

# Phogphams & Activities

1. Registration is required for ALL activities: [miOttawa.org/OCPEvents](http://miOttawa.org/OCPEvents)
2. Participants should respectfully maintain proper social distancing protocols
3. Participants will be encouraged to wear masks



## EQUINOX EXPEDITION

Celebrate the Vernal Equinox by joining this expedition to find signs of spring along the Pigeon River.

Mar 21 3-4 pm Hemlock Crossing

## EARTH ENCOUNTERS

These programs will introduce participants to the geologic features of, and stories behind, the landscapes of our region.

Mar 27 3-4:30 pm Amazing Agates Hemlock Crossing  
May 16 3-4:30 pm Rock Walk Hemlock Crossing

## WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER: WOODPECKER WALK

Find out the hows, whys, and whos of the areas seven woodpecker species while on a walk to observe as many as we can find!

Apr 10 3-4:30 pm Upper Macatawa Natural Area

## WILDFLOWER WALK

Woodland flowers, called spring ephemerals, bloom before the trees leaf out. Join a parks naturalist to look for these spring beauties blooming in our parks.

Apr 11 2-3 pm Grose Park  
Apr 18 2-3 pm Grand Ravines North  
Apr 24 10-11 am Hager Park  
May 2 2-3 pm Grose Park  
May 8 10-11 am Rosy Mound Natural Area  
May 15 2-3 pm Historic Ottawa Beach Parks  
May 16 2-3 pm Grand Ravines North

## WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Learn how to identify spring wildflowers using the Newcomb's Wildflower guide.

Apr 17 10 am-12 pm Grand Ravines North  
Jun 12 10 am-12 pm Hemlock Crossing

## EAGLES OF GRAND RAVINES WALK

Bald Eagles frequent areas along the Grand River and have nested at Grand Ravines for a number of years. Join us on this hike to learn the story of the park's resident eagles and view their nesting activities.

Apr 25 Walks begin every hour: Grand Ravines North  
1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm  
May 9 Walks begin every hour: Grand Ravines North  
1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm, 4 pm

## LET'S GO... KAYAKING!

\$5/person; ages 10+

Have you ever gone kayaking? If not, this program is for you! Participants will receive basic kayaking instruction and have the chance to paddle on a calm pond. Kayaks and life jackets will be provided.

May 22 10-11 am Hawthorn Pond Natural Area  
May 22 11:30 am-12:30 pm Hawthorn Pond Natural Area  
May 22 1:30-2:30 pm Hawthorn Pond Natural Area

## KAYAKING TRIP

\$8/person; ages 13+  
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Pigeon River by kayak as you paddle through the park with a guide. Each trip includes a basic kayaking lesson; no previous experience necessary.

May 23 9:30 am-1:30 pm Hemlock Crossing  
May 29 9:30 am-1:30 pm Hemlock Crossing

## GO EXPLORE!

Explore the natural and cultural history of these special parks as well as how past, current, and future projects are actively enhancing both their natural and recreational value.

Jun 5 2-3:30 pm Upper Macatawa Natural Area  
Jun 13 2-3:30 pm Historic Ottawa Beach Parks

## FROM SAND TO FOREST: MICHIGAN'S DUNES

Freshwater sand dunes are unique landscape features to West Michigan. Walk these trails and discover what makes Rosy Mound and other lakeshore parks so special!

Jun 12 10-11:30 am Rosy Mound Natural Area

## In the parks... after dark

### TWILIGHT NIGHT HIKE

\$5/person; ages 10+  
As light of day turns to dark of night, wildlife springs to life! Come experience your favorite parks in a whole new way as you explore them by the light of fading day!

Mar 27 8-9:30 pm Paw Paw Park East  
Apr 23 8:30-10 pm Crocker Creek Natural Area

### WOODCOCK WALK

\$5/person; ages 12+  
Join us for a short presentation followed by watching the sun set to the twitter of displaying birds.

Apr 3 7:30-9 pm Hemlock Crossing Park  
Apr 9 7:30-9 pm Grand River Park

### FROG CALL CHORUS

\$5/person; ages 10+  
In spring, as light of day turns to dark of night, wildlife springs to life! Come experience your favorite parks in a whole new way as you explore them by the light of fading day! Bring a flashlight and good walking shoes.

May 7 8:30-10 pm Grand River Park

### WHISTLE OF THE WHIP-POOR-WILL

\$5/person; ages 12+  
Introduce yourselves to this summer whistler of the woods! A short outdoor presentation will be followed by a walk in attempt to experience this bird first-hand.

Jun 11 9-11 pm Pigeon Creek Park  
Jun 12 9-11 pm Pigeon Creek Park

## GET TO KNOW YOUR GREENWAYS!



The Idema Explorers Trail connects parks along the Grand River Greenway.



The Macatawa River Greenway connects parks along the Macatawa River.

## Kids & Family

### LOUITT DISTRICT LIBRARY STORYWALK®

As you explore the meadow and wetlands, read *Mud* and celebrate winter turning to spring! Pages from this children's book will be posted on signs along the trail for your family to read together.

*StoryWalk® series created by Louitt & Spring Lake District Libraries, Ottawa County Parks, Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Village of Spring Lake, and City of Grand Haven; made possible through the generosity of Carol Alexander & Kevin Carberry.*

Mar 15-21 Hemlock Crossing Park

### WILDLIFE ENCOUNTER - FOR KIDS!

Ages 5-12, with a caregiver  
Learn about wildlife found in your yards and parks. Each program includes a guided walk and outdoor craft.

Apr 25 3-4:30 pm Frogs and Toads Hemlock Crossing Park  
May 23 3-4:30 pm Wood Ducks Hemlock Crossing Park  
Jun 13 3-4:30 pm Hognose Snakes Hemlock Crossing Park

### TWILIGHT HIKE

\$5/person; ages 5+  
As day turns to night, wildlife springs to life! We'll listen to frog calls, search for nocturnal creatures in the moonlight, and set up a light trap to view insects. Afterward we'll relax around a campfire.

May 21 8:30-10 pm Pigeon Creek Park

## Birding

### BIRDING WALKS

Whether you are an avid birder or desire to experience birds beyond your backyard, join us for a birding walk! Bird walks for beginners will introduce you to binocular use, bird identification and field guides and, to common birds in our parks! Binoculars and field guides provided.

Apr 7 8-10 am Pine Bend Park

Apr 11 2-3:30 pm Grand Ravines N for beginners

Apr 14 8-10 am Crocker Creek Natural Area

Apr 21 8-10 am Paw Paw Park East

Apr 24 10-11:30 am Hemlock Crossing for beginners

Apr 28 8-10 am Ottawa Sands

May 2 2-3:30 pm Grand Ravines N for beginners

May 5 8-10 am Upper Macatawa Natural Area

May 12 8-10 am Historic Ottawa Beach Parks

May 14 7 am-4 pm Big Day Birding Field Trip\*

May 15 10-11:30 am Hemlock Crossing for beginners

May 19 8-10 am Stearns Creek

May 22 7 am-5 pm Greenway Birding Blitz\*

May 26 8-10 am Grand River Park

Jun 2 8-10 am Connor Bayou



Ottawa County Parks Foundation Community Engagement Programs  
Did you know the Parks Foundation expanded their support to include nature education? Look for the monarch for activities supported by the Parks Foundation.  
Learn more on page 2



## From Home!

### ASTRONOMY

Ages 12+  
These online presentations are hosted by the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association. A link to the presentation will be sent to registered participants.

Apr 10 7-8 pm James Webb Space Telescope  
May 8 7-8 pm Summer Night Sky  
Jun 12 7-8 pm Mars Perseverance Rover

## Online registration: miOttawa.org/OCPEvents

Contact Nature Center staff with questions: (616) 786-4847 | [naturecenter@miottawa.org](mailto:naturecenter@miottawa.org)  
Visit our online learning page for more videos and programs: [miOttawa.org/naturetoyou](http://miOttawa.org/naturetoyou)

### LAKESHORE BIRDING

Join us for a stationary lake watch looking for migratory waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds or a hike through dunes in search of migratory sparrows, warblers, and more.

May 8 8-9:30 am North Beach Park  
May 8 10 am-12 pm North Beach Park

### BIG DAY BIRDING FIELD TRIP

\$20/session; ages 10+  
How many bird species can we find in Ottawa County in one day? Several county parks, as well as other locations, will be searched for waterbirds, raptors, songbirds and more!

May 14 7 am-4 pm Hemlock Crossing

### GREENWAY BIRDING BLITZ!

Celebrate the migration by birding along the Pigeon River Greenway! Join us at one or more locations through the day.

May 22 7-9 am Olive Shores  
May 22 9:30-11 am Pine Bend Park  
May 22 12-2 pm Hemlock Crossing  
May 22 3-5 pm Pigeon Creek Park



[miOttawa.org/Parks](http://miOttawa.org/Parks)