

Page 3 Summer Day

Mark your Calendars now for our summer youth program series in the Metro Parks.

Page 9 2023 CPIGP

The Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program (CPIGP) continues to make an impact on village and city parks in Allen County.

Page 11 Certified Naturalist

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Training Program will be hosted this summer by the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

Director

Tyler Black

Board of Commissioners

Robert K. Antibus

Kevin P. Bruin

Donna M Creamer

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Director's Corner



Tyler Black - Director

The Year Ahead

I continue to be amazed by the support and dedication of park users throughout Allen County. It turns out that the Park District ended up reaching **two** big milestones in 2022! First, we had our 50th anniversary, a clear testament to the dedication we have in making our community better and the support we have gained over the years. Second, due to that support and dedication we were able to reach **over 1,000,000 visits to the parks in 2022!** When I first saw that number, it honestly didn't register, then I realized how many zeros were truly there!

The Spring is always a time to look forward to new life and new growth. That remains true this Spring for the Park District. We are focused on bringing bigger and better for 2023, better programs, bigger projects, and ultimately more positive impact on our community. We have focused on areas that will fulfill our strategic plan while still engaging you every step of the way. We are working our way through our fluid project list for 2023, which includes the following:

- Heritage Park – Lion's Den – new flush restroom
- Ottawa Metro Park – remodel of the shower house at the campground
- Ottawa Metro Park – new flush restroom near the Wyandot shelter and All Abilities Playground
- Ottawa Metro Park – ADA kayak launch for Lima Lake
- Continued shelter renovations at Heritage Park – West End and McLean Teddy Bear Park
- New front signs at Park Headquarters and McElroy Environmental Education Center

We are excited about the prospect of these projects becoming reality this year, making the parks you use on a daily, weekly, or even monthly basis more accessible and user friendly!

As always, your feedback and input are welcomed!

Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director

2023 Metro Park Adventures Summer Day Camps



Mark your calendars now for our summer youth program series in the Metro Parks. More details will be available soon. Registration begins online May 9 at jampd.com.

METROPARK TRAILBLAZERS (ages 5-6)

Three Cheers for Trees

June 20-21 (T-W) – 10 am-1 pm

McLean Teddy Bear Park

Every Day is Earth Day

July 11-12 (T-W) – 10 am-1 pm

McLean Teddy Bear Park

METROPARK DISCOVERERS (ages 7-9)

Rhodesology: Outdoor Explorers – Grades 2-4

June 12-16 (M-F) – 8 am-12 pm
or 12-4:30pm

Register at Rhodes State College youth programs online

Nature Quest!

July 19-21 (W-F) – 10 am-2 pm

McElroy Environmental Education Center

METROPARK EXPLORERS (ages 10-14)

Archery

June 27-28 (T-W) - 10 am - 2 pm OR

June 29-30 (R-F) – 10 am -2 pm

Allen County Farm Park

Kayaking

Aug 8-9 (T-W) - 10 am–2 pm OR

Aug 10-11 (R-F) - 10 am-2 pm

Ottawa Metro Park



Save The Wildflowers



Help us save our beautiful spring wildflowers from garlic mustard and dame's rocket, invasive weeds from Europe. Most of the pulls will be at Kendrick Woods and Hermon Woodlands. Other park locations may be added. Pulling will take place every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings starting on Wednesday April 12th through May 31st from 9 am to 12 pm. Work takes place off trail, so bring mud boots. If you would like to help, please contact Anne Smedley at Asmedley@jampd.com or call 419-221-1232. If you have any sturdy woven plastic bags to put the pulled mustard in, please bring them along or donate at the park office. There will be a training session on April 5th at 6 p.m. at the park office in the conference room at 1682 Slabtown Road for anyone new to garlic mustard pulling. Registration is required. Please RSVP at 419-221-1232.

Summer Seasonal Help Needed!



The Park District is seeking qualified applicants to fill openings in the following seasonal positions:

Seasonal Natural Resource Technician

- Knowledge of natural resources.
- Good work ethic, self motivated and arrives at work on time.
- Working toward a high school diploma AND/OR a college degree is natural resource and related field OR can possess equivalent life experience.

Submit application in person, by mail or email to ARoby@jampd.com.
Application Deadline: Friday, March 24.

Seasonal Maintenance Technicians - \$12/hour

- Knowledge of grounds maintenance equipment.
- Good work ethic, self motivated and arrives at work on time.
- Working toward a high school diploma AND/OR a college degree is natural resource and related field OR can possess equivalent life experience.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 10.

Seasonal Lifeguards—\$12/hour

- Lifeguard certification by the Red Cross, BSA or Ellis & Associates
- CPR for the Professional Rescuer and first aid.

Seasonal Assistant Beach Manager—\$14/hour

- High School Diploma
- Lifeguard certification by the Red Cross, BSA or Ellis & Associates
- CPR for the Professional Rescuer and first aid.

Beach Manager—\$16/hour

- High School Diploma
- Associate degree (minimum) of Bachelor's Degree (preferred); OR minimum of 10 years of job/work experience involving supervisory/management duties
- FirstAid/CPR (training provided upon hiring)
- Supervisory Skills

Application Deadline: Until Filled

Submit application in person, by mail or email to Brent Brinkman, bbrinkman@jampd.com.

Employment Application, complete list of qualifications and job descriptions are available at jampd.com

Volunteering Opportunities

Join our Metroparks Volunteer Program and make a difference in the community! Young, old, or in between, all of our volunteers have something great to offer! Your dedication and hard work will not only bring you satisfaction, but will support the efforts and goals of the Park District as well! There are no minimum hours needed to volunteer.

If you are interested in volunteering please complete the Volunteer Enrollment Form on our website and return to: volunteers@jampd.com or mail to the Park District office, 1682 Slabtown Road, Lima, OH 45801.

Opportunities

- Elementary School Field Trips (Park District offers training)
- Nature trail guiding (Park District offers training)
- Wildlife Monitoring - Bird Feeders, Butterflies, Wildflowers, Bluebirds, Purple Martins
- Pioneer Skills Demonstrations
- Trail Monitors
- Festivals
- Photography
- Land Management



Spring Programs

March, April, May

If program description indicates registration required, please register online at jampd.com or by calling 419-221-1232.

PARKS LEGEND

ACF	Allen County Farm Park
ATA	Antibus Trail Access
AR	Agerter Road River Access
CTA	Cottonwood Trail Access
DC	Deep Cut Historical Park
FA	Fort Amanda Park
HP	Heritage Park
HR	Haver Ridge
HWMP	Hermon Woodlands Metro Park
KW	Kendrick Woods
LBS	Lippincott Bird Sanctuary
LHF	Lauer Historical Farm
MEEC	McElroy Environmental Education Center
MMP	Motter Metro Park
MTB	McLean Teddy Bear Park
OMP	Ottawa Metro Park
OMP/AMP	Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater

March



**NATURE PALS:
WONDERFUL WACKY
WEATHER**
Thurs., Mar. 2 - 10 a.m.
or 1 p.m. - MEEC

Children, ages 3-5, and their adult companion are invited to join us as we learn about clouds, wind and rain. Stories, a craft and a short hike, weather permitting, are all part of the

fun. Dress to be outdoors. Register by February 28.

**SEARCHING FOR
SIGNS OF SPRING**
Sun. Mar. 4—10 a.m.
- KW

Come walk off that cabin fever as we explore Kendrick Woods to discover some of the first signs of spring! One of our favorites is the earliest blooming wildflower, skunk cabbage. This "warm-blooded" plant may not smell great, but it offers some hope that winter may finally be finishing up! Dress for the weather and wet ground conditions. Register by Mar. 3.



WOODCARVING: DUCKS
Mon., Mar. 6 - 7 p.m. - MEEC

This time of year abundant waterfowl fly north through our area, some are here to stay but many are just passing through. We'll learn a little about these amazing birds and then, with assistance from the Lima Area Woodcarvers, try our hand at carving a small duck! This is a project that can be enjoyed by all skill levels, beginners included. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by Mar. 5.

**TRI-MORaine AUDUBON
SOCIETY - HERBICIDE RESISTANCE
IN COMMON WEEDS**
Tues., Mar. 7 - 7:30 pm - Visitor
Center at OSU Lima

Join the Tri-moraine Audubon Society to learn from Dr. Zac Beres from OSU Lima. Dr. Beres studies the development of herbicide resistance in

weeds. He has insight into how common weeds become herbicide resistant and the timeframe involved. His research has focused on Roundup-ready crops and the use of Roundup in Ohio and in other states. How long do you think it takes for a common weed such as horseweed to become resistant to Roundup?

VERNAL POOLS 101
Tues., Mar. 14 - 6 pm - HWMP

Vernal pools are perhaps the most interesting and diverse parts of our forests. A rich ecosystem, bursting with life, that serves as a nursery for countless organisms... and a buffet for others. Join a naturalist to learn about these fascinating pools with presentation in the shelter and then we'll go explore them! We'll step gently at the pools but be prepared for the weather and the mud! Flashlights are encouraged. Register by Mar. 13.

**HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT
CLASS—Osteology (Bone) Lab**
Fri., Mar. 17 - 10 am - MEEC
Learn how to identify animal bones through comparative anatomy. Observe key components of bones and categorize common elements in this hands-on exploration. All materials provided. We will be indoors the majority of the time but will also go on a short hike. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Register by Mar. 9.

STORIES IN THE WOODS

Sun., Mar. 19 – 1:30 p.m. – MTB

Children and their adult companion are invited to join us as we read a short story in the woods, take a hike and make a craft to understand more about the book. Come dressed appropriately to spend as much time outdoors. Register by Mar. 17.

KILLDEER PLAINS FIELD TRIP

Sat., Mar. 25 – 9:00 a.m. – MEEC

Join a naturalist and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to explore some of the 8,000+ acres of wetlands, prairies, and woodlots at Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area as we look for waterfowl and much more! We'll do some walking, but we will mostly be driving between points of interest. Prepare for the weather and pack a lunch/snacks/beverages. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be provided. A caravan will depart at 9 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). We will meet at the Killdeer Up-ground Reservoir at 10 am. Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the mid-afternoon. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. Register by Mar. 24.

KNOWING NATURE AND NEIGHBORS

Tues., Mar. 28 – 5:30 p.m. – OMP

Meet new people, exercise, get outside - need help with your new year's resolutions? Join us on a hike and be prepared to share information about yourself as we walk. We'll answer ice-breaker questions and get to know everyone and the natural world a little more. Be prepared for the weather. Register by Mar. 27.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., Mar. 30 – 4 p.m. – MEEC

See article on page 8.

APRIL

NATURE FOOLS

Sat., Apr. 1 – 10 a.m. – MEEC

Nature fools us often, whether it's an animal that mimics another or a myth that never went away. See if nature has fooled you and learn what is really going on. Session will be primarily indoors, weather permitting will include a short hike. Register by Mar. 31.

WOODCARVING: BURNING BUTTERFLIES

Mon., April 3 – 7 p.m. – MEEC

Butterflies are some of our most beautiful and fascinating creatures! We'll learn a little about these interesting animals and then, with the assistance of the Lima Area Woodcarvers, we'll complete a woodburning project. This is a project that can be enjoyed by all skill levels, beginners included. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by April 2.

TRI-MORAINES AUDUBON SOCIETY: FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Tues., April 4 – 7:30 p.m. – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Join the Tri-moraine Audubon Society for our annual Family Fun Night! Come share the experience with friends of all ages. Several tables of activities will be sponsored by local environmental groups including the Park District.

NATURE PALS: TERRIFIC TURTLES

Thurs., April 6 – 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. – MEEC

Children, ages 3-5, and their adult companion are invited to meet the park district's resident live turtles. Weather permitting, we will also hike through the woods. Please dress appropriately. Register by Apr. 4.

HOMESCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASS – SURVIVAL SKILLS

Fri., April 14 – 10 a.m. – HWMP

Nature equips us with the necessities to survive, it's up to us to learn how to use them. Discover new ways of making a fire, building a shelter and using resources. All materials provided. Be prepared for the weather. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Register by April 13.

EXPLORE S'MORE AT KENDRICK WOODS

Tues., April 25 – 6:30 p.m. – KW

Explore a different park with your family! Interact with others while playing games, hearing stories, or singing songs and end the night with s'mores around a fire. Register by April 24.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., April 27 – 4 p.m. – MEEC

See article on page 8.

WILDFLOWER WALK

Sun., April 30 – 3 p.m. – ACF

Enjoy the beauty of spring with a walk through the Allen County Farm Park. We'll head to the back woods to enjoy wildflowers and maybe even song-birds! Be prepared for the weather and (wet) ground conditions. ACF offers an approximately 1.25-mile easy/moderate trail. Register by April 28.



MAY

WOODCARVING: FLOWER CHIP-CARVING

Mon., May 1 – 7 p.m. – MEEC

April showers brought May flowers – and they are beautiful! We'll explore a few common wildflowers and then, with assistance from the Lima Area Woodcarvers, we'll dig into a wonderful woodcarving project. Chipcarving is a technique that requires a little practice but produces great results. This project is somewhat challenging, and participants should be prepared for an intermediate level piece. This program is limited to 10 participants, ages 13 and up (under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Register by April 30.

TRI-MORaine AUDUBON SOCIETY: BREEDING GARTER SNAKES

Tues., May 2 – 7:30 p.m. – Visitor Center at OSU Lima

Ohio Northern University has a captive breeding program for garter snakes. Join the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society to ask why? How is this done? What can we learn from them? Dr. Katherine Krynak and some of her research students will be answering those questions and sharing information about the program and its local ecological importance. Come find out more about garter snakes!

NATURE PALS: SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

Thurs., May 4 – 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. – MEEC

Join us as we celebrate the season of spring. Children ages 3-5 and their adult companion are invited to participate in a spring scavenger hunt. Dress appropriately to be outdoors. Register by May 2.

NATURE GAMES

Sat., May 6 – 1 p.m. – MTB

Learn more about the ecosystem by playing games. Pretend to be wild animals while hiding from predators, storing your food in safe places, or listening for prey. This is an outdoor program and includes a lot of running. Be prepared for the weather. Children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Register by May 5.

DIY NATURE – DANDELION SALVE

Sun., May 14 – 1 p.m. – OMP
Learn about the dandelion and decide for yourself if it is a friend or foe. A short walk and time to create a hand cream for you to take home will be included. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Register by May 12.

BIG BIRDING DAY!

Mon., May 15 – 6:30 a.m. – MEEC

Join a naturalist as we partner with the Tri Moraine Audubon Society to visit some of the hottest birding locations in the world! This is peak migration for songbirds, and our birding trip will start with the boardwalk at Magee Marsh and potentially include the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge driving tour, Howard Marsh, and more! A carpool will depart at 6:30 a.m. from the MEEC (2355 Ada Rd). Feel free to stay as long as you like, some participants will stay into the evening. Appropriate clothing/footwear, binoculars, sun protection, lunch/snacks/beverages, and field guides are recommended. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome! A limited number of binoculars will be provided. Register by May 14.

GAME NIGHT - WINGSPAN

Tues., May. 23 – 6:30 p.m. – MEEC

Play the board game that is a huge hit with gamers



and nature enthusiasts. Get familiar with actual birds and the special advantages they provide for you in this strategic game. Space is very limited due to the game rules. If you have the game and are willing to share, call to let us know so we can have more people join! This is an indoor program limited to 10 people. Register by May 22.

BEGINNING ARCHERY

Wed., May 24 – 6 p.m. OR 7 p.m. – KW Evans Archery Range

Participants age 9 through adult can go to the Evans Archery Range for a hour session. Certified archery staff will be on hand to assist beginning archers on the fundamentals of archery. Mathews Genesis bows and all other supplies will be provided by the park district. Archery supplies are co-sponsored by the ODNR Division of Wildlife in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife Restoration Program. Participants in the program must use bows provided. Wear close toed shoes, remove earrings, and tie back long hair. Register by May 22.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., May 25 – 4 p.m. – MEEC
See article on page 8.

SPRING MOTHS!

Wed., May 31 – 8:30 pm – MEEC

Late spring offers some of the best mothing of the year with many of the large, charismatic moths emerging as adults. While it may be a late program, some of the most fascinating things come out at night (and not just moths!). We'll start with an indoor presentation and then go outside to a moth sheet, black lights, and baited trees. Flashlights and cameras are encouraged. Register by May 30.

Parks Superintendent Vince Sarno Retires

Vince Sarno, Parks Superintendent has retired from the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District after 40 years of service. Vince was honored at the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District's December 2023 Board meeting with a Resolution of Appreciation. A retirement party was held on Thursday, January 12 and was attended by Vince's family, friends Park District Commissioners and co-workers.

Vince's dedication, leadership and

devotion to the Park District has greatly contributed to the success and growth of the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District.



Congratulations and Best Wishes!
We'll miss you!

Feeding Day



The Park District maintains several education animals in the McElroy Environmental Education Center, using them throughout the year for nature presentations and programs. Join the Critter Care volunteers to help (or watch) them clean and feed all our animals on the last Thursday of the month!

Donations

In memory of

Dale Alsttaetter

Sharon Bilopavlovich

Rebecca Clow

Don Knipp

Wendell Schick

Doris Siebert

Nancy Steiner

Janice Young

In honor of

Ty Cunningham

Judy & Dick Evans

Corine Piper

Charles Andrew Simons "Andy"



Campground To Open For Season

Ottawa Metro Park Campground at 2632 Ada Road, will open on Friday, April 14 and remain open through Sunday, October 15, 2023.

The campground has 30 family campsites with 3 handicap accessible sites on a first-come, first served basis. Each site has water, electric, picnic table, and fire ring.

Campsites can be occupied by a maximum of 2 tents, or 1 tent and 1 mobile camping unit.



Cost per night is \$30
\$25 per night (Seniors 60+ with proper ID)

Call the Park District office at 419-221-1232 for more information.



Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program Continues To Impact

The Cooperative Park Improvement Grant Program (CPIGP) continues to make an impact on village and city parks in Allen County. The CPIGP was started in 1994 and to date has supplied over \$2 million dollars to help build playgrounds, restrooms, shelters, baseball diamonds and more. Electrical, drainage, water and other infrastructure updates are included as well. The Park District Commissioners approved a total of \$200,000/year revenue sharing for 2023 provided by the Johnny

Appleseed Metropolitan Park District to 12 political subdivisions including cities, villages and townships within Allen County. Several of the subdivisions have leveraged additional "outside" monies by using our grants as local matches for state/federal grants.

Projects are selected by a "review team" for recommendation to the Board of Park Commissioners. The review team consists of one representative from each eligible subdivision who is appointed by the legislative body of that subdivi-

sion. The review team priorities for awarding of grant monies are as follows: 1) Health and Safety Issues; 2) Major Repairs to Upgrade Existing Facilities; 3) New Outdoor Recreation Needs; 4) Special Opportunities (Grants, Emergencies, Joint Efforts, Etc.).

On December 8, 2022 the review team met to make recommendations for the 2023 CPIGP. The following is the summary of the awarded grants for 2023.

SUMMARY OF 2023 AWARDED GRANTS

Auglaize Township Park District	\$22,465	Jackson Township Park District	\$14,840
New 12x30 shed, concrete between bleachers		Concrete sidewalks	
Village of Beaverdam	\$13,000	City of Lima	\$34,000
Expand ADA Parking		Playground equipment at Schoonover Park	
Village of Bluffton	\$13,000	Spencer Township Park District	\$17,031
Driveway paving at Village Park		Expand/Enhance Playground	
Village of Cairo	\$27,000	Village of Spencerville	\$23,000
Fencing and gates around baseball diamond		Convert tennis court to basketball court & resurface an existing tennis court at Village Park	
City of Delphos	\$10,000	Sugar Creek Township	\$21,000
Fencing and backstop replacement at Waterworks Park		Tear down and rebuild dugouts at Village Park	
Village of Harrod	\$8,600		
Drinking Fountain, picnic tables, trash receptacles at Community Center Park			

Naturalist Notebook

“Naturally Curious”



Think of someone you know who is great at asking questions. Is the first person you think of a child? Kids are always asking questions! We seem to lose this curiosity as we get older. Luckily, I've found that the easiest way to be naturally curious is to immerse yourself into a situation. Hopefully you can choose to immerse yourself in a topic that you enjoy. I, however, was thrown headfirst into learning about an animal in my yard.

I had lived on a farm or in the woods my entire life, yet as soon as I moved away to the suburbs, I had a memorable run in with a wild animal. Coming home from work one day, I was walking to the front door of my apartment, when I heard a rustling coming from the bush nearby. I stopped in my tracks, scared. I am a naturalist and I say the same thing to every group – animals are more scared of us than we are of them. Recalling all my education and training, I think about what I can do. Be curious, I tell myself. I know running won't help and will probably make things worse depending on what it is.

Remembering the class that I taught earlier that day, I decided to use my superpowers just as I had instructed the kindergarten class to do. My superpowers, of course, are something that I carry with me everywhere, my 5 senses. Starting with the most obvious, my sense of sight, I look around, what do I notice? It is dark, the animal is in the bushes, there was a medium sized shaking of the bush, there is one step leading to my door. Because it's dark, I know this animal is either crepuscular

or nocturnal. It is in the bushes, therefore it either is getting a snack from the bushes or it maybe it lives in, under or around the bushes, maybe under the step. It must be a smaller animal because I can't see it at all in the bush.

My next superpower: hearing. I remember hearing the rustling sound when it moved. I didn't hear any audible noise that the animal made. Does this mean that the animal doesn't make a noise or that it just didn't do it when I was around? I've lived here for a few weeks, and I don't remember hearing an animal any other time.

I can feel. It's a little cold outside, not cold enough for a hibernating animal to be inactive but too cold for certain insects and cold-blooded animals. Plus, it's bigger than an insect but maybe it eats those animals and it's hungry because it can't find any.

My other superpowers: smell and taste. Taste won't help me here. So, smell, I can try to smell. I don't smell anything. Then the bushes rustle again, and I jump backwards. Smell! Without even thinking about asking questions, making observations, or wondering what this animal could be, I suddenly get my answer due to my super smell.

Now a rush of new questions floods my mind. Is this awful smell on me? (Yes.) Why does it smell so bad (Skunk spray is made up of thiols, a sulfur component) How does my aunt think that this smells good? (When a person

is first introduced to a skunk smell, if it is a good memory, the person likes the smell, if they associate it with something negative, they think the smell is bad.) Why did it spray me? (It felt threatened.) How do I get this smell off me? (Washing) Wait, I still need to get inside. How do I get inside? This animal is blocking my access to the front door. (Go to the backdoor-duh.) Can it spray again? (Yes, up to 6 times.) Am I far enough away that it can't get me? (No) How far can it spray? (Up to 15 feet with incredible accuracy.) Can both male and female skunks spray? (Yes)

Feeling the need to act quickly, I go to the back door and run up the stairs to my apartment. The smell is now inside. So that confirms that I actually did get sprayed. New questions spring up now: is tomato juice the remedy? Do I wash my clothes or burn them? This is a new coat, do I have to get rid of this, too? How long will I smell? How quickly do I have to get it off? Is there time to call someone or search the internet for the answer?

Feeling unsure, I decided it was best to check reliable sources instead of relying on rumors. Clothes can be replaced but I have to live with myself if that smell is stuck on me, so a shower is in order. A quick search says tomato juice does not work. It will make you smell like tomato juice and only mask the skunk smell a little.

(Continued on page 11)

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program



This summer, the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District in cooperation with the Ohio State University Extension and the Tri-Moraine Audubon Society will be hosting an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist training program.

An Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) is an individual with a passion for the natural world. Members of the OCVN program share their knowledge, talents, and skills as they help with community education and land stewardship through volunteer service. The OCVN program focuses on three components: training, volunteer service, and continuing education. To be certified, volunteers must attend 40 hours of classroom and field instruction followed by 40 hours of volunteer service and/or continuing education within the first year. To maintain the annual certification, participants must complete 30 hours of volunteer service and/or continuing education each subsequent year.

Although opportunities will be offered through the Johnny Appleseed Metro Park District, volunteer service and continuing education can be completed at any Ohio nonprofit organization with a compatible program mission. Participants are also welcome to only take the course but not volunteer, choosing to not become certified.

The Allen County OCVN course will meet *Thursday evenings from 6:00-9:00 pm* at the Johnny Appleseed Met-

ro Park District's *McElroy Environmental Education Center* starting on *June 15*. The ten week course will also include two Saturday field experiences.

The course is scheduled for the following dates:

June 15, 22, 29 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

July 6, 13, 20, 27 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

August 3, 10, 17 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

July 8 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 5 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 24 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
(make-up class)

For more information or to receive an application, please contact Dan Hodges at dhodges@jampd.com or 419-221-1232. Each applicant must complete a registration form, pay the class fee, and have a formal background check done.

Topics will include:

- Ecological Concepts
- Ohio Plants & Forests
- Soil
- Weather
- Watersheds & Aquatic Biology
- Reptiles & Amphibians
- Insects & Spiders
- Birds
- Mammals
- Invasive Species & Land Stewardship
- Nature Interpretation

Naturalist Notebook "Naturally Curious"

(Continued from page 10)

I'd rather not smell like tomatoes, plus I didn't have a jar of tomato juice so I searched again to figure out what would work. A combination of hydrogen peroxide, dish soap and baking soda. Perfect! I own all of those. After a brief moment of panic, thinking that the hydrogen peroxide will turn my dark brown hair blonde, I read that apple cider vinegar is a good alternative for my hair.

After my shower, I seem to smell normal. However as soon as I walk out of the bathroom, the smell hits me again. What to do with all my clothes? Finding as many quarters as I can, I throw my clothes in a trash bag and take them to the washer. 3 cycles should be enough, right? All I can do is try. If it doesn't, I already have a trash bag.

To my surprise, I did not smell the next day. My shoes did though, and they were the only thing that I did not wash. I left them outside for days and eventually they stopped smelling too. That new coat of mine now has a permanent stain on it gently mocking me every time I wear it. Optimistically, that stain tells me to be cautiously curious and ask questions in nature. Yet it also reminds me that sometimes it's ok to be afraid of a wild animal.

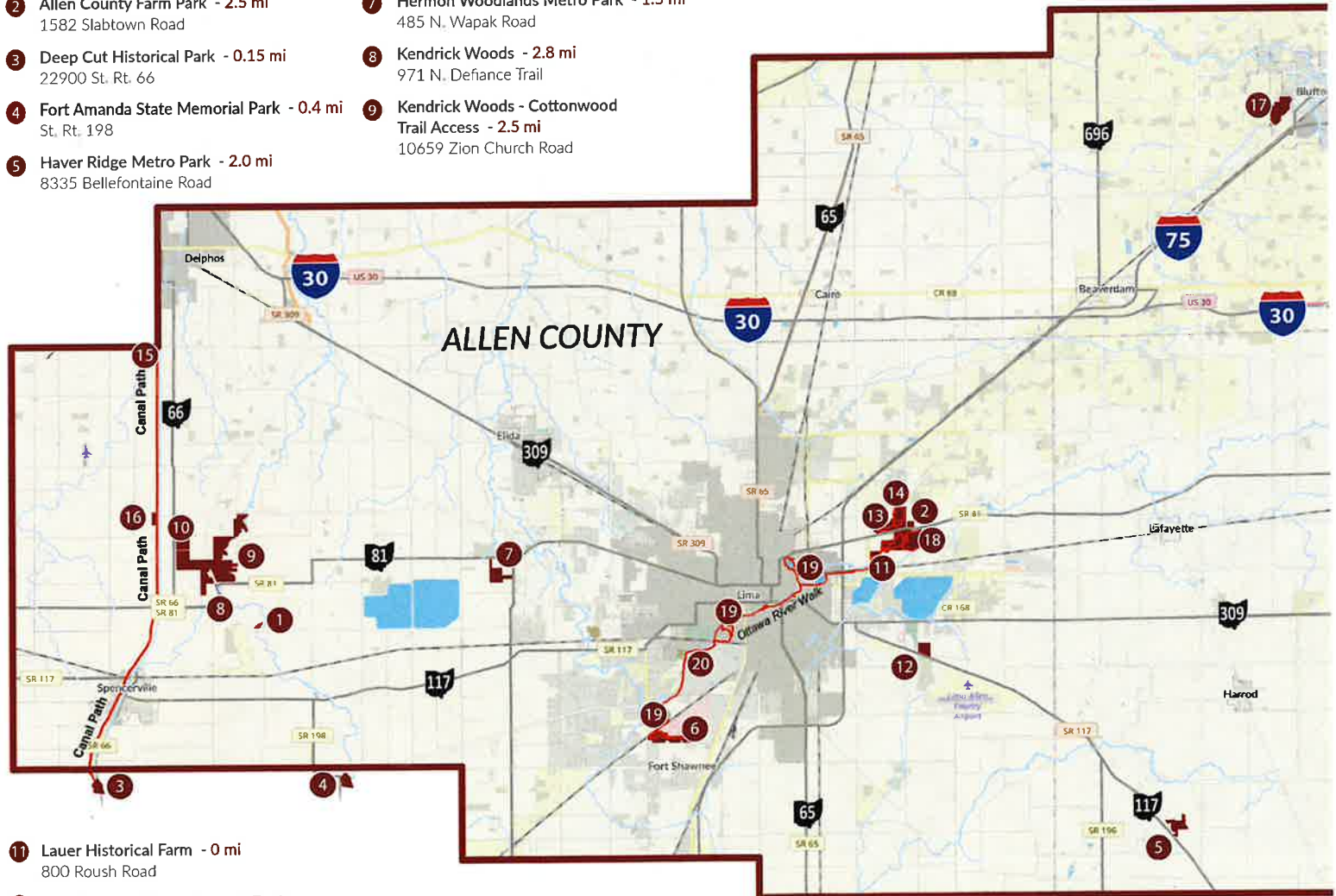
Amy Banner
Naturalist



Phone: 419-221-1232
eMail - jampd@jampd.com
JohnnyAppleseedParks.com

To be placed on The Cider Press mailing list,
please call the Park District Office.

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| 1 Agerter Road River Access - 0 mi
16410 Agerter Road | 6 Heritage Park - 3.8 mi
2092 Reed Road (West Ent) 1772 Reed Road (East Ent) | 10 Kendrick Woods - Evans Archery Range - 0 mi
1376 N. St. Mary's Road |
| 2 Allen County Farm Park - 2.5 mi
1582 Slabtown Road | 7 Hermon Woodlands Metro Park - 1.5 mi
485 N. Wapak Road | |
| 3 Deep Cut Historical Park - 0.15 mi
22900 St. Rt. 66 | 8 Kendrick Woods - 2.8 mi
971 N. Defiance Trail | |
| 4 Fort Amanda State Memorial Park - 0.4 mi
St. Rt. 198 | 9 Kendrick Woods - Cottonwood
Trail Access - 2.5 mi
10659 Zion Church Road | |
| 5 Haver Ridge Metro Park - 2.0 mi
8335 Bellefontaine Road | | |



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11 Lauer Historical Farm - 0 mi
800 Roush Road | 16 Robert K. Antibus Trail Access - 0.20 mi
12395 Zion Church Road | 19 Rotary Riverwalk/Ottawa River Bikeway - 4.6+ mi
from Heritage Park to Ottawa Metro Park |
| 12 Lippincott Bird Sanctuary - 0.7 mi
3093 Bellefontaine Road | 17 Motter Metro Park - 2.0 mi
10740 Columbus Grove Bluffton Rd. Bluffton | 20 Veterans Freedom Flag Monument - 0 mi
1191 Buckeye Road |
| 13 McElroy Environmental Education Center - 0 mi
2355 Ada Road | 18 Ottawa Metro Park - 5.0 mi
2632 Ada Road | |
| 14 McLean Teddy Bear Park - 2.25 mi
2004 N. Dixie Hwy. | | |
| 15 Miami and Erie Canal Towpath Trail - 12.5 mi
Miami and Erie Canal | | |