

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT APRIL 2024 PROGRAMS –TO REGISTER YOU MAY GO TO [WWW.HANCOCKPARKS.COM](http://WWW.HANCOCKPARKS.COM) OR VISIT US AT 1424 E MAIN CROSS M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM. FOR QUESTIONS CALL 419-425-7275.**

1 Monday

Discovery Stories: A Rainbow of Animals

“A Rainbow of Animals” is a story by Melissa Stewart. She tells all about the many colors of creatures in nature. The Scarlet Ibis starts out white as a chick but eats so much red crab that by adult age it becomes red. There are so many interesting animals and insects that come in every color of the rainbow. After the story, kids will have an opportunity to make their own colorful creature.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 4-5 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen [callen@hancockparks.com](mailto:callen@hancockparks.com)

1 Monday

Planetarium: Solar Eclipse

On April 8, Hancock County will be in the path of a total solar eclipse. In our indoor planetarium program, we will focus on a solar eclipse: what it is, why it happens, different types, and how often they occur. We will view what will happen during the eclipse and learn about other astronomical objects that may be seen during the eclipse. Afterward, we will preview other things to look for during the month of April. Each participant will receive solar eclipse glasses, a pin hole viewer card, and an April sky map.

Participants are required to sit on the floor. Ask about accommodations.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

7 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Monday, April 1.

Maximum: 25

Tim Kleman [tkleman@hancockparks.com](mailto:tkleman@hancockparks.com)

3 Wednesday

National Find a Rainbow Day Hike

We will take a hike on the .3-mile Lady Bug Loop Trail and look for rainbows. Perhaps we will find a reflection of one in the water at the vernal pool or one showing through the clouds in the sky.

Blue Rock Nature Preserve

Edgar Street Parking Lot

1 PM

Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen [callen@hancockparks.com](mailto:callen@hancockparks.com)

5 Friday

Slimy Salamanders

Salamanders are moving around the wet spring forests. A story will be read about salamanders: what they are, why they are moving this time of year, and their life cycle. After the story, we will go on a short walk in the park in search of these slimy creatures and then return to the Discovery Center to create our own salamander friend to take home.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

[tkleman@hancockparks.com](mailto:tkleman@hancockparks.com)

5 Friday

Spring Bird Hike

Birds from the area are returning as spring migration begins. We will look for migratory birds such as Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens, Fox Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking Lot

6–7:30 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman [tkleman@hancockparks.com](mailto:tkleman@hancockparks.com)

6 Saturday

Spring Photography Hike

Join your fellow photographers at Litzenberg Memorial Woods for a spring photography hike. We will focus on wildflowers, amphibians, birds, and other spring subjects. All skill levels and camera types are welcome. The trails might be wet and muddy, so where the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

South Parking Lot

9-11 AM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman [tkleman@hancockparks.com](mailto:tkleman@hancockparks.com)

6 Saturday

Spider Hike

Spiders are creepy and crawly and may look villainous, but they help humans more than we give them credit for. By eating insects that are a nuisance (mosquitoes, centipedes, and earwigs), spiders are one of our greatest allies. Join us as we enjoy an afternoon hike in search of spiders, such as wolf spiders, yellow garden spiders, and spined micrathena spiders.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking lot

1 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple [mteeple@hancockparks.com](mailto:mteeple@hancockparks.com)

6 Saturday

Great Solar Eclipse over Ohio

Steve Rice from the Millstream Astronomy Club will present a program about the upcoming solar eclipse. He will explain what will be happening in Findlay and how to safely view this spectacular event. After the program, there will be viewing of Jupiter and its four largest moons and many other wonders of the night sky. Look through their telescopes or bring your own. Club members can show you how to use them.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Shelter 5

8 PM

All ages welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag [mrumschlag@hancockparks.com](mailto:mrumschlag@hancockparks.com)

7 Sunday

Amphibians: Open House

Spring is the time for amphibians. They have awakened from their winter slumber and are busy setting up territories and finding a mate. Learn about amphibians, such as frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts that can be found in Ohio and why they go through metamorphosis. Children will an opportunity to make a felt salamander bookmark and take a frog and toad quiz.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.  
Free; registration is not required.  
Michelle Rumschlag [mrumschlag@hancockparks.com](mailto:mrumschlag@hancockparks.com)

7 Sunday

National Geode Day Hike

We will hike around Goose Lake and along the Upland Trail to see if we can find round geode rocks. This is approximately a 1-mile natural trail with hills and grassy area. There will be a display of geodes to look at before we hike so you will know what to look for. Geodes are hollow, vaguely spherical rocks, in which masses of [mineral](#) matter (possibly crystals) are secluded.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

2 PM

Families.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen

[callen@hancockparks.com](mailto:callen@hancockparks.com)

8 Monday

Solar Eclipse Party v

Watch the total solar eclipse with us. But first, check out our Solar Eclipse Ambassador Station at Shelter 7 to learn about the solar eclipse, safe viewing practices, and the timing of the solar eclipse. You can look at pinhole projectors, look at the sun through a large solar viewer window, and sign our solar eclipse guest book. Kids can create a craft to help them remember this special event. Solar eclipse glasses, pinhole viewer cards, and commemorative stickers will be available while supplies last. We will also have a telescope viewing area where you can safely get a close look at the sun and solar eclipse with specialty equipped solar filter telescopes.

Afterward, find a place in the park to watch this once-in-a-lifetime event for our area. At our Solar Eclipse Ambassador Station, we will have a sound system to make announcements about the solar eclipse, like when totality begins and ends. Due to the nature of this event, please be prepared for the increase in traffic in the area and activity in the park. Bringing your own food, drinks, and chairs is recommended.

Riverbend Recreation Area

The Meadows Activity Area

Shelter 7

12:30 - 4:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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8 Monday

Solar Eclipse Viewing at Oakwoods Nature Preserve v

Information about the eclipse, including a timeline of the eclipse, will be on the Discovery Center porch. Solar eclipse glasses and pinhole projectors will also be available while supplies last. At 2:30 PM, we will hike to the wetland area for a better viewing experience. Due to the nature of this event, please be prepared for an increase in traffic and visitation at the park. Bringing your own food, drinks, and chairs is recommended.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

All ages are welcome.

Free; Registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

[mrumschlag@hancockparks.com](mailto:mrumschlag@hancockparks.com)

8 Monday

After Eclipse Star Party v

The solar eclipse may be over but that does not mean the astronomical fun has to end. Stick around after the sun goes down to view other objects in the night sky. We will point out constellations and talk about their folklore, and use our telescopes to look at Jupiter, distant stars, and deep space objects. If it is too cloudy for telescope viewing, we will go on a night hike through the park instead.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Meadows Activity Area

Shelter 7

9 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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11 Thursday

Little Hands Nature Club: Spring Birds Hike v

Birds that spent the winter in the south have now returned and are busy building for the upcoming nesting season. As we hike, we will look for birds, such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Bluebirds and Baltimore Orioles. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes. Adult companions must remain with children during this program.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Oxbow Bend Activity Area

Parking Lot

10 AM

Ages 3-6, with an adult; other ages siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

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12 Friday

Frogs in the Park v

It is spring and the parks are filled with the calls of frogs and toads. Learn and listen to the calls of the different species that live in the park and then we will take a night hike to listen and search for these musical amphibians.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

8:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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13 Saturday

Rain and Weather v

April is one of the wettest months of the year. If that inspires you to learn about rain and weather, then join us as we discuss the characteristics of rain and clouds, cloud types, the water cycle, types of storms, and how much clouds weigh, which might surprise you. With the weather permitting, we might be able to go outside and play in the rain. If it is raining, please bring a rain jacket as we will walk around outside. If there is no rain, the program will proceed inside the Discovery Center.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

Families with children 8 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple

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14 Sunday

Spring Wildflowers Hike v

Before the leaves on the trees shade the forest floor, the warm soil will produce spring wildflowers. Flora, such as spring beauties, bloodroot, and dog-tooth violet should be available for viewing. The trail may be wet and muddy, so wear appropriate shoes.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

1 PM

Ages 18 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

15 Monday

Wee Ones: Animal Alphabet v

From A to Z, there is an animal for each letter of the alphabet. Join us as we practice our ABCs in a fun, outdoor style. We will walk through Riverside Park, pass by some Animal Alphabet signs, and have fun with the alphabet.

Riverside Park

Waterfalls Pavilion

10 AM

Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple

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15 Monday

Herps for Homeschoolers v

Join us for this program about reptiles and amphibians and learn about what makes reptiles and amphibians unique. We will go hiking, look for frogs and snakes, and do a craft that shows the life cycle of a frog. Hop and slither over for a fun learning experience.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

1-3 PM

Ages 5-14.

Free; but register by 8 AM on Monday, April 15.

Min: 6/Max: 40

Maclain Teeple

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17 Wednesday

Bird Songs for Beginners v

If you love listening to birds in your yard or out in the park, but you do not know the names of the birds, then join us for Bird Songs for Beginners. We will listen to the songs and calls of common backyard birds, discuss their purpose, and learn how to identify birds. Afterward, we will take a short hike and listen to birds in the park.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 50 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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17 Wednesday

Spring Search, Flap, Prance, and Hop v

During this scavenger hunt, we will search for things in nature, but if we find a feather, we will flap our arms like a bird. If we find an animal track, we might prance like a deer or hop like a rabbit. Children might get dirty, even wet, and muddy, so they should dress accordingly.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

6 PM

Ages 4-5 with an adult. Other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

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19 Friday

#### Birdhouse and Bird Feeder Creations for Homeschoolers v

Homeschool students will have an opportunity to create a birdhouse and a bird feeder. They will use milk jugs, soda bottles, popsicle sticks, twigs, buttons, and more. Supplies will be provided. Since paint and permanent markers will be used for decorating, appropriate clothing should be worn.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM for ages 6-9.

1 PM for ages 10-13.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen

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#### 20 Saturday

##### Dance of the Timberdoodles v

Every spring a small odd-looking bird called an American Woodcock performs a special sky dance in the twilight. Join us for a night hike as we search for timberdoodles and hope to observe their sky dance. Information will be provided about the American Woodcock, its cool features, and why it performs the sky dance in the spring. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear appropriate boots or shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

South Parking Lot

8:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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#### 21 Sunday

##### Dragons: Fiction and Fact v

Dragons are mythological creatures having resemblance to snakes and lizards. But where did the concept of a dragon come from? In this program, we will explore the history of dragon myths from around the world and find out what caused our ancestors to imagine these fantastic creatures of legend.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

Ages 12-14.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple

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#### 22 Monday

##### Earth Day Cleanup v

Happy Earth Day! Celebrate the planet and show that you care by coming out to the park to clean up trash along the trails. As we collect trash we will talk about the impact of litter on wildlife and about the cool things that are coming out in spring like wildflowers, frogs, and insects. Rubber gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

6 PM

Ages 10-12 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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#### 23 Tuesday

##### Colors of Spring v

Spring has finally arrived. From wildflowers to birds, there are wonderful colors to see. Join us for Colors of Spring to learn about colors and how to mix colors to make new colors.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve  
Discovery Center

1 PM

Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple

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26 Friday

Snail Hike v

Snails prefer to live on the wet forest floor. After reading a story about snails, we will hike the trails in search of our slimy shelled friends and their hiding places. We will also look for animals that like to live alongside snails like pill bugs and salamanders.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

6 PM

Ages 6-9 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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29 Monday

May Day Flower Basket Weaving v

Once upon a time, the first day of May was a day to give good tidings to others. This was done by placing a small basket with flowers on their front doorknob. The first day of May signaled the change in weather from chilly and rainy to warm and sunny. Teens will hear about the tradition and have an opportunity to make a May Basket by weaving colorful yarn through a slit cup. When it is done, we will make paper flowers to put in the basket.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 13-16.

Free, registration not required.

Chris Allen

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