



Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
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County of Ottawa
Press Release



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For Immediate Release

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[Suggested Tweet: Beware-Your kids may get muddy at an Ottawa County Parks Summer Camp. Sounds FUN!]

Book Your Kids Camps with the Ottawa County Parks

OTTAWA COUNTY, MI—Would you like your child to turn off Minecraft and learn some real outdoor survival skills? Do your children need to be exposed to feathered friends and not Angry Birds? Ottawa County Parks is here to help. **Registration is now open for summer day camps.** Programs for preschool through eighth grade are available. Space is limited so register today by calling 616-786-4847. Fees vary and payment is accepted by credit card or check.

| <i>Early Sprouts</i> | | |
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| For 3-4 year old children with a caregiver. \$3 per session per child | | |
| June 5 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | First Impressions! Kids will explore how they feel about nature’s creatures including buzzing bees, cuddly rabbits, sneaky squirrels, slithering snakes and beautiful birds. They may discover that their feelings about these creatures change as they learn more about them. |
| July 2 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Happy Trails! Let’s get outside and explore nature. Being prepared will make the experience even more fun. This session is designed to introduce kids to the basics of trail safety, and the “tools of the trade” including magnifying glasses, binoculars, maps and more. |
| August 6 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Butterfly Safari! This time of year, the meadow is full of colorful butterflies flitting from flower to flower. Discover how the butterflies got to the meadow, what they are doing there, and see these amazing creatures up close as we enjoy a hike through their habitat. |

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Nature Buds

For 5-6 year old children with a caregiver. \$3 per session per child

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| June 11 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Wildlife Water Safari! Let's go on safari to see who lives in the wet meadow and river. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet; we'll wade ankle deep to get a close up view of aquatic creatures and their underwater world. |
| June 25 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Nature Detectives! Nature offers lots of clues to tell us what's there even before we see it. Using our senses and special tools, like binoculars and magnifying lenses, we'll discover the amazing plants and creatures that make Hemlock Crossing their home. |
| July 9 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Terrific Trees! Trees give us shade, food, oxygen, and so much more. How do they do it? Find out as we explore the wide variety of trees at Hemlock Crossing. |
| July 23 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Magic Meadow! Let's walk the trails and discover the colorful variety of flowers, birds, and insects that can be seen in the meadow this time of year. Will we see as many colors as are in a box of crayons? Let's find out. |
| August 13 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Insect Adventures! They have wings, thousands of eyes, six legs, and exoskeletons. Are they super heroes? No. They are insects. We'll explore where they live, what they eat, and their amazing adaptations. |
| August 27 10-11AM | Hemlock Crossing | Hiding in Plain Sight! Have you ever been surprised by a spider, or startled by a squirrel? How can these animals be so close, and yet so hard to see? Let's explore and discover the adaptations creatures use to stay out of sight. |

Young Discoverers

This camp is for children entering 2nd and 3rd grades. \$3.50 per session per child.

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| June 18 10-11:30AM | Hemlock Crossing | Wildlife is Everywhere! Wildlife is everywhere, but do you know it's there? We'll fine tune our nature detective skills to discover which creatures are living at Hemlock Crossings. Learn to use tools like binoculars and magnifying lenses, and clues like tracks and sounds to identify animals in a habitat, even when those animals are hiding. |
| July 16 10-11:30AM | Hemlock Crossing | Backbone Bonanza! Did you know that by looking at backbones and skulls, you can discover an animal's identity? Explore how these features of an animal's body tell us more about where they live, what they eat, and how they move about. Through hands on exploration of the nature center's collection of animal bones and skulls, we'll learn more about the amazing creatures of Ottawa County. |

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| July 30 10-11:30AM | Hemlock Crossing | Super Seeds! How does a tiny seed turn into a giant tree? Where do seeds come from and how do they move if they don't have legs? How does a seed carry its own food? What do seeds need to grow? Learn the answers to these questions and more as we take a close-up look at seeds and the super things they do to create the plants that animals and people need to survive. |
| August 20 10-11:30AM | Hemlock Crossing | Show Me the Energy! What did you have for lunch? Whether it was a sandwich or vegetable soup, your lunch somehow came from energy provided by the sun. Join us to learn how plants capture the sun's energy and turn it into food animals and people can use. We'll explore Hemlock Crossings to find some common and unusual plants and discover the connections between plants and the animals that use them for energy. |
| <i>Day Camps</i> | | |
| Ages, fees and topics vary. See descriptions. | | |
| June 16-19, 9:30AM- 12:30PM | Hemlock Crossing, Connor Bayou & Kirk Park | Birding Skills Summer Camp! Is your child interested in birds? This camp is designed to encourage kids ages 9 and up to develop their enjoyment of birds by building their bird knowledge and increasing their birding skills. The fee is \$70 and advanced registration is required. Details will be emailed after registration. |
| June 23-25, 9:30AM- 4PM | Hemlock Crossing, Connor Bayou & Kirk Park | Wetland Detectives Summer Camp! Kids entering 6 th -8 th grade will have three full days of outdoor fun as they explore the natural communities of wetlands, rivers and bayous. The fee is \$60 and advanced registration is required. Details, including daily locations, will be emailed after registration. |
| July 15 -18, 9:30AM- 3:30PM | Hemlock Crossing | Nature Through Art Summer Camp! Art instructor Nancy Berg and local photographer John Dykstra are teaming up to conduct a four day art camp for kids entering 5 th -7 th grade. The indoor-outdoor program will engage your child in a variety of art and photography techniques. Registration is required. A \$100 fee covers instruction and materials. Details will be emailed after registration. |
| July 29-31, 10AM-2PM | Hemlock Crossing | Junior Naturalist Summer Camp! Participants will explore, investigate and discover the outdoors in the variety of natural habitats in the park. Registration is open to students entering 4 th -6 th grade. The fee is \$60 and advanced registration is required. Campers should bring a lunch. |
| August 5-7, 10AM-2PM | Pigeon Creek Park | Outdoor Survival Camp! This camp is for kids entering 5 th -8 th grade who wish to practice the outdoor skills needed for a wilderness excursion. The fee is \$60 and advanced registration is required. Campers should bring a lunch. |

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

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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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Ottawa is the county of choice for living, working and playing. Over 1100 County of Ottawa employees work together and achieve this through their commitment to excellent, cost effective public services. For more information and services visit www.miOttawa.org.