

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT MAY 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.**

3 Saturday

27th Annual Fish Festival

Young anglers can try their luck as the Hancock Park District hosts its 27th Annual Fish Festival. Trout stocking will take place prior to the event courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division. Fishing will be allowed by the bank only. Children must do the fishing, but limited adult assistance is permitted. All state fishing rules and regulations must be followed. Anglers are asked to take home the first five trout they catch. No catch and release permitted. Live bait will be for sale on site. The Fish Festival will be held rain or shine, except in the event of extreme weather conditions. Throughout the morning, registered participant names will be drawn for random prize drawings. Winners must be present to win. Sponsors of this year's Fish Festival are ODNR Division of Wildlife, WFIN/WKXA/106.3 The Fox, and Centennial Screen Printing and Engraving.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Lakefront Activity Center

8-11 AM

Ages 4-15 with an adult.

Free with registration starting at 7:30 AM at Lakefront Activity Center.

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

3 Saturday

Archery Instruction – Adult

Come out for an archery class led by a certified archery instructor. All necessary equipment and targets will be provided. You will have the opportunity to learn the basics of archery along with safety measures, while shooting arrows at several targets with a compound bow. How close to your target can you get? Sign-up and find out.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Dold Lake

10 AM

Ages 16 and up.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Friday, May 2.

Maximum: 10

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

3 Saturday

Recycling Fun

Recycling is fun. Activities will be held inside and outside the Discovery Center, including *Recycled Bowling* and *Trash Toss*. Participants can turn trash into something new, such as water bottle flowers, bubble blower, milk jug flowerpot, jeweled pencil holders or recycled animals.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

12:30-3:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required

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

4 Sunday

Recycling: Open House

Recycling is important. It is good for the environment. Hancock County 4-H kids will be at the Discovery Center this day to collect your plastic lids and bottle caps to make recycled benches and tables for the Hancock County Fairgrounds. There will be displays of different items to recycle and information about where to recycle them.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

5 Monday

Discovery Stories: Wildflowers

Discover why flowers are important to us and why animals need them for food. After a story, children can partake in activities such as *Bloom Matching* and *Parts of the Flower – What’s Missing?* Participants will also get to plant their own flower seed to take home with them.

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.

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

7 Wednesday

Plants that Eat Meat

Explore the world of carnivorous plants. We will talk about plants and what they need to survive, study live carnivorous plants and watch a Venus flytrap eat insects. There will be an opportunity to create your own paper Venus flytrap to take home.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 6-10 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

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

8 Thursday

Little Hands Nature Club: Fun on the Farm

Find out about life on a farm with hands-on activities, such as feeling sheep wool, a straw scavenger hunt, looking at duck, turkey and goose feathers, and gathering plastic eggs from our hen puppet. Pioneer toys will be available to play with. Adult companions must remain with children during this program.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

1 PM

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

Free; registration is not required.

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

8 Thursday

Birds for Homeschoolers

The parks are filled with birds as they journey on their spring migration. Learn about birds, their migration, and how to identify them. Afterward, practice your skills by observing birds at the bird feeders and go on a bird hike. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-2:30 PM

Ages 5-14.

Free; but register by 4 PM on Wednesday, May 7.

Minimum: 6/Maximum: 20

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

10 Saturday

Insects of Hancock County

Have fun learning about insect body parts by making insects out of pom-poms, pipe cleaners, and clothespins. Use a magnifying glass to inspect preserved specimens. We will hike the trails with sweep nets in search of live insects, such as painted lady butterflies, green darner dragonflies, and praying mantis.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

12 Monday

Wee Ones: Color in Nature

Learn about colors found in nature. A story will be read followed by a short hike in search of colors. Color wheels will be used. After the hike, we will return to the Discovery Center where participants can create a watercolor craft. Please wear clothes that can get stained.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

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

16 Friday

Insect Nature Hike

Insects are everywhere. During our .4-mile Meadow Hike, we will look for caterpillar frass, holes in leaves, wasp galls, and other signs left by insects. Monarch butterflies might be in search of milkweed. The trail can be wet this time of year, so wear shoes that can get muddy.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Parking Lot by Shelter 3

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

17 Saturday

Spring Migration Bird Hike

Many interesting and colorful birds pass through the area during their spring migration as they make their way to the breeding grounds in the north. During our bird hike, we will search for birds like Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Red-headed Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, and a wide range of warblers. As we find these birds, we will talk about their life history and how to identify them. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking Lot by Shelter 3

9-11 AM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

18 Sunday

Bone Broth: Open House

How did the pioneers get the broth to make soups, stews, and chicken and noodles? Sarah Fishel will be boiling down some chicken and beef bones to make a tasty soup and talking about this process. There will also be buttermilk biscuits cooking in the oven to go with the meal she is preparing for her family. Stop in for a visit and sample what's cooking.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

19 Monday

Nature Story Time: Hedgie's Surprise

*Hedgie's Surprise* by Jan Brett will be read in the Nature Play Area. It is a story about a chicken who needed to keep her eggs from being eaten by Tomten. The hen wants to hatch her eggs and have a new flock of babies, but she needs Hedgie's help to do it. There will be live baby chicks to see and a game to play. If there is inclement weather, this program will be held inside the Discovery Center.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

10 AM

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)

21 Wednesday

Outdoor Play

Enjoy a late spring evening with outdoor games like corn hole and ring toss. Parachute and bean-bag bugs, bubbles, and Velcro ball and disc set will also be available to play with. Make sandcastles or look for fossils using the sand toys that will be in the Playscape.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

6-8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

23 Friday

Sensory Path

Help your child work on their gross motor skills by having them do a sensory path. On our spring-themed sensory path you can buzz like a bee, hop like a frog, or fly like a bird. After completing the sensory path play in the nature playscape or go for a walk on the trails. If you cannot make it to the program time, don't worry, the sensory path will stay until the rain washes the chalk away.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

10 AM

Ages 3-5 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 Friday

Cultivating Gourmet Mushrooms

Growing gourmet mushrooms at home can be easy, but there are important steps that must be taken to ensure healthy growth. We will talk about sterilization, the best materials to grow mushrooms in, harvesting methods, and which mushrooms are best for edibility.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, May 23.

Minimum: 2/ Maximum: 15

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

27 Tuesday

Fishing on the Lake

Try your hand at catching fish in Giertz Lake. Learn about the basics of fishing, fishing gear, common sport fish species, and fish behavior. All skill levels are welcome. A fishing pole will be provided or bring your own. Corn will be available for bait or bring your own lucky lure! All participants who are 16 years of age or older will need a valid Ohio Fishing License.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Lakefront Activity Center

6:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Tuesday, May 27.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20

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

28 Wednesday

Little Hands Nature Club: Paint it, Naturally

Natural materials, including soil, crushed leaves, rocks, bark, and flowers will be used for pencils, crayons, and paint. Children will have an opportunity to create works of art. Please wear clothes that can get stained. Adult companions must remain with their children during this program.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

10 AM

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

Free; registration is not required.

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

29 Thursday

Nature Story Time: A Friend for Bear

Little Bear was hiking along a trail when he tripped over a stone, but it was not a stone, it was a tortoise. This is where the fun begins. After the story has been read, we will take a short hike to the lake. If there is inclement weather, this program will be held in the Discovery Center.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

10 AM

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

Free; registration is not required.

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

30 Friday

Archery Instruction – Youth

Come out for an archery class led by a certified archery instructor. All necessary equipment and targets will be provided. You will have the opportunity to learn the basics of archery along with safety measures, while shooting arrows at several targets with a compound bow. How close to your target can you get? Sign-up and find out.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Dold Lake

1 PM

Ages 9-15.

Register with \$10 per person by 4 PM on Thursday, May 29.

Maximum: 10

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

30 Friday

Amphibian Hike

As the temperature rises, cold-blooded animals, such as amphibians, are more likely to be seen and heard. We will hike the trails, look for animals, and listen for their calls. During the hike, we will look for the American toad and the northern green frog and roll over logs in search of the eastern red-backed salamander.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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