



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
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 (616)738-4810 www.miottawa.org/parks



County of Ottawa
Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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[Suggested Tweet: Early signs of spring are popping up at the Ottawa County Parks! Join us to learn more.]

Welcome Spring with the Ottawa County Parks

OTTAWA COUNTY, MI—It may not feel like spring, but Ottawa County Parks has no shortage of spring programs.

Family Hours: Each Sunday afternoon from 2-3pm, the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing Park hosts programs for families on various topics. Stories, scavenger hunts, hikes and crafts keep things interesting for everyone. Topics include frogs, the water cycle, wetlands, wildflowers and more.

Bird & Wildflower Walks: Ever walk in the woods wishing you could learn more about an encountered bird, plant or fungus? A guided walk is for you. Now through the fall, guided hikes are available on countless topics, such as birds, wildflowers, butterflies, reptiles and spring surprises.

Spring by Kayak: Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring along the Pigeon River by kayak. There is a \$15 fee plus \$26 for those renting a kayak.

Many other programs are available including astronomy, bird watching outings, and FrogWatch USA trainings for your budding scientists. Summer camp enrollment for children ages 3 and up is also available. A complete list of upcoming programs is available at miottawa.org/parks. A seasonal mailing listing all of the programs is available upon request. Contact the parks at 616-738-4810 or ocparks@miottawa.org to join the mailing list. Programs are free unless indicated.

Spring by Kayak	
Enjoy the sights and sounds of spring along the Pigeon River by kayak! You will paddle the 3.5-mile stretch from Hemlock Crossing to Sheldon Landing with return transportation via carpool. No experience is needed. Each guided trip includes a kayaking lesson. The fee is \$15 per person. There is an additional \$26 fee for kayak rental, which includes the kayak, paddle and life jacket. Call 616-786-4847 to register and pay for programs.	
May 10, 12:30-3:30P	May 21, 12:30-3:30PM
May 24, 12:30-3:30PM	May 28, 12:30-3:30PM

Sunday Family Hours

Location: Hemlock Crossing-Nature Education Center.

Bring your family for a story, activity or adventure. They are free and registration is not required, but appreciated. Call 616-786-4847.

March 30, 2PM, Branches & Twig Art [Ages 6+] Join us to look at what is happening to twigs and branches in early spring. Then, return to the Nature Education Center where we'll create art with twigs.
April 6, 2PM, Marsh & Meadow [Ages 6+] Explore the marsh and meadow as they awaken for springtime. Learn more about these important habitats and their emerging plants and creatures.
April 13, 2PM, Water Cycle Wonders [Ages 6+] Water is a precious natural resource. We will read the book "A Drop Around the World" by Barbara McKinney and then play a high-energy water cycle game.
April 27, 2PM, Fantastic Frogs & Toads [Ages 5+] Come find out about our native frogs and toads. Discover how life cycles of these amphibians differ from each other. Learn to distinguish the calls of several species and take a hike to our vernal pond to see what can be found.
May 4, 2PM, Wildflower Worlds [Ages 9+] There are tiny worlds in places that we would never think to explore. Look closely and you might see things that will surprise you. Join a naturalist to explore the tiny worlds that our spring wildflowers shelter

Guided "Signs of Spring" Walks	Guided Bird Walks	Guided Wildflower Walks
March 22, 2-3:30PM, Hemlock Crossing	April 2, 8-10AM, Hemlock Crossing	April 9, 12-2PM, Rosy Mound
March 30, 2-3:30PM, Kirk Park	April 9, 8-10AM, Crockery Creek	April 16, 12-2PM, Spring Grove
April 5, 2-3:30PM, Hemlock Crossing	April 12, 8-10AM, Macatawa Greenspace	April 30, 12-2PM, Hager Park
April 18, 10AM-12PM, Grand River Ravines N	April 16, 8-10AM, Macatawa Greenspace	May 7, 12-2PM, Tunnel Park
April 27, 2-3:30PM, Spring Grove	April 30, 8-10AM, Riley Trails	May 14, 12-2PM, Grand River Park
May 1, 2-3:30PM, Grose Park	May 3, 8-10AM, Pigeon Creek	
May 11, 2-3:30PM, Mt. Pisgah	May 7, 8-10AM, Connor Bayou	
May 25, 2-3:30PM, Riley Trails	May 14, 8-10AM, Grand River Park	
June 1, 2-3:30PM, Upper Macatawa	May 17, 8-10AM, Hager Park	
June 8, 2-3:30PM, Grand River Park	May 21, 8-10AM, Eastmanville Bayou	
	May 28, 8-10AM, Hager Park	
	May 31, 8-10AM, Connor Bayou	

For additional announcements, "like" the parks at facebook.com/OttawaCountyParks. Visit miOttawa.org/parks to learn more about the 6400 acres of parks and open spaces available for your enjoyment. Operations, improvements and programs are funded by grants and a parks millage. If you own a \$150,000 home, you pay \$24 annually investing in opportunities for outdoor recreation and nature education today and for future generations. Thank you.

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