each walk.

BLACK CAT FIVE

Sat., Aug. 8 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

KAYAKING 101

Wed., Aug. 12 - 9 am OR 10:30 am - OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by August 10.

August (cont'd)

ANTIQUÉ MAYHEM

Sat., Aug. 15 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

KAYAKING 101

Wed., Aug. 19 - 9 am OR 10:30 am - OMP/LL

See the article on page 8 for more information! Registration required by August 17.

JAMPD at the ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

Fri., Aug. 21 to Sat., Aug. 29 - Allen County Fairgrounds

Stop by the conservation tent (near the SW corner of the fairgrounds) to appreciate what the JAMPD Naturalists and other local partners have put on display! The engaging and informative displays will be open to view whenever the fair is open. There will be specific programming as well, with the Conservation Club's youth fishing derby on Monday morning and JAMPD programs (often featuring live animals) throughout the rest of the week. We'd love to see you there!

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., Aug. 25 - 10 am OR 1 pm - HW

See June 30 program description.

Registration required by August 23.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., Aug. 26 - 5 pm to 6 pm OR 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm - ACF

See June 24 program description.

Registration required by August 24.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., Aug. 27 - 4 pm - MEEC

See June 25 program description.

Registration required by August 25.



HOWL @ THE MOON: STURGEON MOON

Thurs., Aug. 27 - 9 pm - OMP

Across time, people all over the world have utilized the moon to track the seasons. Giving each full moon a special name was one way to honor nature's signs and traditions. Experience the outdoors under the light of the full moon and learn about the names and folklore associated with August's full moon. Meet at the boat ramp near Lima Lake. Registration required by August 25.

FULL MOON KAYAK FLOAT

Fri., Aug. 28 - 8:30 pm - OMP/LL

Get ready to experience the sunset on Lima Lake and enjoy all the sounds and sensations of the lake at night. Watch the moon rise and night animals start to come out! Each kayak holds a maximum of one person per boat. This experience is designed for guests ages 13 and older; participants under 18 must have a registered parent or guardian participating in the program. **All participants must have previous kayaking experience.** Prepare for the weather, bring snacks, drinking water, and sunscreen. Meet at the boat ramp. Registration required by August 26.

FIREFIGHTER DAVE

Sat., Aug. 29 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

September

SPITTIN IMAGE

Sat., Sept. 5 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

KAYAKING 101

Join us on the water at Lima Lake and learn the basics of kayaking! In our Weekly Watercraft courses, participants will learn from certified instructors how to safely and effectively launch and paddle a kayak. Instruction will be provided on the parts of the boat, best practices in planning, proper safety gear, and how to get out on the water. No prior experience is required. Limited space is available. Restricted to ages 18 and older.

Pre-registration is required.

DATES: Fri., June 5 & 26

Wed., July 1 & 8

Fri., July 31

Wed., August 5, 12 & 19

TIMES: 9 am to 10:30 am OR

10:30 am to 12 pm

Important Reminders:

- Wear sunscreen and sun-protective clothing and gear, including a hat and sunglasses.
- Closed-toe shoes are required to participate; please wear clothing and shoes that you don't mind getting wet!



Naturalist Notebook

Why Fireflies Flash: A Summer Courtship



The flashing lights of fireflies on warm summer evenings are more than just beauty, it is part of a highly specialized courtship system. Fireflies are on peak display in early summer because this is when adults emerge from the ground and communicate using light. Each flash, pause, and pattern is a signal shaped by species recognition.

Fireflies are beetles that use light to find a mate. This light is created through a process called bioluminescence, occurring in a specialized light organ in their abdomen. When oxygen enters the light organ, photons are released, which is the light we see. Rather than a constant glow coming from the fireflies, we see flashes. Why are they flashing instead of just continuously glowing? These flashes are courtship signals, which help males and females to identify each other among many different species that all look similar.

Each species has a different pattern of flashes that act as courtship signals. Some species produce a single short flash, some have a double flash, others have more complicated sequences. Every part of the sequence is important for identification, from the lighting itself to the time in between

each light. If the timing of the signal is off even a little bit, it will be ignored by a potential partner. This is to prevent mating between different species.

Firefly courtship depends on conditions that are most reliable during early summer. Warm summer evenings provide the warmth fireflies need to fly and flash effectively. They also take advantage of the still early nights that provide plenty of time for them to communicate with each other. Timing is everything for fireflies. There are specific times different species will flash, some right after dusk and others when it is fully dark out. By staggering their times, it is guaranteed that the signals are being seen by the right species. Since adult fireflies only live for a few weeks, courtship must occur quickly.

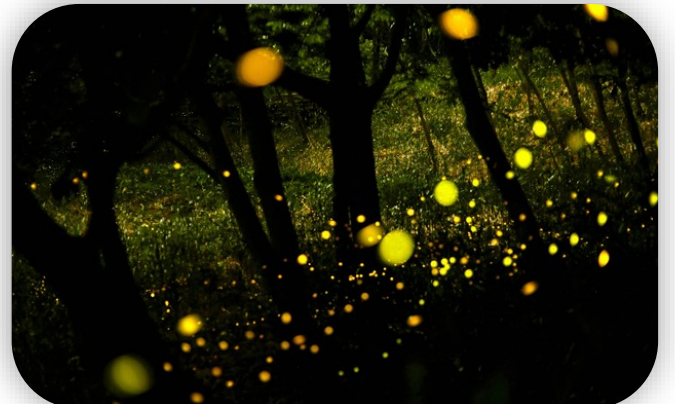
Typically, males will fly and flash while females wait low in the vegetation and respond with their own flash at the precise moment it is expected. The females will not respond to just any flash they see. They will consider the brightness, the timing, and the consistency of the male's flashes. Strong, well-timed flashes may indicate a healthier male, and the female will gravitate that way.

Unfortunately, there are threats to our firefly populations. These threats are caused by multiple problems. Artificial lights, including porch lights, streetlights, and landscape lighting, can drown out flash patterns being made by the males. This makes it significantly harder for fireflies to find mates. Another concern is habitat loss, due to dense mowing and removal of natural vegetation. Since flashing is essential to mating and reproduction, anything that disrupts this communication has the potential to reduce firefly populations.

Firefly flashes are a short-lived summer phenomenon. What we see on warm June nights are the final acts of a life cycle spent mostly underground. Each flash is part of a silent conversation - one that must happen at the right time, in the right place, and under the right conditions. To human eyes, it all looks like random flashing lights, but to the fireflies, it is the careful choreography of courtship.

Haley Williams

Naturalist



Volunteer Opportunities

With the Nature Education Dept.

DAY CAMP ASSISTANT

The Park District offers a variety of summer programming for youth and we would love a helping hand to make nature come alive for our kids! Day camp assistants will help manage small groups of students, lead hikes, and demonstrate various activities and games. Take a look at our day camp schedule on page 4 and check the Volunteer Portal and our VicNet calendar for more information!



CRITTER CARE

Thursdays - 4 pm - MEEC

The Park District maintains several live animals as ambassadors for environmental education. Mostly reptiles and amphibians with a few invertebrates, these animals need to be cared for - and that's where you come in! We're looking for excited teenage volunteers to help with our Critter Care program. We tend to the animals in the McElroy Environmental Education Center (MEEC), 2355 Ada Road on Thursdays at 4 pm. 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 Marie Walton at MWalton@jampd.com

We would love your help, volunteers!



PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The Park District delivers a variety of public programs throughout the year that often require an extra set of eyes or an extra pair of helping hands. Check out the VicNet calendar of volunteer opportunities to see what we're up to in any season. Perhaps you have an interest in early childhood education and can assist with our Nature Pals program or maybe you have a knack for crafting and can assist with our Nature DIY programs. We also have opportunities for trail assistants and hike cabooses. There's sure to be something you're interested in on our VicNet calendar. Check it out and sign up today!

1st GRADE FIELD TRIP TRAINING

Wed, Sept. 2 - 9 am to 12 pm - HW

The Park District's "Basic Needs" field trip is an interdisciplinary nature-based program focused on observing, exploring, describing, and comparing the basic needs of animals living in Allen county. Student groups rotate to various stations led by Nature Education staff and assisted by volunteers at Hermon Woodlands Metro Park. Please join us on Wednesday, September 2nd from 9 am to 12 pm for an in-depth training on the program. Register on the Volunteer Portal, VicNet, by August 30.



ALL ABILITY KAYAK ADVENTURES

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience the freedom of being on the water! So, with adaptive paddling equipment sponsored by ODNr's Boating Safety Education Grant, we're partnering with the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities to make kayaking in the park accessible! Groups from around the county will get the chance to experience boating on July 21st and 22nd at Ottawa Metro Park. For more information reach out to Nature Education Supervisor, Lindsey Gallaugher, at LGallaugher@jampd.com or Community Connections Specialist with ACBDD, Tammy DeLong, at TDeLong@acbdd.org.



Volunteer Opportunities

With the Natural Resource Dept.

COMMON AND CUT-LEAF TEASEL CONTROL

Teasel is an invasive weed of open spaces. It outcompetes native prairie flowers and grasses. Teasel seed heads will be removed shortly after flowering, in mid-July for one month, before seeds mature. Seed heads will be clipped from stalks and bagged for disposal. The stalks will be clipped just above the ground to prevent resprouting. Removal will be conducted at Kendrick Woods Cottonwood Trail Access, Beil's Buck Run Natural Area, Robert K. Antibus Access Trail, Haver Ridge Lauer Historical Farm, Lippincott Bird Sanctuary, McLean Teddy Bear Park, Motter Metro Park, Deep Cut Historical Park, and Ottawa Metro Park, on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 am to 11am and 12 pm to 2:30/3:00pm. For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Department at 419-221-1232 or NaturalResources@jampd.com. Please wear very sturdy gloves to protect your hands from the teasel spines. We have limited loppers and clippers so you may want to bring your own. Registered volunteers can sign up in the Volunteer Portal, VicNet.

Teasel Seed Head Removal

- July 13 - Deep Cut Historical Park
- July 16 - Motter Metro Park
- July 20 - McLean Teddy Bear Park
- July 23 - Lippincott Bird Sanctuary
- July 27 - Beil Buck Run Nature Area
- July 30 - Haver Ridge
- Aug. 3 - Robert K. Antibus Trail Access
- Aug. 6 - Lauer Historical Farm
- Aug. 10 - Cottonwood Trail Access
- Aug. 13 - Ottawa Metro Park

SEED COLLECTION FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

Collection can take place in meadows/prairies or wooded areas depending on the species. Exact timing will depend on the weather and the plants being dry enough to ripen for collection. Seeds will either be spread in park areas in need of restoration or will be grown for plugs to plant the following spring. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Natural Resources Department at 419-221-1232 or NaturalResources@jampd.com. Times and locations will be posted in VicNet as seeds begin to ripen.



NATIVE GARDEN CARETAKER

The Natural Resources Department will be holding weeding sessions at the Schick Memorial Garden at Ottawa Metro Park two Wednesday mornings a month from 8 am to 12 pm, June through August. 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.

Schick Memorial Garden Weeding Sessions

- June 17
- July 8 & 22, Aug. 5 & 19
- Aug. 6 & 20

CALL FOR PHOTOS!

JAMPD's Annual Nature Photography Contest is coming up this autumn and now is the time to get outside and take some photos! This contest, while held in the fall, is not fall themed and year-round photos are encouraged. Youth participation is typically low, so give someone under 17 a camera and send them outside!



Photo Courtesy of Dawn Fisher

LIMA AREA WOODCARVERS

The Lima Area Wood Carvers invite you to join the club and attend one of their monthly meetings featuring an easy to moderate project presented with instruction. Beginners are welcome! Summer meetings will be held at the Wyandot Shelter at Ottawa Metro Park on the first Monday of each month in June, July, and August beginning at 7 PM. Contact Larry Neal at 419-222-1782 for more information.





Johnny Appleseed

Park District

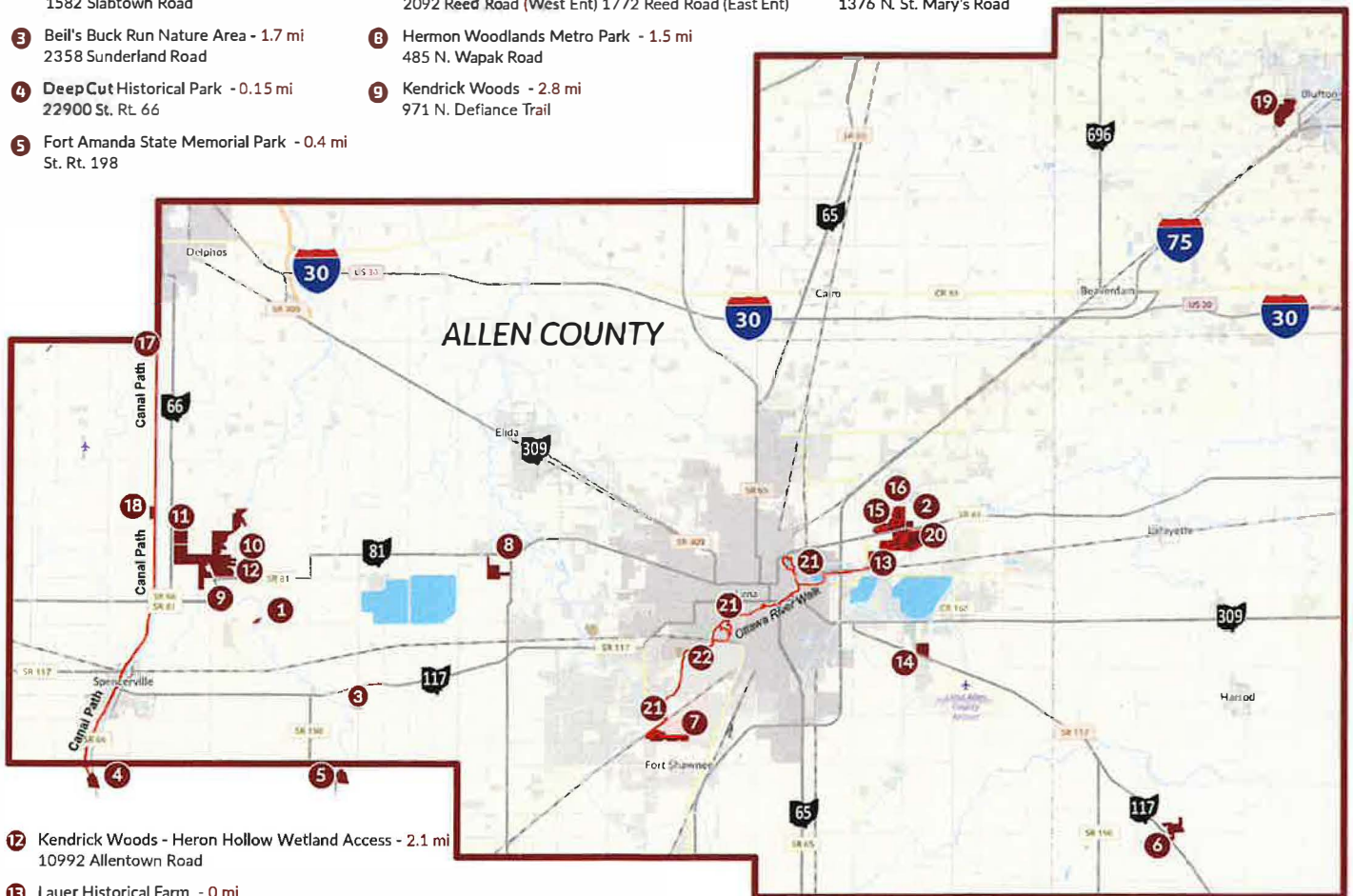
1682 Slabtown Road
Lima, OH 45801

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

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

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

- 1 Agerter Road River Access - 0 mi
16410 Agerter Road
- 2 Allen County Farm Park - 2.5 mi
1582 Slabtown Road
- 3 Beil's Buck Run Nature Area - 1.7 mi
2358 Sunderland Road
- 4 DeepCut Historical Park - 0.15 mi
22900 St. Rt. 66
- 5 Fort Amanda State Memorial Park - 0.4 mi
St. Rt. 198
- 6 Haver Ridge Metro Park - 2.0 mi
8335 Bellefontaine Road
- 7 Heritage Park - 3.8 mi
2092 Reed Road (West Ent) 1772 Reed Road (East Ent)
- 8 Hermon Woodlands Metro Park - 1.5 mi
485 N. Wapak Road
- 9 Kendrick Woods - 2.8 mi
971 N. Defiance Trail
- 10 Kendrick Woods - Cottonwood Trail Access - 2.5 mi
10659 Zion Church Road
- 11 Kendrick Woods - Evans Archery Range - 0 mi
1376 N. St. Mary's Road



- 12 Kendrick Woods - Heron Hollow Wetland Access - 2.1 mi
10992 Allentown Road
- 13 Lauer Historical Farm - 0 mi
800 Roush Road
- 14 Lippincott Bird Sanctuary - 0.7 mi
3093 Bellefontaine Road
- 15 McElroy Environmental Education Center - 0 mi
2355 Ada Road
- 16 McLean Teddy Bear Park - 2.25 mi
2004 N. Dixie Hwy.
- 17 Miami and Erie Canal Towpath Trail - 12.5 mi
Miami and Erie Canal
- 18 Robert K. Antibus Trail Access - 0.20 mi
12395 Zion Church Road
- 19 Motter Metro Park - 2.0 mi
10740 Columbus Grove Bluffton Rd.
Bluffton
- 20 Ottawa Metro Park - 5.0 mi
2632 Ada Road
- 21 Rotary Riverwalk/Ottawa River Bikeway - 4.6+ mi
from Heritage Park to Ottawa Metro Park
- 22 Veterans Freedom Flag Monument - 0 mi
1191 Buckeye Road