

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT APRIL PROGRAMS –TO REGISTER YOU MAY GO TO WWW.HANCOCKPARKS.COM OR VISIT US AT 1424 E MAIN CROSS M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM. FOR QUESTIONS CALL 419-425-7275. CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS ARE DROP OFF PROGRAMS UNLESS ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.**

1 Wednesday

Wetland Animals Hike

There are all kinds of wildlife that make their homes in the wetlands of Ohio. During this guided hike, look for wetland plants and animals, such as Sandhill Cranes, Mallard Ducks, Western chorus frogs, mourning cloak butterflies, Eastern brown snakes, and the marsh marigold. The trail may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

1 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

1 Wednesday

Full Frog Moon Hike

It is time to look for the frog moon. Spring peepers and Western chorus frogs should be calling when the first full moon of spring rises. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

2 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

The Plein Air Gatherings are an opportunity for artists to get together and paint or draw outdoors or “en plein air.” Artists who use any medium conducive to working outdoors are welcome. These gatherings are a way to meet and work with other plein air artists, and they provide a nice format for those who are new to this concept or are hesitant to go alone. Bring supplies and equipment and dress for ground and weather conditions. If it rains, the session will be cancelled.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

4 Saturday

Hybrid Animals

In the animal world, a combination of two different animals can happen, which is referred to as a hybrid. Hybrid animals are the offspring produced from the mating of two different animals. During this program, learn about hybrid animals, discover what makes them unique, and look at hybrid animal displays, including mules, ligers, and grolar bears. Make an imaginary hybrid animal craft using recycled material. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, April 3.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 15

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

6 Monday

Wee Ones: Frogs and Toads

Spring is filled with the singing of frogs and toads. Learn the differences between them and which ones can be found in the park. Listen to a story, look at frog displays, listen to the songs of local frogs and toads, play with musical frogs, and create a frog craft.

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

9 Thursday

Scales, Feathers, and Fur

Animals have different types of body coverings that help them in many ways. See examples of snakeskin, mammal furs, and bird wings. Make a craft using felt to create a textured animal cutout. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

Ages 4-6 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

9 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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Blue Rock Nature Preserve

Edgar Street Parking Lot

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

10 Friday

Little Hands Nature Club: Duck Hunt

Ducks like to swim in open water. Make a duck headband, hike to Shank Lake and Dold Lake, and look for ducks swimming in the water. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

1 PM

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

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumtschlag@hancockparks.com

10 Friday

Explore Nature with iNaturalist

iNaturalist provides a website and mobile apps that can be used to record and share nature observations. Join the network of citizen scientists by taking a guided hike to find and document plants and animals. Sign up by creating an iNaturalist account, download the iNaturalist app, bring an iPhone, Android phone, iPad, or camera, and explore nature with iNaturalist. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

11 Saturday

Dance of the Timberdoodles

Every spring as the sun goes down, a small odd-looking shorebird called an American Woodcock performs a special sky dance. During this guided hike, search for timberdoodles as they perform their courtship display. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Riverbend Recreation Area

**The Meadows Activity Area**

Shelter 6

8:15 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

12 Sunday

Eagles: Open House

Eagles are large, majestic birds that are strictly carnivores. Learn about the various species of eagles around the world, including the Bald Eagle. Participants can make a Bald Eagle craft using plastic forks to make head feathers. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

13 Monday

Discovery Stories: Turkey Vulture

What are those large, dark birds soaring in circles through the sky? They are Turkey Vultures. They may not be the prettiest birds around, but they are important, graceful, and clean. A story will be read about these valuable birds, and a game will be played to see if children have a sense of smell like a vulture.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 4-6 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

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

14 Tuesday

Rare Sightings in Hancock County

Learn about uncommon and rare organisms that can be spotted in Hancock County, Look at displays including the American badger and the wrinkled peach mushroom, and hike the trails to look for rare sights including earthstars, an uncommon mushroom. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

15 Wednesday

Nest Exploration for Homeschoolers

As spring approaches, birds are making nests to lay eggs in. Learn about the different types of nests that birds make, look at bird nest displays, and hike the trails in search of actual bird nests. This is a drop-off program. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-2:30 PM

Ages 5-14.

Free; but register by 9 AM on Wednesday, April 15.

Minimum: 6/Maximum: 20

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

16 Thursday

Touch Tour

There are many different sensations to feel in nature. Go on a scavenger hunt to find things that are smooth, bumpy, prickly, and fuzzy. Learn about local animals including the star-nosed mole and raccoon on how they have a heightened sense of touch.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking Lot by Shelter 3

6 PM

Ages 4-8 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumtschlag@hancockparks.com

16 Thursday

Salamander Prowl

Slimy salamanders can be found on the forest floor. Listen to a salamander story, learn about these amphibians, and go on a short hike to flip logs in search of salamanders. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

10 AM

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

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

16 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

The Plein Air Gatherings are an opportunity for artists to get together and paint or draw outdoors or "en plein air." Artists who use any medium conducive to working outdoors are welcome. These gatherings are a way to meet and work with other plein air artists, and they provide a nice format for those who are new to this concept or are hesitant to go alone. Bring supplies and equipment and dress for ground and weather conditions. If it rains, the session will be cancelled.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

16 Thursday

Orchids of Ohio

Orchids are typically thought of as tropical flowers, but they are actually found in a variety of habitats around the globe, and they are one of the largest families of flowering plants. Celebrate National Orchid Day by learning about the orchid family, the species that can be found in Ohio, including Hancock County, and orchid conservation.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

18 Saturday

Old Fashion Cooking with Kids

Experience cooking as the pioneers did in 1847. Create a receipt book, bake bread and cookies, and scramble eggs on the old wood cookstove. This is a good learning experience for those who are just starting to cook and for those who have a 4-H cooking project.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

1 PM

Ages 9-13.

Register with \$5 per person by 1 PM on Friday, April 17.

Minimum: 4/Maximum: 12

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

18 Saturday

Dance of the Sun

Doug Rider from the Millstream Astronomy Club will present a program titled "Dance of the Sun." See what the Sun looks like from other planets and view the night sky. Jupiter and Venus will be the featured planets. The Millstream Astronomy Club will have telescopes available (club members can show you how to use them) or bring your own.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

19 Sunday

Agricultural Reports for the McKinnis Family

Take a step back in time to look at reports that tallied, among other things, the number and value of livestock, and the land and crops that families had. The report being highlighted is from 1850 for Liberty and Blanchard Townships and we are focusing on Charles McKinnis, an early settler of Hancock County, who lived on the property that is now Litzenberg Memorial Woods. Find out how many pounds of maple sugar he owned, how many sheep his brother-in-law, Jacob Poe maintained, and who owned the pair of working oxen.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Activity Barn

1 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, April 17.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 60

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

20 Monday

Nature Story Time: *The Baby Animals' Party*

*The Baby Animals' Party* is a fun story about animals celebrating a new baby that arrived in the spring. All the animals had their own gift to give the baby. Listen to the story, find out what the gifts were, and go on a scavenger hunt in the Nature Play Area to find the gifts. If there is inclement weather, this program will be held inside the Discovery Center.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

1 PM

Ages 4-6 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

22 Wednesday

Earth Day, Fun Day

Celebrate Earth Day in the park with activities for all ages. Recycling games and activities like trash toss, ring toss, and terrarium making will take place outside. Educational materials on the importance of recycling and where to recycle will be available inside. Bring plastic lids of all kinds to donate and learn how they will be used to make benches and tables for the Hancock County Fairgrounds. The story *Welcome April* will be read at 11 AM.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

22 Wednesday

Spring Scavenger Hunt

Hike the Lady Bug Loop Trail and complete a scavenger hunt in search of signs of spring, such as a spring flower, a singing bird, and a calling frog. After the scavenger hunt, create a flower craft and play on the lawn.

Blue Rock Nature Preserve

Edgar Avenue Parking Lot

10 AM

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

Free; registration is not required.

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

23 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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Great Karg Well Historical Site

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

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

23 Thursday

Planetarium: Nebulas

Learn about the wonders of nebulas. Discover how they are created, what they are made from, and how they can form new stars. Look at examples of nebulas in the planetarium. Participants are required to sit on the floor. Ask about accommodations.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Thursday, April 23.

Maximum: 25

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

24 Friday

Animals in Extreme Environments

From blazing deserts to freezing tundra, some animals can live in extremely harsh conditions. Learn about animals that live in the most inhospitable locations on Earth, such as emperor penguins, fennec foxes, and Pompeii worms. Make a miniature volcano with clay, baking soda, and vinegar and watch it erupt. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, April 24.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 20

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

25 Saturday

Spring Wildflower Hike

Spring is the perfect time for flowers to bloom in the forest, due to the warm weather and the lack of leaves on the trees. During this guided hike, search for spring wildflowers like trout lilies, mayapples, and spring beauties. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

11 AM

All ages are welcome.  
Free; registration is not required.  
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

26 Sunday

Spring Cleaning: Open House

Pioneers looked forward to spring because that is when plants started to grow in the garden and in the forest. Early plants like sorrel and ramps provided fresh food after the long winter season. Windows could finally be opened to let in a fresh breeze and air out curtains, coverlets, and other linens. Stop by the McKinnis House to learn about house cleaning in the 1800s.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumtschlag@hancockparks.com

28 Tuesday

Forest Explorers Hike

During this guided hike, look for wildflowers containing the colors pink, yellow, and orange. Roll over logs and look for inhabitants like salamanders, slugs, and centipedes. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

10 AM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumtschlag@hancockparks.com

29 Wednesday

Disc Golf

Disc golf involves throwing a disc at a target with rules similar to golf. Learn the rules of disc golf and practice by playing the front nine holes at Riverbend Recreation Area. Discs will be provided or bring your own. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Wednesday, April 29.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 15

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

30 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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Blanchard River Nature Preserve

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

30 Thursday

Whose Nest Is It Hike

Spring is here and it is time for nesting season. During this guided hike, look for different types of nests used by squirrels, woodpeckers, insects, and other animals. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking Lot by Shelter 3

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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