

**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. CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS ARE DROP OFF PROGRAMS UNLESS ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.**

**MAY**

1 Friday

Evening Bird Hike

Many interesting and colorful birds are passing through during spring migration on their way to the breeding grounds in the north. During this guided hike, search for birds like Swainson’s Thrush, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, ducks, shorebirds, and a wide range of colorful warblers. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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

2 Saturday

28th Annual Fish Festival

Young anglers can try their luck as the Hancock Park District hosts its 28th 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 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 prizes. Must be present to win. Sponsors 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; registration starting at 7:30 AM at Lakefront Activity Center.

Tim Kleman

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

3 Sunday

Art in the 1800s: Open House

Learn about art in the 1800s by viewing different forms of art from the period such as portraits, photographs, and paintings.

Participants can watch artists create art inside and outside the house, view a paint making demonstration, and make a sketch using artist charcoal.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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

4 Monday

Discovery Stories: *The Best Nest Ever*

Birds build nests of all shapes and sizes. *The Best Nest Ever* is a story about a little bird who is tired of the old nest and wants a new one. After the story, look around the Discovery Center at the nests on display, then build one to take home.

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.

Chris Allen

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

6 Wednesday

Mother's Day Flowerpot

Mothers love flowers. Decorate a clay flowerpot with jewels, plant a flower and it to give that special someone on Mother's Day. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Register with \$5 per person by 1 PM on Wednesday, May 6.

Minimum: 4/Maximum: 20

Chris Allen

callen@hancockparks.com

6 Wednesday

Archery Instruction – Youth

Aim, shoot, and score! Learn safety measures and the basics of archery from a Certified Archery Instructor while shooting arrows at targets with a compound bow. Archery equipment will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Dold Lake

6 PM

Ages 9-15.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Wednesday, May 6.

Maximum: 10

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

7 Thursday

Little Hands Nature Club: Bunny Bistro

Look at a rabbit skeleton, touch a rabbit fur, and find out what rabbits like to eat besides carrots. Activities include *Do the Bunny Hop*, *Pin the Cotton Tail on the Rabbit*, and a carrot matching game.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

1 PM

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

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

7 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.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking lot by Shelter 3

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

8 Friday

Trees & Mushrooms: An Unlikely Alliance

Under the ground is a vast network of connections that help keep the forest healthy. Learn about the fascinating relationships that some mushrooms have with trees and how they benefit each other. Hike the trails looking for mushrooms, including turkey tails, dryad's saddle, and yellow morels.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, May 8.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 20

Maclain Teeple

mteeples@hancockparks.com

9 Saturday

Spring Migration Bird Hike

Many interesting and colorful birds are passing through during spring migration on their way to the breeding grounds in the north. During this guided hike, search for birds like Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Red-eyed Vireo, and a wide range of colorful warblers. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

9 AM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

11 Monday

Wee Ones: A Bird's Journey

Birds take amazing trips every year. Look at displays of birds that migrate north for the spring, play *Migration Hopscotch*, and create a pinecone bird feeder for your yard.

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.

Maclain Teeple

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13 Wednesday

Tadpole Tamers

Use nets to catch and study tadpoles that live in Goose Lake. Tadpoles and other aquatic animals will be put in plastic containers and then released after taking a closer look. Wear closed-toed shoes and clothing that can get wet.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

10 AM

Ages 5-10 with an adult.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

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13 Wednesday

Land Fowl

The Galliformes are a group of birds who spend most of the time on the ground and are known commonly as land fowl. Learn about these amazing birds like chickens, pheasants, and turkeys through pictures and displays. Make a chicken out of paper plates and construction paper. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Wednesday, May 13.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 20

Maclain Teeple

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14 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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Eastpoint Area

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

15 Friday

Wetland Night Hike

Explore the trails in a 29.4-acre restored wetland along the Blanchard River. Observe the stars in the night sky and search for wetland animals that have returned to the area like frogs, rails, owls, bats, and raccoons. After the hike, look at moths and other nocturnal wetland insects at a light trap. The trail may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Bright Conservation Area

9 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

16 Saturday

National Love a Tree Day Hike

Trees are a vital part of nature. During this guided hike, look for the largest tree, find the state tree of Ohio, and observe wildlife.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

10 AM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen

callen@hancockparks.com

16 Saturday

My Astrophotography Set-up

Troy Willoughby from the Millstream Astronomy Club will present a program titled *My Astrophotography Set-up*. See how to build a backyard observatory and equip it with telescopes, computers, and other accessories. After the program, 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

18 Monday

### Life Underground for Homeschoolers

Learn about animals living underground. View worms up close, try worm calling, and go on a hike to search for underground creatures by looking for burrows and flipping logs. This is a drop-off program.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

1-2:30 PM

Ages 5-14.

Free; but register by 4 PM on Friday, May 15.

Minimum: 6/Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

### 20 Wednesday

Drop Spindle Workshop

Learn the basics of spinning wool, from the history of spinning to the process of taking fleece from a sheep and turning it into usable yarn. Participants will use a simple drop spindle to create a small section of yarn.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Activity Barn

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Register with \$5 per person by 4 PM on Monday, May 18.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

### 21 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

### 21 Thursday

Tie-Dye

Try the amazing art of tie-dyeing. Repurpose an old, white T-shirt and turn it into something new. Participants must bring their own T-shirt. Dyes will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Register with \$3 per person by 1 PM on Thursday, May 21.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 25

Maclain Teeple

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### 26 Tuesday

Bug Hike

During this guided hike, search for cool insects and buggy creatures like butterflies, ants, beetles, spiders, and rollie pollies, use nets to collect bugs, and take a close-up look.

Riverbend Recreation Area

The Meadows Activity Area

Shelter 6

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

27 Wednesday

End of School Cookout

Celebrate the start of summer vacation with a cookout. Enjoy hot dogs roasted over the fire, chips, veggies, s'mores, and lemonade, and play cornhole and ladder ball. Bring your own chair.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Activity Barn Patio

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Register with \$5 per person by 9 AM on Wednesday, May 27.

Minimum: 4/ Maximum: 30

Michelle Rumschlag

mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

28 Thursday

Plein Air Gatherings

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HPD Administrative Office

2-4 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

28 Thursday

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 about 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 age 16 years 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 Thursday, May 28.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman

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29 Friday

Choose Your Own Space Adventure

Travel through space and choose your own adventure. Roll the dice with your crewmates to decide what path your spaceship will take and then go into the planetarium to see the different destinations. Make wise choices since supplies will be limited on the journey.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, May 29.

Minimum: 2/Maximum: 25  
Maclain Teeple  
mteeple@hancockparks.com

30 Saturday

Simple Sewing

Learning to sew is fun and easy. Make a 4-patch hot pad while using a simple straight stitch. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1 PM

Ages 8-18.

Register with \$5 per person by 1 PM on Friday, May 29.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20

Chris Allen

callen@hancockparks.com

31 Sunday

Freshwater Mussels: Open House

One of the most important creatures for a healthy river system are freshwater mussels. Learn about these living water filters, the species that can be found in the area, and how to protect these vulnerable animals. Play a board game called *Mighty Mussels Journey Through the Watershed*, participate in a mussel fact scavenger hunt, and complete activity and coloring pages.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman

tkleman@hancockparks.com

31 Sunday

Full Blue Moon Hike

A blue moon happens when two full moons come out within the same calendar month. The next one won't occur until December 2028, so don't miss the chance to walk the trails under the light of the blue moon.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

9 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag

mrumschlag@hancockparks.com