

**HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 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.**

2 Tuesday

Little Hands Nature Club: Caterpillar Crawl

Get your creepy crawly on as the young of insects are highlighted. Children will be able to play in the caterpillar crawl tunnel and ball pit and partake in activities such as “Counting Caterpillar Body Segments,” “Are you my mother?” and make a craft out of pom-poms and popsicle sticks.

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

3 Wednesday

Teddy Bear Picnic

Pack a picnic lunch, your teddy bear and come out to the park for some fun in the sun. Games will include “Pass the teddy bear”, “Stick a heart on the bear”, “Toss the bees in the honeypot” and the “Gummy bear race”. Honey cookies will be shared for dessert.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

11 AM-12:30 PM

Grandparents with grandchildren.

Free; registration is not required.

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

3 Wednesday

Pokeberry Ink

Pokeberry is a tall plant with purple berries that was used to create ink during the 1800’s. Learn how to identify pokeberry, its uses, and how different plants were used to create ink. Make ink from berries collected on the trail and use a feather quill to write or draw a picture. Ink making is a messy process. Wear clothing that can get stained.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

6 PM

Ages 8 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

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

4 Thursday

Pollinator Hike

Many plants cannot reproduce without the help of an animal to spread their pollen. On a guided hike, search for different types of pollinators that live in the prairie on the south side of Litzenberg like bees, butterflies, wasps, and beetles. Learn about the different pollinators and about the different strategies plants will use to attract them.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

South Parking Lot

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

5 Friday

Creating Comic Books

Pow! Comic books are not just fun to read; they are also fun to make. Create your own superhero comic book with paper, string, and drawings. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 6-14 with an adult.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, September 5. Adults do not need to register.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 15

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

6 Saturday

Archery Instruction Workshop – 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

10 AM

Ages 9-15.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Friday, September 5.

Maximum: 10

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

8 Monday

Wee Ones: Toadstool Town

Toadstool Town is a tiny town not seen by most. Some magic in nature happens underground. While other things in nature are sleeping, fungus is not one of them. The story “Toadstool Town” will be read and there will be a mushroom town coloring page.

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.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

9 Tuesday

Orienteering

Orienteering is a sport of navigation where the goal is to use a map and compass to locate control points that are scattered throughout an area. Orienteering can be done as a competitive race or an activity to explore a new area. Learn about the basics of orienteering such as how to use a compass and read a map. Work as a team to complete a standard type of course to find control points throughout the park.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

6:30 PM

Ages 12 and up.

Free; but register by 4 PM on Monday, September 8.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 16

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

10 Wednesday

Fall Exploration for Homeschoolers

Fall is approaching and forests are about to change with the season. Explore the park as leaves begin to turn different colors and animals look for more food. Lift logs as well to see what is happening in the ground. This is a drop-off program.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Mariann Dana Younger Memorial Pavilion

1-2:30 PM

Ages 5-14.

Free; but register by 4 PM on Tuesday, September 9.

Minimum: 6/Maximum: 20

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

10 Wednesday

Sunset at Dold Lake

Bring along a chair as we watch the sunset over Dold Lake. A survey will be taken of what local animals like American Robins and other songbirds are doing as the sunlight starts to creep to the horizon. As the Sun sets, there's a good chance that we'll see the planet Mars and the Moon, 3-days after it being full. Listen for crickets and other evening singing insects.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Dold Lake

7 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

11 Thursday

I Spy Nature Hike

Nature is all around, and fall is coming. Look at the trees, their leaves may be starting to change. Spiders, cocoons, galls, and salamanders may be spied under a leaf or log on the ground. The Lady Bug Trail around Blue Rock is a .3-mile walking trail and is quite easy for strollers and walkers.

Blue Rock Nature Preserve

Edgar Avenue Parking Lot

1 PM

All ages welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

12 Friday

Why Grow Native Plants?

Native plants are ones that have grown in an area prior to European settlers. Discover why these plants are important for our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy. Hike the trails looking for examples of beneficial native plants found in Hancock County including common milkweed.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Shelter

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

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

13 Saturday

Native Plant Sale

One of the best ways to help wildlife at home is landscaping with native plants. Local vendors will be selling native plants on the Discovery Center Porch until supplies last. Inside, learn about native plants and wildlife. At 9:30 AM, there will be a presentation on what to plant at home to attract different groups of wildlife like butterflies, bees, and birds. At 11 AM, go on a guided hike to learn about native plants in the parks and gain inspiration on how to mirror nature at home.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

9 AM-12 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

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

14 Sunday

Tools of the Harvest

Fall is quickly approaching, and it is time to prepare for the harvest on the McKinnis Farm. At the workshop, learn about the different tools used in harvesting crops and about the types of crops that the McKinnis family planted. In the house, stop by to try a sweet apple treat.

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)

15 Monday

Discovery Stories: Raccoons

Raccoons are resourceful animals; they can find food anywhere! Learn about this amazing scavenger through a fun storybook. Children will also look at raccoon furs, bones, and make a raccoon mask craft.

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.

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

16 Tuesday

Nature Story Time: Frog in the Bog

*"Frog in the Bog"* by Karma Wilson will be read in the Nature Play Area. This is a story about a frog and what he likes to eat as he grows. Search for and count the different bugs he has eaten: one tick, two fleas, and three flies. 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)

16 Tuesday

Leatherworking

Humans have been making objects out of leather for thousands of years. Learn the historical practice of leatherworking and how pioneers would have used it. Make your own keychain out of a leather strip. All supplies will be provided.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Register with \$5 by 1 PM on Tuesday, September 16.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 15

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

18 Thursday

Fall Craft Workshop

Here's a chance to create fall-themed décor. Participants will make fall colored glitter slime, a tissue paper leaf-shaped suncatcher, decorate miniature foam pumpkins and squash and create a scarecrow head out of popsicle sticks.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6:30 PM

All ages are welcome.

Register with \$5 per set of crafts by 9 AM on Thursday, September 18.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20

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

20 Saturday

Fall Bird Hike

On a guided bird hike, search for birds passing through the area on their fall migration. Look for birds like warblers, vireos, thrushes, sparrows, hawks, and other fall migrants. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Parking lot by Shelter 3

9 AM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

21 Sunday

Fall Celebration: Open House

Celebrate the beginning of fall. While it's Fall Equinox Eve, as autumn starts officially at 2:19pm the next day, learn what's happening with the ending of summer and the starting of fall. Why do deciduous leaves turn the color they do, and which animals have already left to fly south. Visitors will be able to make a leaf glitter craft.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumtschlag@hancockparks.com

26 Friday

Hike the Southland Trail

The section of Litzenberg south of U.S. Route 224 is seldom visited but it contains miles of trails and vast areas of natural habitats. Hike a mile and a half section of the Southland Trail traveling through riparian forest, prairie, and wetland habitats. Learn about the history of the area and about the plants and animals that may be encountered on the trail. Participants must cross through a small seasonal stream by walking over steppingstones in the water. Trails may be wet and muddy, so wear the appropriate shoes.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Southside Parking Lot

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

28 Sunday

Searching for Signs of Mastodons

Mastodons became extinct in Ohio around ten thousand years ago, but evidence of them can still be found in the parks by looking at plants. Learn about ecological anachronism and the types of animals that lived in Ohio during the last ice age. On a hike, search for plants that have adapted to live along Ohio's lost megafauna like mastodons and ground sloths.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

Gatehouse

2 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

29 Monday

Archery Instruction - Adult

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 16 and up.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Monday, September 29.

Maximum: 10

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com