

Page 4 Summer Day Camps

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

Page 8 Amphitheater Programs

Join us every Saturday night at the Ottawa Metro Park amphitheater with a variety of entertainment including instrumental and vocal performances, puppeteers, magicians and nature based performances.

Page 9 Youth Fising Derby

Saturday, June 24 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Ottawa Metro Park. Prizes for each age group.



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

Slow Down and Rest

The Park District exists, in part to help people escape from the daily stressors of life. This includes slowing down from your daily "grind" and taking time to rest in the things that bring the most joy to your life. It is so easy to get bogged down with the tasks and distractions of everyday life, whether that is spending time endlessly scrolling through social media or being bombarded by constant requests to do this or fix that. Nature has a way of fixing our rhythms and refocusing our attention just by simply being in it.

The Park District offers a variety of ways for the everyday person to experience this idea of slowing down. Maybe its spending time with family going on a walk at Hermon Woodlands, maybe its playing a round of disc golf at Ottawa Metro Park with friends, or maybe even letting the kids run off some energy at the playground

(whichever one is their favorite). It is important for these interactions to occur not only for our physical health but also for our mental health. There is growing evidence that suggests that just being with others in nature and hearing the sounds and smelling the smells, helps restore a sense of calm and happiness.

The summer months can be some of the busiest times of the year, but I argue that they can be some of the best months to experience slowing down and resting. I know I know, I can hear it now... "Vacation is scheduled for this month" and "Our kids play travel baseball/softball and we are gone almost every weekend of the summer." All I am saying is even in those times, stop and take in nature, it is all around you, no matter where you are. It will help those times of busyness not feel so busy and when baseball/softball season are over or vacation is done, remember the parks are always here for you and your family. Slow down, rest, and enjoy nature's restorative power.

Yours in servant leadership,

Tyler Black
Executive Director

Donations

- In memory of
- Joanne Antibus
 - James S. Biddle
 - Robert Core
 - Mary Driver
 - Wendell Schick
 - Franklin Shaw
 - Mary Wilkens



Metro Park Adventures

Summer Day Camps



METROPARK TRAILBLAZERS
(AGES 5 & 6)

THREE CHEERS FOR TREES

Tues., June 20 & Wed., June 21
10 am to 1 pm – MTB

Youth, ages 5 and 6 years old, are invited to explore the wonderful world of trees through games, stories and crafts. We will hike through the park to become acquainted with many of the local trees. Please bring a sack lunch and water bottle. Dress to be outdoors. Registration along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by June 15.

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

Tues., July 11 & Wed., July 12
10 am to 1 pm – MTB

Youth, ages 5 and 6 years old, will learn about the importance of taking care of the world around us. The fun will include games, stories, crafts and hikes. Please bring a sack lunch and water bottle. Dress to be outdoors. Registration along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by July 6.



METROPARK DISCOVERERS
(AGES 7 to 9)

RHODESOLOGY: OUTDOOR EXPLORERS (Grades 2-4)

Mon., June 12, Tues., June 13, Wed., June 14, Thurs., June 15, Fri., June 16
8 am to 12 pm OR 12 pm to 4:30 pm
You can be an Outdoor Explorer! We're teaming up with Rhodes State College to offer this exciting day camp. Together we will enjoy bugs, mud, critters and plants with this hands-on, minds-on experience. We'll make art, play music, do math, build critter shelters, learn to be safe and respectful, and, most importantly, get outside in nature! Registration and fee required through Rhodes at www.rhodesstate.edu/rhodesology

NATURE QUEST!

Wed., July 19, Thurs., July 20, & Fri., July 21 – 10 am to 2 pm – MTB

Youth, ages 7-9 years old, are welcome to join in the fun as explore the wonders of nature! Please bring a sack lunch and water bottle. Dress to be outdoors. Registration along with a non-refundable \$15 fee is required by July 14.



METROPARK EXPLORERS
(AGES 10 to 14)

ARCHERY

Tues., June 27 & Wed., June 28 OR
Thurs., June 29 & Fri., June 30
10 am to 3 pm – ACF

Participants ages 9 to 14 will be instructed on the fundamentals of archery by trained staff. Mathews Genesis bows and safety equipment will be provided. Participants will try some various techniques and arrow types, atlatl, and play a variety of archery games. Pack lunch, bug spray, sunscreen and water. Participants must wear close toed shoes (no crocs), remove dangly earrings, and tie back long hair. Limited to 10 participants per session. May only sign up for one session. If it is raining we will be able to shoot inside the barn. Registration along with a non-refundable \$10 fee is required by June 23.

KAYAKING

Tues, Aug 8 & Wed., Aug. 9 OR
Thurs., Aug 10 & Fri., Aug. 11 - 10 am to 2 pm - OMP

Youth, ages 10 - 14 years old, are invited to learn to kayak! With the support of the ODNr Boating Safety Education Grant, we'll learn safe boating practices and do some kayaking. Please bring a sack lunch, water bottle, and sunscreen. Dress to be outdoors and to get wet! Registration along with a non-refundable \$15 fee is required by August 3.

REGISTER ONLINE AT JAMPD.COM or call 419-221-1232

All programs are supervised and led by the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District Staff.

June

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Wed., June 28 - 10 am OR 1pm - HWMP

Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini-program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the Playscape. Wear clothes and shoes that are appropriate for playing in the creek. Registration is required by June 26.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., Jun 29 - 4 pm - MEEC

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 at 4 pm on the last Thursday of the month!

July

DR. INSECTA

Sat., July 1 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 8 for details.

MIKE HEMMELGARN

Sat., July 8 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 8 for details.

METROPARK TRAILBLAZERS DAY CAMP (ages 5-6)

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

Tues., July 11 & July 12 - 10 am to 1 pm - TB

See page 4 for details.

NATIVE BEE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Tues., July 11 - 6 pm - MEEC

Native bees play an incredibly important role in our ecosystems. Come learn a little about our bees, their di-

versity and habits, and then help the park build and set up some bee houses! We'll start indoors and then go outside. Be prepared for the weather and ground conditions, bring bug spray. Register by July 10.

BEGINNING ARCHERY PROGRAM

Wed., July 12 - 6 pm to 7 pm OR 7 pm to 8 pm - ACF - See June 21 program description. Register by July 10.

ASTON CROOK

Sat., July 15 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 8 for details.

METROPARK DISCOVERERS DAY CAMP (ages 7-9)

NATURE QUEST!

Wed., July 19, Thurs., July 20 & Fri., July 21 - 10 am to 2 pm - TB

See page 4 for details.

VERNON MCINTYRES APPALACHIAN GRASS

Sat., July 22 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 8 for details

FAIRY HOUSES

Sun., July 23 - 2 pm - HWMP

Legend has it if you build a fairy house, the fairies will watch over you and keep you safe from harm. The W.F.H. Construction Company needs your help to build their newest Woodland Fairy Housing Development located at Hermon Woodlands. Each child and adult companion will receive official fairy money so they can buy the natural construction materials needed to build a fairy house. Bring your imagination! Your house will become part of the Fairy Village, which can be visited throughout the summer. Register by July 21.

EVENING HIKE

Tues., July 25 - 7 pm - MMP

There is nothing quite like the prairie in full swing! We'll join the Bluffton Public Library and enjoy an evening hike along a rainbow of blooms and a bustle of activity as the critters enjoy the flowers and grasses. Plan on a 1-1.5-hour hike, be prepared for the weather and ground conditions. Register by July 24

IMAGINATURE PLAYGROUP

Wed., July 26 - 10 am OR 1 pm - HWMP

Come play with us at the Hermon Woodlands Imaginature Playscape! Join a naturalist at the West Shelter for a mini-program, then spend the rest of the time playing and exploring in the Playscape. Wear clothes and shoes that are appropriate for playing in the creek. Registration is required by July 24.

FEEDING DAY

Thur., July 27 - 4 p.m. - MEEC

See June 29 program description.

MARK "THE BUGMAN" BERGMAN

Sat., July 29 - 7 pm - OMP/AMP

See Amphitheater Programs on page 8 for details.

August

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tues., Aug. 1 - 6 pm to 9 pm - HP

Come join family and friends at Heritage Park for National Night Out. There will be food, games for the kids, a 5K fun run and displays from your local Fire and Law Enforcement Departments. Parking will be at Apollo Career Center.

2023 Summer Amphitheater Program Series

Ottawa Metro Park Amphitheater
2632 Ada Road, Lima, OH

FREE



June

FUN WITH NATURE

Sat., June 3 - 7 pm - Join your hometown naturalists for an evening of fun with nature! We'll sing songs, play games, ask questions, experience live animals, and more. Drawing from exciting educational programs throughout the year, the naturalists are pulling all the stops to help you enjoy nature in the park!

GORDON THE MAGICIAN

Sat., June 10 - 7 pm - Gordon and his trusty sidekick, George the Raccoon, have traveled the globe in search of smiles, laughs, and fun. A master at audience involvement, Gordon "invents" magic on the spot, using the most ordinary items imaginable. Couple this with a limitless array of tried-and-true tricks of the trade, and you have a performance that is second to none.

FJ BOEROG

Sat., June 17 - 7 pm - Turning melodies into memories. Local, seasoned musicians, led by Jim Boedecker, will be playing the classics from the 70's. Any "Boomer" will immediately remember the words to all their favorite songs, Join us for a rockin' good time!

SPITTIN' IMAGE

Sat., June 24 - 7 pm— Identical twin brothers, Blain and Brian of Spittin' Image intertwines brotherly harmonies with excellent musicianship, and mix it all with comedy, audience participation, and a high-energy show.



*A special thank you to
Park District Volunteers:
Thora Davis and Jerry Johnson
for sponsoring our
2023 Summer Amphitheater Series*

July

DR. INSECTA

Sat., July 1—7 pm - Dr. Insecta has enthralled audiences of all ages across America! Experience real entomology magic as Dr. Insecta introduces you to some of the largest live insects on the planet. Bug Lab is an interactive enrichment program that entertains, educates and desensitizes fears we have about these incredible creatures that let us share in their world.

MIKE HEMMELGARN

Sat., July 8 - 7 pm - Mike has been fascinated with the art of ventriloquism since the age of eight and juggling since the age of sixteen. His love of entertaining developed into a full-blown career that allows him to travel across the Tri-State area performing for audiences of all ages.

CONTEMPORARY GOSPEL BY ASHTON CROOK

Sat., July 15 - 7 pm - Local budding gospel musician-singer-songwriter, Ashton Crook will perform his own songs and renditions of standard gospel songs in a keyboard driven performance. Join us for a deeply meaningful evening under the summer sky.

VERNON MCINTYRES APPALACHIAN GRASS

Sat., July 22—7 pm - What would the summer be without some good ol' bluegrass? Join Vernon & Kitty and friends for some down-home fiddlin' & gee-tar pickin'. Don't miss this crowd pleasin' appearance. fotmc.com

MARK "THE BUGMAN" BERGMAN

Sat., July 29 - 7 pm - Since 1996 Mark has been entertaining and educating his audiences on the lives of insects. Join Mark and his mascot P.R. Mantis for a hilarious night.

August

60's SURVIVOR BAND

Sat., Aug. 5 - 7 pm - The boys from the 60's are back and ready to rock and roll with the Golden Oldies. Re-learning songs that they played 50 years ago has been quite challenging but these guys are still rockin'. Join us for a rocking and rolling good time!

SOMEONE'S KIDS

Sat., Aug. 12 - 7 pm - With years of touching on many musical genres, the members of Someone's Kids combine and touch on 60's 70's & 80's music to reach out and bring the memories of our past back for a visit.

CHRIS ROWLANDS

Sat., Aug. 19 - 7 pm - Talented, singer, songwriter, musician, artist, naturalist, puppeteer and all-around crazy guy, Chris Rowlands will bring his "A" game and friends to entertain us with his songs about the natural world and his life experiences. You don't want to miss this performance! CD's and his art will be available for purchase.

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC BY TORAIGH

Sat., Aug. 26 - 7 pm - Join us for a wee bit of traditional Irish music, played by seasoned professionals. Toraigh's repertoire draws on much of the century-old traditional dance music and ballads of Ireland and Scotland and other Gaelic lands. You won't be able to resist the urge to clap your hands along with the playful sounds of the traditional instruments.

September

SHIFFERLY ROAD BAND

Sat., Sept. 2 - 7 pm - An experienced, female-fronted band covering a mix of Modern Country, Classic Rock, Blues and Pop from Bluffton.



For more information contact:
Johnny Appleseed Park District
1682 Slabtown Road, Lima, OH
419-221-1232 www.jampd.com

Naturalist Notebook

"Firebugs and Lightning Flies"



Fireflies, lightning bugs, even glow worms. Whatever your preference, these are fascinating animals. In reality, all three names for this interesting, bioluminescent insect are misleading - they have nothing to do with fire, aren't a member of the fly group (Dipterans), don't capture electricity, are not true bugs (Hemipterans), and they aren't worms either!! "Glow" starts to come close, I suppose. They are actually beetles (Coleopterans) and they have their own special family (Lampyridae) which all have glowing larvae and a hard head shield. Well, in an effort to be more accurate, I've taken to calling them "blinky beetles" - maybe you can join the movement!

The glowing part of this blinky beetle is basically a warning signal, "don't eat me because I'm gross!" They produce a toxic compound that makes them distasteful, it even smells bad (catch one and smell it!). Lucibufagin is the technical term if you need to impress your friends. Glowing to ward off predation is especially important for the larvae, as they spend nearly 2 years in that stage, crawling through the leaf litter in search of snails and worms to devour.

In most lampyrids the flighted adult also uses light, to the delight and captivation of many a child and scientist alike. The poet Ogden Nash had an interesting take on them:

The firefly's flame is something for
which science has no name
I can think of nothing eerier
Than flying around with an unidentified
glow on a person's posterier.
The Firefly

Mr. Nash might be interested to know that that glow is a product of the combination of chemicals (luciferin and luciferase, among others) in the posterior of the beetle, called the lantern. This bioluminescence (light produced by a chemical reaction in an organism) is nearly 100% efficient, meaning all the energy that goes in comes out as light. In comparison, only about 10% of the energy put in an incandescent lightbulb comes out as light, the remaining 90% emits as heat!

The adult lightning bug's flash advises of its unpleasantness, but also has an added purpose. The male flies around and blinks a very specific pattern. We may have nearly two dozen different species in this area, each with a unique flash pattern. If a female, watching from the vegetation nearby, recognizes the pattern of her own species, she blinks her response. The male blinks again - "how you doin'?" The female, responds accordingly with her best "come hither!" It's an elaborate game of Marco Polo with flashes in the dark, potentially ending in reproduction. It is not all that different from the singing of birds and frogs and crickets and guitarists, just with light rather than sound. In some firefly species the adults don't produce light at all, instead relying on pheromones and their sense of smell. But those that do are sure to brighten your evening.

The problem with being dependent on light to find a mate is that we humans litter the landscape with more and more light. Our porches are lit, our dusk/dawn lights are shining, our flagpoles are illuminated, we even shine

lights on our houses to show them off. Streetlamps, headlights, flashlights, security lights, Christmas lights, solar-powered garden lights. Lights in our yards, driveways, streets, sidewalks, cemeteries, parking lots, trees, garage doors, windowsills... I get it - we want to see, and that is important. But do we need so much? Certainly, the fireflies pay a price. And that's if they even make it to adulthood. We haven't considered the fact that their larvae need healthy places to survive (they can't live in lawns).

But that's where we can effect change. Right here, in our community and in our yards. Plant a native plant, reduce the lawn, leave the leaves, and turn the light off! We can make an effort to keep these blinky beetles around so kids, and our grandkids, and our great-grandkids can enjoy the magic of nature's light show, just like we did.

Come join us at the park on June 27 at MTB for a presentation on these blinky beetles and a romp in the park to catch some!

Remember, turn the lights off and get outside!

Dan Hodges

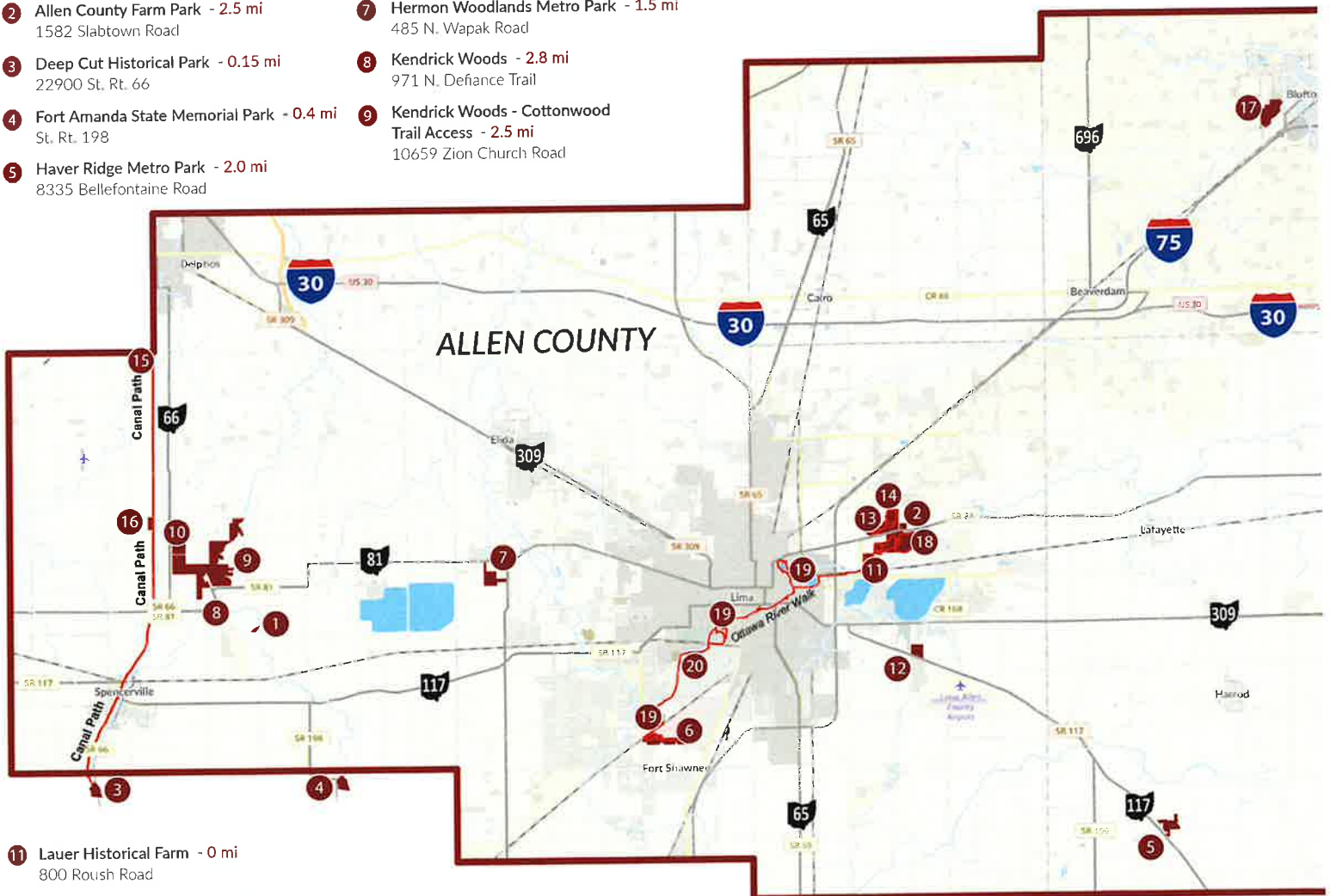
Environmental Education Supervisor



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 | | |



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|---|---|---|
| 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 | | |