



Summer 2025



Photo courtesy of
Brad Crawford

Page 2 Movies in the Park
June 29, July 13, August 10

Page 3 Summer Amphitheater Series
Summer Amphitheater Program Series begins
May 25!

Page 4 Metro Park Adventures
Summer Day Camps for ages 5 to 14



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.

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Director's Corner

Summer Memories Start Here:

Family Fun at your local Metroparks!



Tyler Black

There's something timeless about summer in the parks—sunshine on the trails, the sound of kids laughing near the playgrounds, and the quiet joy of spending time together without screens or schedules. At the Metro-parks, we're proud to be the place where so many local families return year after year to reconnect and make memories.

Whether it's a toddler's first time spotting a frog, a grandparent sharing stories around a campfire, or an evening hike that ends with fireflies lighting the path home, our parks offer the kind of simple, meaningful experiences that stick with you.

This summer, we invite your family to:

- **Take in a movie** at Heritage Park – bring your blankets, snacks, and sense of wonder.
- **Join a guided hike** designed for all ages – explore the creek at Hermon Woodlands or enjoy a hike with the help of our naturalists.
- **Enjoy music at the amphitheater**, sit back and listen to the sounds of your childhood, there's music for everyone.
- **Make campfire memories** at the Ottawa Metro Park campground, complete with s'mores, storytelling, and stargazing.

We believe that parks aren't just places, they're where life happens. They're where kids learn to ride bikes, where families gather for birthdays and reunions, and where memories are made in the quiet moments in nature.

So, this summer, make time for what matters. Come explore, play, and grow with us at the Metroparks.

Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director

Movies in the Park

Enjoy an evening under the stars with your family, friends and neighbors while watching your favorite movie! Shawnee Township Event Planning (STEP) is sponsoring three nights of movies in Heritage Park. A short program will be provided by the JAMPD Nature Education Department/ Ranger Department prior to the start of the movie shortly before dusk. Please bring your outdoor chairs, blankets, snacks and bug spray. Light refreshments will be available to purchase.

Location: Heritage Park -
2092 Reed Road, Lima, OH

Date	Movie
Sun., June 29	The Wild Robot
Sun., July 13	Over the Hedge
Sun., Aug 10	Migration

Time: JAMPD program begins shortly before dusk. Movie begins at dark.



Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District



Saturdays!
FREE!!

* Note time for children's programs!

Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater
2632 Ada Road, Lima, OH



419-221-1232

www.jampd.com

May 31
7 pm - 9 pm
ROSCOMMON SESSIONS
Traditional Irish Music

June 7
7 pm - 9 pm
60's SURVIVOR BAND
Cover Band for 60-80's music.

June 14
7 pm - 9 pm
SOMEONE'S KIDS
Cover Band for 60-80's music

June 21
11 am - 12 pm
* **CHRIS ROWLANDS**
Naturalist, musician, magician/puppeteer

July 5
7 pm - 9 pm
SHIFFERLY ROAD BAND
Cover Band for 70-2000's music

July 12
7 pm - 9 pm
TRILOGY BAND
Rock, pop & country from the 80-2000's

July 19
7 pm - 9 pm
FJ BOEROG
Cover band for 60-80's music

July 26
7 pm - 9 pm
VERNON MCINTRYE'S
APPALACHIAN GRASS
Folk & Bluegrass

August 2
11 am - 12 pm
* **MARK'S ARK**
Live exotic animals

August 9
11 am - 12 pm
* **GORDON THE MAGICIAN**
Magician. Family Entertainment

August 23
7 pm - 9 pm
ANTIQUE MAYHEM
Cover Band for 60's to early 80's.
Soft/yacht rock style music

August 30
11 am - 12 pm
* **DR. INSECTA**
Bug Genius

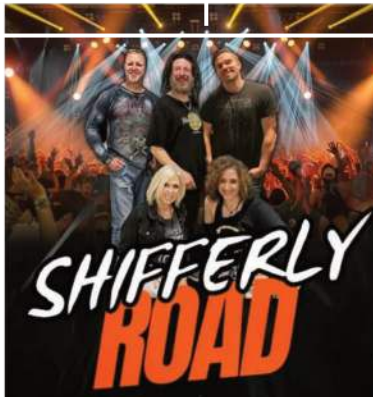
*A special thank you to Park District Volunteers:
Thora Davis and Jerry Johnson
for sponsoring our Summer Amphitheater Series*



60's SURVIVOR BAND



VERNON MCINTYRES APPALACHIAN GRASS



SHIFFERLY ROAD



CHRIS ROWLANDS



DR. INSECTA

Metro Park Adventures

Summer Day Camps

METROPARK TRAILBLAZERS (AGES 5 & 6)

POLLINATOR PARTY!

Tues., June 3 & Wed., June 4

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - MEEC

The world is positively buzzing with pollinators: bees, bats, butterflies, and more! Let's learn about and celebrate these tiny but mighty animals that do so much good! For ages 5-6. Children are invited to come dressed in long pants and closed-toed shoes and socks for a hike in the woods and prairie. Please bring sunscreen, bug spray, and a light snack! Registration, along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by May 30.



ABC'S OF NATURE

Tues., July 22 & Wed., July 23

10 am to 1 pm OR

Thurs., July 24 & Fri., July 25

10 am to 1 pm - MTB

Does Nature know the alphabet? Join us as we search for letters formed naturally. We will be looking at nature a different way! We will be learning about Nature Photography! Children's cameras will be provided as we hike in the park to document the ABC's of Nature! Please bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. Registration, along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by July 19.



METROPARK DISCOVERERS (AGES 7 to 9)

HERP, HERP, HOORAY!

Tues., June 17 & Wed., June 18

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - MEEC

Let's get the party started and celebrate our native herptiles! During this 2-day camp children aged 7 - 9 will participate in interactive lessons and activity stations dedicated to learning all about Ohio's awesome amphibians and remarkable reptiles. Dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, bug spray, a water bottle, and a light snack. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$10 is required by June 14.



METROPARK DISCOVERERS (AGES 7 to 9)

ROCK ON!

Tues., July 22, Wed., July 23, & Thurs., July 24

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - MEEC

Can you dig it? We bet you can! During this 3-day camp children aged 7 - 9 will explore Ohio's geology and the processes that have shaped the ground beneath our feet. Take a deep dive into minerals, rocks, fossils and more! Dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, bug spray, a water bottle, and a light snack. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by July 19.



METROPARK EXPLORERS (AGES 9 to 14)

"FUN" DAMENTALS of ARCHERY

Tues., June 3 & Wed., June 4 OR

Thurs., June 5 & Fri., June 6

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - ACF

Take aim and try out something new! During this 2-day camp, children ages 9 - 14 will explore archery as a recreational sport and wildlife management tool. Certified archery instructors will lead participants in the fundamentals of proper shooting technique and highlight important safety considerations. As our skills are sharpened, challenge games will be introduced! All materials will be provided by the park district, and participants must use the equipment provided. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes and secure long hair. Dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, bug spray, a water bottle, and a light snack. Limited to 10 participants per session; may only sign up for one session. Registration along with a non-refundable fee of \$15 is required by June 1.



METROPARK EXPLORERS (AGES 10 to 14)

KAYAK ADVENTURES

Tues., July 15 & Wed., July 16 OR

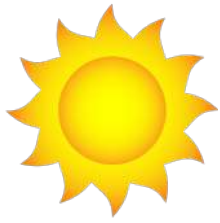
Thurs., July 17 & Fri., July 18

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - OMP

Youth, ages 10 - 14 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. Please bring a sack lunch, water bottle, and sunscreen. Dress to be outdoors and to get wet! Registration along with a non-refundable \$15 fee is required by July 11.



REGISTER ONLINE AT JAMPD.COM or call 419-221-1232
All programs are supervised and led by Park District Staff.



Summer Programs

June, July & August

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
DC	Deep Cut Historical Park
FA	Fort Amanda Park
HP	Heritage Park
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
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

May

ROSCOMMON SESSIONS

Sat., May 31 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

June

DAY CAMP - "FUN"DAMENTALS OF ARCHERY (ages 9-14)

Tues., June 3 & Wed., June 4 OR

Thurs. June 5 & Fri., June 6

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm - ACF

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

DAY CAMP - POLLINATOR PARTY! (ages 5 & 6)

Tues., June 3 & Wed., June 4

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm

MEEC

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

60's SURVIVOR BAND

Sat., June 7 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

SOMEONE'S KIDS

Sat., June 14 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., June 16 - 5 pm - OMP

Turn up the heat on your fitness routine and walk for wellness! Join a Naturalist as we walk a few laps or set your pace to achieve your fitness goals. All ages & abilities are welcome. Dress for the weather & come out rain or shine! Meet at the Wyandot Shelter. Register by June 13.

DAY CAMP - HERP, HERP, HOORAY! (ages 7 -9)

Tues., June 17 & Wed., June 18 -

9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm

MEEC

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

MORNING HIKE

Tues., June 17 - 10 am - MMP

Does nature know the alphabet? We'll join the Bluffton Public Library to look at nature a different way by searching for letters formed naturally! Along our hike we will be learning about Nature Photography! Children's cameras will be provided, adults bring your cell phones. Plan on a 1-1½ hour hike, weather and ground conditions.

BIRDING IN THE PARK

Wed., June 18 - 8 am - LBS

Many birds will only nest in specific habitats, often becoming wonderful indicators of the health of the ecosystem where they are living. Come join a naturalist to canvas a portion of the park for breeding birds and see who calls the Park "home"! We'll identify some by sight, but many by sound. Some binoculars and field guides provided. Beginner & experienced birders welcome! Register by June 15.

PEDAL THE PARKS!

Wed., June 18 - 6 pm - HP

Put your pedals through their spin cycle and 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/Ottawa River Bikeway through Heritage Park to the Collett Street Recreation Area and back again. Round trip will be around 8 miles. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. Helmets are required. Meet at the Veterans Shelter. Register by June 15.

CHRIS ROWLANDS

Sat., June 21 - 11 am - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

June (Cont'd)

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., June 23 - 5 pm - HW

See June 16 program description. Note the location. Meet outside the West Shelter. Register by June 20.

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., June 24 - 10 am OR 1 pm -HW

Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the playscape and creek. Feel free to pack a picnic lunch and extra shoes and/or clothes for the ride home! Register by June 21.

KAYAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Wed., June 25 - 10 am - OMP

Learn how to kayak or refresh your skills on this guided kayak tour of Lima Lake. With the support of a ODNr Boating Safety Education Grant, we'll learn safe boating practices and do some kayaking around the calm lake. This program is designed for adult participants or ages 14+ with an adult present on the water together in separate kayaks. A registration fee of \$5 holds your spot and will be refunded within a few days of your confirmed attendance. Prepare for the weather, bring snacks, drinking water and sunscreen. Register by June 22.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., June 25 - 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 June 22.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., June 26 - 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! Register by June 25.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE

Thurs., June 26 - 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 concludes 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 Thursday evening of each month to reap the health benefits of being in nature. Register by June 23.

SKY FISHING

Fri., June 27 - 9 pm - KW

Every last Friday from May to September, a naturalist will set up equipment to go 'sky fishing' - a way that scientists sample the insects flying through our night sky. From luna moths to fireflies, each month should bring a suite of curious 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 June 24.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

"The Wild Robot"

Sun., June 29 - Dusk - HP

See article on page 2 for details.

SHIFFERLY ROAD

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

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

KAYAKING FOR BEGINNERS

Sat., July 12 - 10 am - OMP

Learn how to kayak or refresh your skills on this guided kayak tour of Lima Lake. With the support of the ODNr Boating Safety Education Grant, we'll learn safe boating practices and do some kayaking around the calm lake. This program is designed for adult participants or ages 14+ with an adult present on the water together in separate kayaks. A registration fee of \$5 holds your spot and will be refunded after your confirmed attendance. Prepare for the weather, bring snacks, drinking water and sunscreen. Register by July 9.

TRILOGY BAND

Sat., July 12 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 9 for details.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

"Over the Hedge"

Sun., July 13 - Dusk - HP

See article on page 2 for details.

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., July 14 - 5 pm - OMP

See June 16 program description. Note the location. Meet at the Wyandot Shelter. Register by July 13.

DAY CAMP - KAYAK

ADVENTURES

(ages 10 - 14) (2 day camp)

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

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

July (cont'd)

DAY CAMP - KAYAK ADVENTURES

(ages 10 - 14) (2 day camp)

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

See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

PEDAL THE PARKS!

Wed., July 16 - 6 pm - OMP

Put your pedals through their spin cycle and 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 July 13.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE

Thurs., July 17 - 5:30 pm - MTB
See June 26 program description.
Register by July 14.

FJ BOEROG

Sat., July 19 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., July 21 - 5 pm - HW
See June 23 program description.
Register by July 18.

DAY CAMP - ROCK ON! (ages 7-9)

Tues., July 22, Wed., July 23 & Thurs., July 24
9 am to 12 pm OR 1 pm to 4 pm
MEEC (3 day camp)
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

DAY CAMP - ABC'S OF NATURE (ages 5 & 6) (2 day camp)

Tues., July 22 & Wed., July 23 OR Thurs., July 24 & Fri., July 25
10 am to 1 pm - MTB
See Day Camp Programs on page 4 for details.

PRAIRIE FAIRIES

Wed., July 23 - 3:30 pm - MMP
Come out to Motter Metro Park and help a naturalist look for real-life fairies of the prairie- butterflies and moths! Soaring through the air, leading you down the paths, and sipping delicately from flowers, these incredible insects are a treat to see. Together we will learn about the importance of prairies, how to observe and handle butterflies, and appreciate the beauty of this incredible ecosystem. Butterfly nets provided. Guests are invited to come wearing fairy wings or flower crowns for fun! Closed-toed shoes and socks are recommended. Register by July 20.

SKY FISHING

Fri., July 25 - 9 pm - KW
See June 27 program description.
Register by July 22.

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., July 29 - 10 am OR 1 pm - HW
See June 24 program description.
Register by July 26.

VERNON MCINTYRE'S APPALACHIAN GRASS

Sat., July 26 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., July 30 - 6 pm to 7 pm OR 7 pm to 8 pm - KW/EAR
See June 25 program description.
Register by July 27.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., July 31 - 4 pm - MEEC
See June 26 program description.
Register by July 30.

August

MARKS ARK

Sat., Aug. 2 - 11 am - OMP/AMP
See Amphitheater Programs on page 9 for details.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tues., Aug. 5 - 6 pm to 9 pm - HP and Local Communities
Come join family and friends at your community's National Night Out! The Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District 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!

FALL VOLUNTEER OVERVIEW

Wed., Aug. 6 - 6 pm - Park Office Conference Room
See Volunteer Opportunities on pages 10 & 11. Register by Aug. 5.

HOMESCHOOL SERIES: Invertebrate Investigation

Thurs., Aug. 7 - 11 am - MEEC
Make no bones about it, spineless critters that creep and crawl are super cool! Join a Naturalist to discover how animals are classified and explore invertebrate individuals up close. 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 Aug. 4.

August (cont'd)

PRAIRIE FAIRIES

Fri., Aug. 8- 3:30 pm - KW/CTA

Come out to Cottonwood Trail and help a naturalist look for real-life fairies of the prairie- butterflies and moths! Soaring through the air, leading you down the paths, and sipping delicately from flowers, these incredible insects are a treat to see. Together we will learn about the importance of prairies, how to observe and handle butterflies, and appreciate the beauty of this incredible ecosystem. Butterfly nets provided. Guests are invited to come wearing fairy wings or flower crowns for fun! Closed-toed shoes and socks are recommended. Register by Aug. 5.

GORDON THE MAGICIAN

Sat., Aug. 9 - 11 am - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 9 for details.

FULL MOON KAYAK FLOAT

Sat., Aug. 9 - 8:30 pm - OMP

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! Guests must be ages 14+ with an adult and have previous kayak experience. Bug spray and bottled water recommended. A registration fee of \$5 holds your spot, will be refunded within a few days of your confirmed attendance. Register by Aug 8.

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Sat., Aug. 9 - 9 pm - KW

Watch for meteors with the Lima Astronomical Society and view other celestial objects through telescopes! Bring bug spray, lawn chairs / ground blanket, and a light jacket for comfort. Attendees are welcome to bring their own telescope! This event is dependent on weather and cloud cover and often continues late into the night, stay as long as you like! Check the

Lima Astronomical Society website for cancellation due to weather or cloud cover ahead of the event at limaastro.com. Register by Aug. 8.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

"Migration"

Sun., Aug. 10 - Dusk - HP

See article on page 2 for details.

PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP

Mon., Aug. 11 - 9 am to 3 pm - MEEC

See Volunteer Opportunities on page 10. Register by Aug. 1.

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., Aug. 11 - 5 pm - OMP

See June 16 program description. Register by Aug. 8.

PEDAL THE PARKS!

Wed., Aug. 13 - 6 pm - HP

See June 18 program description. Register by Aug. 10.

HEALTH THROUGH NATURE

Thurs., Aug. 14 - 5:30 pm - MTB

See June 26 program description. Register by Aug. 1.

JAMPD at the ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

Fri., Aug. 15 to Sat., Aug. 23

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!

ANTIQUE MAYHEM

Sat., Aug. 23 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.

PARKSIDE PACERS

Mon., Aug. 25 - 5 pm - HW

See June 23 program description. Register by Aug 21.

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Tues., Aug. 26 - 10 am OR 1 pm - HW

See June 24 program description. Register by August 22.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., Aug. 27 - 6 pm to 7 pm OR 7 pm to 8 pm - ACF

See June 25 program description. Register by Aug 24.

FEEDING DAY

Thurs., Aug. 28 - 4 pm - MEEC

See June 26 program description. Register by Aug 27.

SKY FISHING

Fri., Aug. 29- 9 pm - KW

See June 27 program description. Register by Aug 26.

DR. INSECTA

Sat., Aug. 30 - 11 am - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 3 for details.



Photo Courtesy of Kira Davis

Naturalist Notebook

“How Full the Earth is!”

I like many of you, am a busy person. My work keeps me busy! Since starting my career here at JAMPD, I am always on the go: leading hikes, wrangling education animals like snakes and snapping turtles, and teaching the lovely people of Allen County all about science and nature. I'm often on the go in my spare time as well: supporting the arts in 3 counties and baking are my hobbies. Not to mention my husband and I enjoy birding around Ohio and Michigan, which is full of really beautiful destinations (and birds)! And now we're house hunting! But sometimes, a girl has just got to sit and rest. And so, I have become a casual video-gamer.

But something that always bothers me about video games is that when you see a plant, it might as well be a cardboard cutout of a plant.

In real life, you can look at a plant and see much more than just the plant itself. You can see insects taking shelter in the leaves, drinking the nectar, or doing any number of things! You may find mosses or lichens or mushrooms growing on the plant. If we looked even deeper, on the microscopic level, there would be even more tiny, amazing creatures utilizing the plant, like waterbears and diatoms (look them up!). If you ask enough questions, one single plant can be the start of a lifetime's worth of research.

Summer is a great time, because so many different living things are all around us! Flowers are blooming, tree leaves have sunlight streaming through, butterflies and moths are flourishing, birds are flying through the air, turtles and fish are swimming in

ponds close enough to the surface for us to see them live their beautiful lives. Each one holds its own mysteries and stories to tell, if we are curious and brave enough to ask and to learn.

And that is what I love about the world! It is so full of both lore and mysteries. I love learning new things, and I believe that no knowledge is ever wasted. Learning connects us to the past, as every answer comes from a question asked by someone else who asked before us. Learning is a conversation, where we hear what has been discovered by others, then think and ask something new. Learning brings people together, as we teach others what we have learned and foster curiosity in others.

I once had a very wise friend who told me, “You'll learn more by going to the same place 100 times, than by going 100 different places.” While I'm not sure I agree, I do think about it sometimes. He meant that by going to the same place 100 times, you will notice new things and look a little deeper each time. When going to a new place, you may only notice the surface level. This summer, I challenge you to do both! Go to a new place. We have 20 parks in Allen County for you to explore, for free, open every day. Then go to a familiar place several times. Maybe one of our parks that you are more familiar with. Let me know what you think, what you observe, what you learn. Where will you learn more?

I will leave you with one of my favorite quotes, which I think about often:



Photo Courtesy of Emily Green

“The best thing for being sad... is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated... There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting.” -T.H. White

Get Outside,

Marie Walton

Naturalist



Photo Courtesy of John Martin

Interested in Volunteering?

Please join us to learn about volunteering at the park. An informational session will be held to provide an overview of opportunities during the fall 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!

FALL OVERVIEW SESSION

Wed., Aug. 6 – 6 pm

Park Office Conference Room
1682 Slabtown Road

(Register at jampd.com or 419-221-1232 by Aug. 5)

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 Becky Pescosolido

Volunteer Opportunities With the Nature Education Dept.

CRITTER CARE VOLUNTEERS

Thursdays - 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 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

1st GRADE FIELD TRIP TRAINING

Wed, Aug. 27 – 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. Naturalist-led student groups rotate to various stations assisted by volunteers at Hermon Woodlands Metro Park. Please join us on Wednesday, August 27th from 9 am to 12 pm for an in-depth training on the program. Register on the Volunteer Portal, VicNet, by August 25.



PROJECT WILD WORKSHOP

Mon., Aug. 11 – 9 am – 3 pm – MEEC

Project WILD is a program dedicated to providing wildlife-based conservation and environmental education to K-12 students within an interdisciplinary framework. Join JAMPD Naturalists and Ohio Division of Wildlife staff as you gain the knowledge and resources to teach about native wildlife and promote conservation stewardship across all subjects and grade levels. This workshop is free to attend, and all classroom materials and manuals are provided free of charge through the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Project WILD is a Wildlife Diversity project funded by hunting and fishing license sales, Ohio income tax check-off donations, Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp sales, cardinal license plate sales, and donations. Register by Aug. 1 to secure your spot at the workshop!



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 several park locations throughout the summer on Mondays and Thursdays from 8am to 11 am and noon to 2:30/3:00pm. See date and location schedule below. For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Department at 419-221-1232 or at NaturalResources@jampd.com. Please wear very sturdy gloves to protect your hands from the teasel spines and bring your own loppers and clippers. Registered volunteers can sign up in the Volunteer Portal, VicNet.

Teasel Seed Head Removal

July 14 - Motter Metro Park
 July 17 - Deep Cut Historical Park
 July 21 - Lippincott Bird Sanctuary
 July 24 - Kendrick Woods - Evans Archery Range
 July 28 - Ottawa Metro Park
 July 31 - Cottonwood Trail Access
 August 4 - McLean Teddy Bear Park
 August 7 - Lauer Historical Farm



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

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.

Native Garden Caretaker at Schick Memorial Garden Weeding Sessions

June 11 & 25
 July 9 & 23
 Aug 6 & 20

ALL ABILITY KAYAK ADVENTURES

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience a relaxing float on the water. So, with adaptive paddling equipment sponsored by ODNR's Boating Safety Education Grant, we're partnering with 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 8 and 9 at Ottawa Metro Park. For more information, reach out to LGallaugh@jampd.com.



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 Dave Betts at 419-204-1571 for more information.





Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

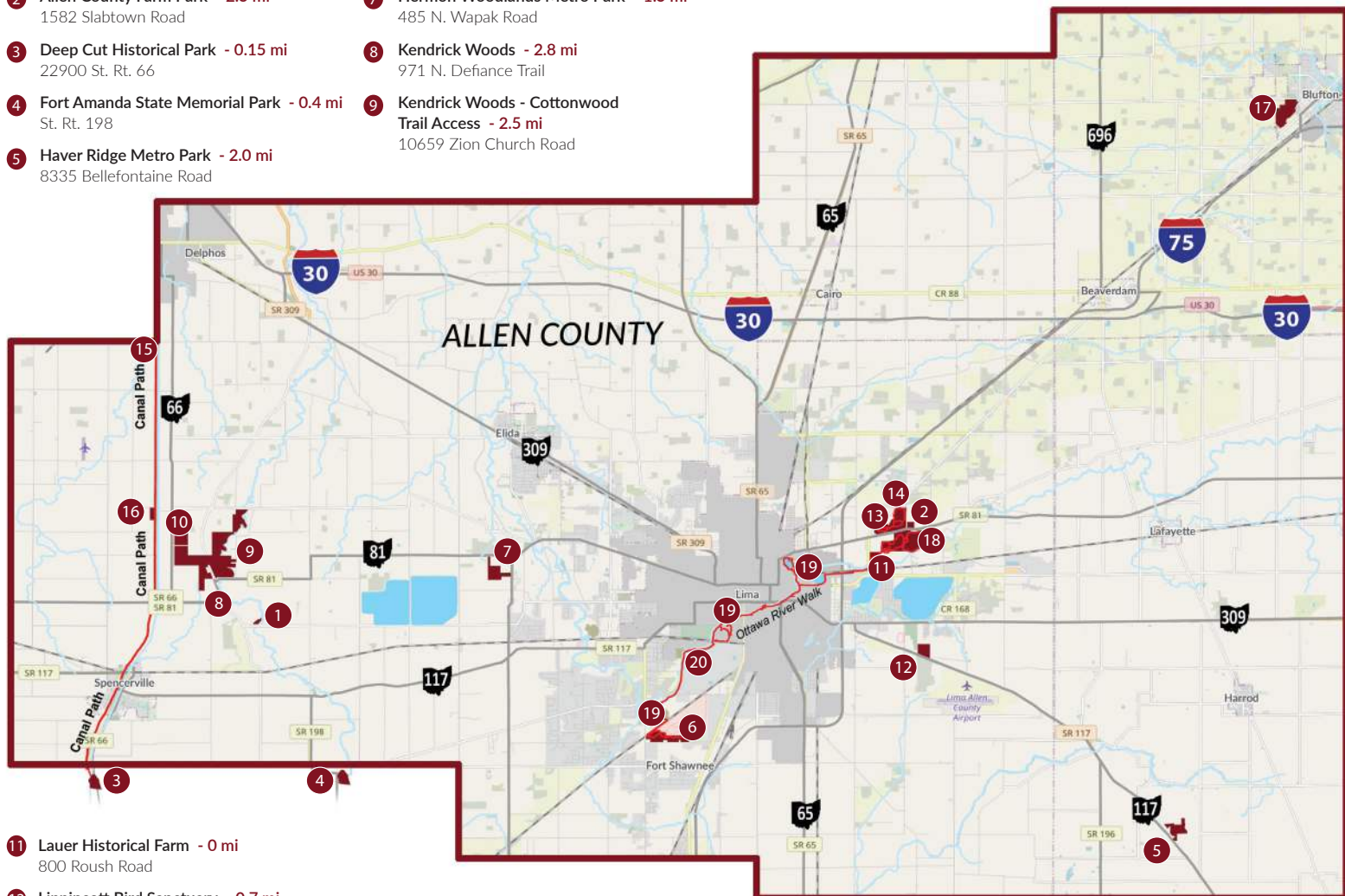
1682 Slabtown Road
Lima, OH 45801

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

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

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



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|--|--|--|
| 11 Lauer Historical Farm - 0 mi
800 Roush Road | 16 Robert K. Antibus Trail Access - 0.20 mi
12395 Zion Church Road | 19 Rotary Riverwalk/Ottawa River Bikeway - 4.6+ mi
from Heritage Park to Ottawa Metro Park |
| 12 Lippincott Bird Sanctuary - 0.7 mi
3093 Bellefontaine Road | 17 Motter Metro Park - 2.0 mi
10740 Columbus Grove Bluffton Rd. Bluffton | 20 Veterans Freedom Flag Monument - 0 mi
1191 Buckeye Road |
| 13 McElroy Environmental Education Center - 0 mi
2355 Ada Road | 18 Ottawa Metro Park - 5.0 mi
2632 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 | | |