

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 2023 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.

SELF-GUIDED FALL FLOAT TRIPS

Self-guided fall float trips on the Blanchard River Water Trail are available on select Saturdays and Sundays from mid-October to early-November. Float trips begin and end at Zonta Landing at Riverside Park Waterfront. Canoeists and kayakers can enjoy the late summer green and early autumn brilliance along the Blanchard River as they paddle upstream past the Country Club's golf course, Eastpoint Area, and Vogelsong Conservation Area to the State Route 568/Sandusky Street Bridge and back. The trip takes approximately 2 hours.

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| When: | Saturdays: October 14, 21 & 28 and November 4; Sundays: October 15, 22 & 29 and November 5 starting at 1:00 PM. Trips will be cancelled in the event of flooding, rain, thunder and lightning, and strong wind. |
| Where: | Meet at Zonta Landing at Riverside Park Waterfront. |
| Who: | Adults and youth who are 16 or 17 years old (youth under the age of 16 are welcome to participate but must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older). |
| Prerequisite: | Participants must have the ability to swim. |
| Watercraft: | Watercraft availability includes tandem canoes and solo kayaks. Specify watercraft preference when registering. The weight limit for a solo kayak is 275 pounds. |
| Enrollment: | Maximum: 12 (maximum of two participants per canoe). |
| Registration: | Register online at www.hancockparks.com by 1 PM on the Friday prior to the trip. |
| Fee: | \$10.00 per person with a signed Assumption of Risk/Liability Release/Waiver of all Claims form and/or a Parental Consent form if applicable. Forms will be available at Zonta Landing prior to the trip. |
| Supplies: | Wear tennis shoes that can get wet. Dress and plan accordingly for the weather. Wool, fleece, and fast drying clothes are recommended in autumn when air and water temperatures are cold. Alcohol is not permitted. Canoes, kayaks, personal floatation devices, and paddles will be provided. |

3 Sunday

Fungus Hike

Join HPD's program intern, Katlyn Kendall to see how many types of fungus you can find at Oakwoods. As you hike, you'll be learning about how and where these fungi can grow.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

1 PM

Ages 10-12.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, September 1.

Maximum: 15

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@ Hancockparks.com

5 Tuesday

Pollinators in the Park

This time of year, our grasslands are filled with wildflowers. With all these flowers in bloom our grasslands are also filled with pollinators. Come along as we search for butterflies, bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and other creatures that are busy pollinating flowers. Learn about our pollinators, how flowers have adapted to attract certain pollinators, and why they are so active this time of year.

Litzenberg Memorial Woods

South Parking Lot

6 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@ Hancockparks.com

6 Wednesday

Wetland Adventures for Homeschoolers

Come along as we explore the wetland habitat. We will learn about what is a wetland, why they are important, and what types of cool plants and animals call the wetland home. We will then go out on a hike to explore the wetlands and search for wildlife. If there

is enough water, we will also stop at one of the wetland pools to discover what types of creatures are living in the water using nets. Long pants and shoes that you don't mind getting muddy and wet are recommended.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

9:30-11:30 AM

Ages 5-14.

Min: 6/Max: 60

Free; but register by 1 PM on Tuesday, September 5.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

6 Wednesday

Cicadas: Land and Sky

As the summer is coming to its end, the warm night air is filled with the buzzing of insects. The source of these rhythmic calls are insects known as cicadas. This program plans to educate participants on the life cycles of cicadas, how they are able to create incredibly loud calls with their bodies and learn of the various cicada species one might find in Hancock County.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

8 Friday

Yellow Leaves Hike

As summer is fading into fall, so fades the colors of the leaves and the first ones to show their color are the yellow ones. We'll see how many shades of yellow we can find as we hike along the Blanchard River.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

10 AM

Ages 3-5 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

8 Friday

Bats of Oakwoods

As fall approaches, the bats in the park are preparing for their migration. On our night hike learn about the bats of Ohio, the different types of sounds they make, and their migration. As we hike the trails, we will use our bat detection equipment to listen for and identify the different species of bats that are flying in the park tonight.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

8 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

9 Saturday

Archery Open Shoot

Have you taken one of the Hancock Park District's introductory archery courses? If so, and if you want more archery practice, then here's your chance. A certified archery instructor will supervise the archery practice session. All necessary equipment and targets will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Dold Lake

10 AM

Ages 9 and up.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Friday, September 8.

Maximum: 10
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

9 Saturday

Creative Clouds

Looking up at the clouds can create imaginative landscapes full of wonder. This program will teach kids about the different types of clouds, and we will read a story called *Cloud Babies*. Finally, we use our own imaginations as we look at the clouds and create our own shapes.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

10 AM

Ages 5-8.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple

mteeple@hancockparks.com

10 Sunday

Raptor Migration: Open House

As the air begins to cool and summer is about to end our local raptors are taking advantage of the last of the warm air currents to migrate south for the winter. Come and learn all about the migration and life histories of Ohio's hawks, falcons, eagles, vultures, and other birds of prey. View mounts and displays of Ohio raptors, hear the calls that they make, and learn where and how to best watch for migrating raptors. Kids can complete a fun raptor scavenger hunt and a coloring page of their favorite raptor.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

1-4 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

11 Monday

Discovery Stories: Animal Tracks

While on a hike, you might see various footprints along the trail. For this story time, we will learn about the different animal tracks one might find and how they are made. Children will then learn how to cast animal tracks with Plaster of Paris and make their own tracks in the sand.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

10 AM

Ages 3-5 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

12 Tuesday

Mindful Moments: Bunny Breaths

It is time to get those little ones outside and move while sharing the book, "Bunny Breaths". Bunny is hungry; can you sniff the air and find her something to eat? Take a long breath in and let it all out. Now it is time to get moving and do some animal poses.

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

13 Wednesday

Planetarium: The Zodiac Constellations

There are 12 constellations grouped into what are known as the Zodiac Constellations. In ancient civilizations, the path of the sun through these constellations was used to determine what time of the year it was. In our indoor portable planetarium, learn about the historical significance of the Zodiac Constellations, the various constellations that belong to this group, and fun facts along with common misconceptions about them. Afterwards we will look at what else can be observed in the night skies of September.

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

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

All ages are welcome.

6:30 PM

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

Maximum: 25

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

14 Thursday

Active Adults: Wetlands Hike

There will be a leisurely hike for those ages 50 and up along the wetland trails to see what is living or visiting the wetlands. There's a good chance of seeing dragonflies, Mallards, Great Blue Herons and Wood Frogs and so much more.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center Porch

10 AM

Ages 50 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

14 Thursday

Chytrids and Amphibians

In various parts of the world, amphibian populations are in danger due to the disease known as chytridiomycosis. *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) are causing devastating population losses of amphibians worldwide. Public will be informed about the growing issue of disease in amphibian populations and what can be done to prevent spread of disease to Hancock County.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6 PM

Ages 13 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

15 Friday

Fall Migrants Bird Hike

Even though Fall is still a week away many birds have already started on their fall migration heading south for the winter. Come along as we search the forest and wetlands looking for fall migrants like warblers, hawks, shorebirds, and ducks. As we hike, learn about why and how birds migrate, learn about the birds we find, and learn how to identify birds and build your birding skills.

Binoculars will be provided or bring your own.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Discovery Center

6-7:30 PM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

16 Saturday

Mother Nature Story Time: A Rock Can Be?

It is time to take your place on the story log and get ready to enjoy a fun story about rocks with Mother Nature outside under the bright blue sky in the Nature Play Area. The birds will be singing their song and the leaves will be starting to change. There will be rocks to look at, feel and one to keep and enjoy after the story.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve

Nature Play Area

2 PM

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

Free; registration is not required.

Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

16 Saturday

Photography Hike

If you have a passion for photography or if you want to learn, come along on a hike with fellow photographers to capture the beauty of our parks through the lens of the camera. We will hike the trails taking photos of scenery, wildlife, plants, and anything else that would make an interesting subject. All skill levels and camera types are welcome.

Aeraland Recreation Area

Shelter

9-11 AM

Ages 16 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

17 Sunday

Nature Journaling for Novices

Don't know how to write about nature or feel like you can't draw what you see in the woods? Basic instruction will be given on how to start to nature journal. Each participant will receive their own pocket notebook and set of 36 colored pencils.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Oxbow Activity Area

Shelter 5

3 PM

Ages 18 and up.

Register with \$12 per person by 1 PM on Friday, September 15.

Maximum: 10

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

19 Tuesday

Archery Instruction – Teens

Come out for an archery class led by a certified archery instructor. All necessary equipment and targets will be provided. You'll 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

6 PM

Ages 13-17.

Register with \$10 per person by 1 PM on Tuesday, September 19.

Maximum: 10

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

21 Thursday

Pawpaw Hike

Today is National Pawpaw Day! Come and learn all about Ohio's state fruit tree. We will first go out to the Pawpaw grove to learn about the trees, look for some fruits, and learn about their importance. Then we will explore the rest of the park by hiking along the quiet walkway to look for other wildlife that live in the park.

Blanchard River Nature Preserve

6 PM

All ages are welcome.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Thursday, September 21.

Maximum: 12

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

25 Monday

Wee Ones: Ducks

Children will partake in duck related activities including “Walks Like a Duck” and “Quack, Quack, Are You My Mother?” We will walk down along the bank of the Blanchard River to look for Mallards and any other duck species.

Riverside Park Waterfront

Waterfalls Pavilion

10 AM

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

Free; registration is not required.

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

25 Monday

Family Fishing

Today is National Hunting and Fishing Day. To celebrate, come out to the park and go fishing as a family. Learn about the basics of fishing as we try to catch some fish that live in Giertz Lake. All skill levels are welcome. A fishing pole will be provided or bring your own. We will have corn and hotdogs 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

6-7 PM

Families with children ages 5 and up.

Free; but register by 1 PM on Monday, September 25.

Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

26 Tuesday

Kayaking for Active Adults

The Blanchard River is lovely in the afternoon of the fall season. See for yourself during a leisurely kayak trip that begins and ends at Zonta Landing. There will be a brief talk about boating safety and how to maneuver the kayak followed by a scenic float trip.

Beginner and experienced kayakers are welcome to participate. Bring a friend or family member and meet other participants who share your interest in nature. If you are new to kayaking, then it is never too late to start. If you are an experienced kayaker, then this is another opportunity to engage in outdoor recreation. Life jackets are provided, but you may want to bring along sunscreen, bug spray, and your own water bottle and snack if needed.

Zonta Landing at Riverside Park Waterfront

1-3 PM

Ages 50 and up.

Register with \$10 by 1 PM on Monday, September 25

Maximum: 8

Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

26 Tuesday

River Hike

Today is World Rivers Day and we are lucky to have the Blanchard River flowing across our county. Come celebrate the day with a round trip hike along the Blanchard from Centennial Park to Riverside Park. As we hike, learn about the importance of the Blanchard, its history, and look for cool wildlife that live in and along the river.

Centennial Park

6-7 PM

Families with children ages 4 and up.

Free; registration is not required.

Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

28 Thursday

Fall BioBlitz

Hiking can be much more than just walking in the woods. Find out what is living in the park with a Fall BioBlitz. Participants will engage in a hike that will include identifying various plant, fungi, and animal species. We will use a multitude of identifying tools

such as field guides and current mobile apps such as Seek and iNaturalist. Join us for a hike enjoying the outdoors and learning more about the many inhabitants of it.

Riverbend Recreation Area

Big Oaks Activity Area

Shelter 3

6 PM

Ages 18 and up.

Free; but register by 5 PM on Thursday, September 28.

Maximum: 20

Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com