

Huron-Clinton

# METROPARKSnews

www.metroparks.com • Spring 2010



SPRING STORIES

EASTER EGG HUNTS

MAPLE SUGARING

PHOTO CONTEST

PLAY & SAVE ON GOLF



# SPRING'S best bets

## MAPLE SUGARING PROGRAMS

See the Nature Note for programs at Hudson Mills, Indian Springs, Kensington, Oakwoods and Wolcott Mill Metroparks.

## SHEEP SHEARING SATURDAY & FIBER FAIR

**Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center**  
March 20

Watch sheep shearing, and then see how we use wool as artists weave and spin it. Wool items will be sold. Make a craft from wool. \$

## OWL FESTIVAL

**Metro Beach Metropark Nature Center**  
April 11

Get wise about owls with live owl talks, activities, crafts and guided walks to search for nesting and roosting resident owls. \$

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center**  
April 17

Celebrate spring's return with guided discovery hikes, creative nature crafts and fun activities! \$

## SPRING FESTIVAL

**Kensington Metropark Farm Center**  
April 24 & 25

Watch sheep shearing and wool spinning, then try candle dipping and crafts at the farm. \$

## MARCH OF DIMES WALK FOR BABIES

**Hudson Mills, Kensington & Metro Beach Metroparks**  
April 25

Go to [www.marchforbabies.com](http://www.marchforbabies.com) or call 1-800-244-9255 for registration times. \$

## WILLOW DUATHALON

**Willow Metropark**  
May 1

Compete in this running/biking event. [www.3disciplines.com](http://www.3disciplines.com) \$

## 27TH ANNUAL METRO GRAND SPRING TOUR

**Willow Metropark**  
May 2

Pre-registration required for this bicycle event. [www.lmb.org/dcc/mgst](http://www.lmb.org/dcc/mgst) \$

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

**Metro Beach Metropark**  
May 8

Live birds of prey, family activities to learn about birds, and bird walks highlight this event. \$

## MICHIGAN RECUMBENT BICYCLE RALLY

**Willow Metropark**  
May 8

Test ride an ultra-comfortable recumbent bike at the pool parking area. [www.wolverbents.org](http://www.wolverbents.org), 734-487-9058 or [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com).

## MIDWEST CYCLING GROUP BIKE RACES

**Kensington Metropark**  
May 8

Compete in various-level bike races. [www.midwestcyclinggroup.com](http://www.midwestcyclinggroup.com) \$

## WELCOME HOME BIRD BASH: CELEBRATING OUR RETURNING MIGRATORY BIRDS

**Lake Erie Metropark Museum and Nature Center**  
May 8 & 9

Come to one of the top spots for birding in Southeast Michigan during this National Migratory Bird Day event.

## SRAM STATE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA

**Kensington Metropark**  
May 15

Watch high school teams compete for state titles in crew rowing races.

## RE-ENACTMENT OF LEWIS CASS 1820 EXPEDITION

**Metro Beach Metropark**  
May 22

This living history event recreates the historic landing of the Lewis Cass Expedition in 1820 on the shoreline that is now Metro Beach. Re-enactors will portray early settlers of this region while demonstrating the crafts and skills of that era.

## HERON DAYS

**Kensington Metropark**  
May 22 & 23

Celebrate spring and the return of great blue herons with Rosco the Clown, plus native plant sales and nature activities. \$



© Douglas Schaible

## JAYNE MILLER new director

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks Board of Commissioners named Jayne Miller to be director of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, effective March 1.

Miller, of Ann Arbor, was the community services area administrator for the City of Ann Arbor which includes Parks and Recreation Services, the Office of Community Development, Planning and Development Services, and the Open Space and Parkland Preservation Program. She brings 22 years experience in various capacities in parks and recreation with Ann Arbor to the Metroparks.

"The field of parks and recreation is my passion," said Miller. "I'm thrilled at this opportunity to work for a high-quality regional park system that enhances quality of life for the people of Southeast Michigan."

Miller holds a master of arts in Recreation Administration from the University of Maryland and a bachelor of arts in Physical Education and Social Science. She is a certified parks and recreation professional and is a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

Miller replaces James J. Bresciammi, who retired in August, 2009.

## WHAT'S new

**Displays at Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center:** These new displays, pictured on the cover, tell the story of plant and animal life of prairies and wetlands found at the park.

**Pool at Willow Metropark:** Opening this summer, our new pool with water sprays and a family slide updates the pool complex.

**Marina at Metro Beach Metropark:** Opening this summer, this \$3.4 million marina replaces the original, built in 1959.

**Bathhouse at Kensington Metropark:** This new bathhouse/food service complex will better serve visitors at Martindale Beach.



# SPRING stories

Great blue heron at Kensington Metropark. © Jim Ridley

What do you like best about spring at your Metroparks? Here's what some of our fans had to say on Facebook:

"I love returning in the spring and experiencing Kensington Metropark coming back to life, including the many beautiful memories that are held among the trees there. It is and always will be a very special and sacred place for me to return to year after year."

– Julie Anne Lowe

"I ran the 8-mile loop at Kensington so many times one spring that I literally followed a couple of swans by watching them incubate their eggs all the way to birth. One day, there they were with these little (cygnets). I felt like a member of their family!"

– Angela Sohn

I love when the blue herons are nesting at Kensington. They make an incredible amount of noise, lol!"

– Heather Currie Toll

I live to go birding at Kensington, it's a great "birdy" park that I think a lot of people overlook. Plus I'm one of the leaders for the three annual bird counts there including the spring count."

– Pat Baize

The redbuds blooming at Lower Huron have to be at the top of the list! But, I'm just a little biased when it comes to my favorite Metropark!"

– Sandra Burns

Even though most of our Facebook fans mused about Kensington, spring renews the beauty at all 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks. See how we tap maple trees and collect sap to make maple syrup at Hudson Mills, Kensington, Indian Springs, Oakwoods or Wolcott Mill Metroparks. Bird festivals at Metro Beach, Kensington and Oakwoods offer you the chance to go on a bird walk, meet live birds and more. This year marks the 190th anniversary of the Lewis Cass Expedition of 1820, during which explorers made a lunch stop at what is now Metro Beach Metropark before they continued on their journey to the upper Great Lakes and Mississippi region. A special re-enactment on May 22 commemorates this historical event.

On our golf courses, we've improved our game by initiating a sliding scale of fees, giving golfers opportunities to save and play during our non-peak times.

So, come out for a walk, breathe in the air, and take a fresh look at all there is to offer at 13 Huron-Clinton Metroparks, one of the nation's best regional park systems, that was created to serve Southeast Michigan.

Then, join the conversation by becoming a fan of Huron-Clinton Metroparks on Facebook.



## TAKE ME FISHING™

**GO FISHING AT YOUR METROPARKS!**

Fishing camps and programs coming this summer!

## NEW web site

Been to [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com) lately? If not, then log on to see our newly-designed site. With an all-new look, easier navigation and additional functionality, you can check the weather, golf course and trail conditions at specific parks, and much more!



# FLOODPLAIN forests

## IT'S CLEANUP TIME

Six Metroparks can use your help on Earth Appreciation Day, Saturday April 17, during their annual cleanups.

Most events last a half-day, and a complimentary lunch is provided to those helpers who register in advance. Entry to all Metroparks will be free on this "Appreciation Day."

Please register to help at any of these cleanups:

**KEEP KENSINGTON CLEAN**  
Kensington Metropark  
9 am – noon

**SHORELINE CLEANUP**  
Lake Erie Metropark  
9 am – noon

**20TH ANNUAL EARTH WEEK CLEANUP**  
Metro Beach Metropark  
9 am – 2 pm

**EARTH DAY CLEANUP**  
Oakwoods Metropark  
10 am – noon

**EARTH DAY PARK CLEANUP**  
Stony Creek Metropark  
8 am – noon

**EARTH DAY CLEANUP**  
Wolcott Mill Metropark  
Farm Center  
9 am – noon

**EARTH DAY CLEANUP**  
Wolcott Mill Metropark  
Historic Center  
10 am – noon

With new signs of life emerging, spring is a great time to get out and enjoy the Metroparks' natural areas. One of the best places to enjoy early signs of spring is a floodplain forest. These unique wetlands are found in low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and streams. Floodplain forests are one of the most biologically productive and diverse ecosystems in our area, thanks to seasonal floods that deposit nutrients and create unique topography.

Plants that live in floodplain forests are specifically adapted to seasonal flooding, and many species actually depend on natural flooding cycles to survive and reproduce. The bladdernut shrub releases its seeds in capsules, which float downriver in the floodwaters. Sycamore and silver maple, two trees found in floodplain forests, have roots that can tolerate complete inundation for much of the year. This unique habitat also supports certain threatened and endangered species, several of which are found at the Metroparks.

In spring, floodplain forests are alive with signs of new life. Skunk cabbage, one of the first plants to emerge in spring, generates its own heat which helps the purple, conical flowers push through snow and frozen ground. Small, shallow wetlands called vernal ponds remain after floodwaters recede, and these ephemeral pools provide critical breeding habitat for many amphibians. Because vernal ponds are temporary, the eggs of frogs and salamanders are able to develop without the risk of being eaten by fish or other aquatic predators. In early spring, you can often hear the calls of chorus frogs, spring peepers and wood frogs as they stage for mating.

Continuous tracts of floodplain forests once ran along the edges of rivers throughout southern Michigan, but today, most of the original floodplain forest habitat in our area has been destroyed or fragmented by agriculture and development. Alterations to the natural flow of rivers have also reduced habitat quality of existing remnants. Exotic invasive species displace native floodplain forest plants and degrade wildlife habitat. However, by preserving natural hydrology, removing invasive species, and working to re-connect forest fragments, we can restore the ecological health of these degraded ecosystems.

We need your help to ensure that floodplain forests and other ecosystems remain healthy for years to come. The Metroparks Natural Resources Department typically holds two volunteer workdays each month. In spring, volunteers primarily work to remove garlic mustard, an invasive woodland wildflower, from our high-quality natural areas. For more information on volunteer workdays or how to get involved with ecological stewardship, contact Justin Heslinga at 810-227-2757 or [justin.heslinga@metroparks.com](mailto:justin.heslinga@metroparks.com).

– Justin Heslinga  
natural resources technician



Bladdernut produces floating capsules to disperse its seeds downriver.



Skunk cabbage and marsh marigold emerge from a vernal pond.



# METROPARKS golf

## PLAY YOUR GAME and save

Take advantage of lower fees,  
11 am – 3 pm weekdays and noon – 4 pm weekends

### WEEKDAYS

#### MORNING RATES

Opening – 11 am

Maximum Rate

#### MIDDAY RATES

11 am – 3 pm

\$5 Off 18 Holes or  
\$3 Off 9 Holes

#### AFTERNOON RATES

3 pm – 6 pm

Maximum Rate

### WEEKENDS

#### MORNING RATES

Opening – Noon

Maximum Rate

#### AFTERNOON RATES

Noon – 4 pm

Weekday Rate,  
Includes Jr./Sr. Rates

#### TWILIGHT RATES

4 pm – Close

\$5 Off 18-Hole  
Weekday Rate or  
\$3 Off 9-Hole  
Weekday Rate



## DIRECTORY

Please call ahead for  
course conditions  
and tee times.  
1-800-23-GOLF-4  
or Direct:

**HUDSON MILLS**  
734-426-0466

**HURON MEADOWS**  
1-800-477-3193

**INDIAN SPRINGS**  
1-800-477-3192

**KENSINGTON**  
248-685-9332

**LAKE ERIE**  
734-379-0048

**LOWER HURON (PAR 3)**  
1-800-477-3182

**METRO BEACH (PAR 3)**  
1-800-477-3172

**STONY CREEK**  
586-781-9166

**WILLOW**  
734-753-4040

**WOLCOTT MILL**  
1-800-477-3944

Affordable rates,  
including junior  
and senior rates.

For spring specials, go to  
[www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com)

## MAKE YOUR reservation now



Spring/Summer Leagues & Outings

Watch for courses to open as conditions permit.  
Call ahead or go to [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com)

## METROPARK super golf day

Tuesday, June 8  
\$10 per player, includes cart  
Foursome & tee times required.  
Excludes leagues.

## 2010 JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

Carl's Golfland  
Huron-Clinton Metroparks



### BOYS TOURNAMENTS

July 9 Indian Springs  
July 14 Lake Erie  
July 15 Huron Meadows  
July 19 Kensington  
July 26 Stony Creek

### GIRLS TOURNAMENTS

July 14 Lake Erie  
July 19 Kensington  
July 26 Stony Creek

### CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Metroparks  
1-800-23-GOLF-4

Carl's Golfland  
Bloomfield Hills: 248-335-8095  
Plymouth: 734-354-9274



# NATURE NOTE: maple syrup

## MAPLE'S SWEET STORY

**Kensington Metropark Farm Center**  
noon – 3 pm  
March Weekends  
School groups may make weekday appointments.

## JOURNEY TO THE SUGAR BUSH

**Hudson Mills Metropark Weekends**  
February 27 – March 27  
10 am, 11 am and noon by appointment, \$  
**All you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast**  
9 am – 2 pm, \$

## MAPLE SWEETNESS

**Wolcott Mill Metropark Historic Center**  
March 6, 7, 13, 14, 27 & 28  
1 pm & 3 pm \$  
School groups may make appointments on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## MAPLE SUGARING

**Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center**  
March Weekends (except March 28)  
Call for times \$

Maple syrup is truly an American-made product, in fact, Michigan ranked fifth in the country for producing about 115,000 gallons of syrup last year.

Maple syrup is made only in North America. This is because the natural range of the sugar maple tree (the preferred maple for sap collection) is the north-east portion of the United States and the southern sections of Ontario and Quebec. It is here, too, where the proper springtime weather exists to create the “sap runs” when we tap trees to collect sap.

As spring approaches, daytime temperatures begin to rise. Still, it is usually cold at night. This see-saw effect of warm days and cold nights causes pressure changes within the trees. During cold nights, a negative pressure exists which causes the maple trees to absorb moisture from the soil. During the day, as the trees warm up, carbon dioxide gases expand, which generates a positive pressure within the tree. If the tree’s internal pressure is greater than the external barometric pressure, sap will be pushed out of a hole drilled into the tree, much like a pressurized garden hose will leak if a nail is punched into it. The best daily

temperature range for this process is 20° F to 41° F and these conditions are only found during a few short weeks, typically in March in Michigan.

Maple sap is mainly water with dissolved sugars (about two percent), minerals, and organic and amino acids. To turn the sap into syrup, most of the water must be boiled away. As the water evaporates, the sugars become more concentrated. The heat from the fire is also the magic wand that blends the sugars, acids and minerals into the characteristic “maple” flavor. Without being “flamed boiled” the resulting syrup would be sweet but not maple flavored.

If you’d like to experience maple sugaring firsthand, come to one of the programs offered at Hudson Mills, Indian Springs, Kensington, Oakwoods and Wolcott Mill Metroparks this spring.

– Steve Horn, supervising interpreter  
Indian Springs Metropark

## SIGN UP for camp!

Talented interpreters provide a variety of ways to explore the natural world. Please call ahead for program information, fees and how to register.

### NATURE'S CHILD DAY CAMP

Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center  
June 21 – 23, 10 am – 3 pm

### FARMER'S CAMP

Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center  
July 13 – 15, 9 am – 3 pm

### MOVING ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

Lake Erie Metropark Museum & Nature Center  
July 20 – 23, 10 am – 3 pm

### ENVIRONMENTAL TECH CAMP

Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center  
August 3 – 6, 9:30 am – 2 pm

### SCIENTIST FOR A DAY CAMP

Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center  
June 22 – 25, 9:30 am – 2 pm

### NATURE SURVIVOR DAY CAMP

Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center  
July 13 – 16, 9:30 am – 2 pm

### FISH CAMP

Kensington Metropark Nature Center  
July 20 – 23, 9:30 am – noon & 1 pm – 3:30 pm

### FISHING FUN CAMP

Oakwoods Metropark Nature Center  
August 11 – 13, 10 am – 2 pm

### FARM CAMP

Kensington Metropark Farm Center  
June 22 – 25, 9 am – 3 pm

### EXPLORER'S DAY CAMP

Kensington Metropark Nature Center  
July 13 – 16, 10 am – 3 pm

### SUMMER ECOLOGY CAMP

Oakwoods Metropark  
July 21 – 23, 10 am – 2 pm

# WORTH noting



The Michigan Recreation and Park Association selected the **Turtle Cove Family Aquatic Center at Lower Huron Metropark** as the winner of the 2009 Facility Design Award.



The Michigan Recreation and Park Association posthumously inducted **Olga M. Madar**, Governor-appointed member of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Board of Commissioners (1947-1963), into the MRPA Hall of Fame in October 2009.

**CNA Insurance** honored the **Huron-Clinton Metroparks** for its efforts to improve employee safety practices with a Leadership in Safety Award for 2009.

**Kosch Catering** is the exclusive caterer at Stony Creek, Kensington and Wolcott Mill Metroparks, and for the Environmental Discovery Center and golf course at Indian Springs Metropark. [www.koschcatering.com](http://www.koschcatering.com)

Your Metroparks 2010 annual permit is your entry to 13 Metroparks all year. regular \$25, seniors \$15

## METROPARKS GIFT CARDS make the perfect gift!

Gift cards can be used for golf fees, annual permits, picnic shelter rentals or marina fees, and can be purchased at any park office or the Metroparks Administrative Offices in Brighton.



## APPRECIATION days

Visit your favorite Metropark during "Appreciation Days" for special programs or free use of selected facilities.

### Earth Day

Saturday, April 17

Free park entry & boat launching.

### Family Day

Saturday, May 15

Park entry fees apply.

## GET connected

### ON FACEBOOK



If you have a Facebook account, please add "Huron-Clinton Metroparks" to your fan list! Share your photos, get updates, and see what's happening!

### IN YOUR INBOX

Receive updates on events, programs, golf and more! Send an "add me to your list" message to [mail@metroparks.com](mailto:mail@metroparks.com). Please indicate if you would only like to receive information on golf. Addresses are not shared with third parties.



## REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT JUST fertilizing your lawn

Fertilize sparingly and carefully. Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and rivers. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and rivers. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water.

### Simple steps to take:

- Sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back onto your lawn
- Select a lawn service that uses organic fertilizers or offers a slow-release nitrogen, low or no phosphorus option
- Choose a fertilizer with low or no phosphorus
- Keep fertilizer applications at least 20 feet away from the edge of lakes, streams or storm drains.

Brought to you by the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water. Find out more at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org). The Metroparks Storm Water Management Plan is available for review at [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com).

## Become a member!



**Free admission** to Henry Ford Museum® and Greenfield Village®, great discounts and more!

[thehenryford.org/membership](http://thehenryford.org/membership) 313.982.6001

# EASTER egg hunts

### TODDLERS' EGG HUNT

**Wolcott Mill Metropark  
Historic Center  
March 20 & 21**

Come to this special Easter egg hunt for toddlers only, plus meet the Easter Bunny. Reservations required. \$

### EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

**Willow Metropark  
March 27**

Come for Easter fun with an egg hunt, crafts, games and a petting farm. Advance tickets \$

### EASTER EGG HUNT

**Hudson Mills Metropark  
March 28**

Join in fun activities, hunt for eggs and meet the Easter Bunny. \$

### EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

**Lake Erie Metropark  
April 3**

Hunt for eggs, meet the Easter Muskrat, take a hayride and have a light lunch. Advance tickets. \$

### NATURALLY, IT'S EASTER (EGG HUNT)

**Stony Creek Metropark  
Nature Center  
March 27**

Join in an Egg Scramble, giggle with Rosco the Clown, meet the Easter Bunny and make an Easter craft. Reservations required. \$

### FARM EGG SCRAMBLE

**Wolcott Mill Metropark  
Farm Center  
March 28**

Scramble for eggs, meet the Easter Bunny, visit the farm animals and make a craft to take home. Wagon rides available for purchase. \$

### THE GREAT EGG HUNT

**Kensington Metropark  
Farm Center  
April 3**

Join Farmer John and the Barnyard Express animal show, and then hunt for eggs at the farm. \$

### EASTER EGG HUNT WITH ROSCO THE CLOWN

**Indian Springs Metropark  
Environmental Discovery Center  
April 3**

Laugh it up with Rosco the Clown, then go on an egg hunt. Reservations required. \$



Tom Helfrich's grand prize winner.

Tom Helfrich's bug-eyed view of a bullfrog earned him top honors in the Huron-Clinton Metroparks and West Oakland Camera Club's 2009 Nature Photography Contest. As the Grand Prize Winner, Helfrich's photo will be headlined in photo displays seen among the parks. First place winners received various prizes, including a print of their photo, provided by Woodward Camera. Entries were judged by members of the West Oakland Camera Club.

WILDLIFE



Adult | Rodney Laura



Ages 13-17 | Mike Dennis



Ages 5-12 | Mckensie Winn

NATURE



Adult | Richard Brehler



Ages 13-17 | Brandon Scott

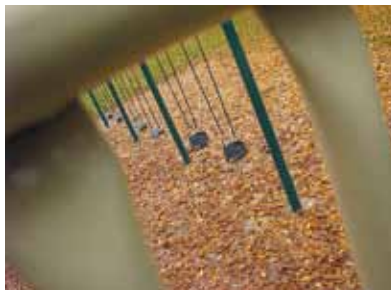


Ages 5-12 | Paxton Meyer

RECREATION & EDUCATION



Adult | Wendy Mets



Ages 13-17 | Ann Sebring



Ages 5-12 | Jacob Niffin





# SPRING calendar

## INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER near White Lake 248-625-6640

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 13 Pinch Pots & Coil Pots, 1 pm \$
- 20 Girl Scouts – Get with the Land, 10 am & 1:30 pm \$
- 27 Gyotaku Japanese Fish Print Art, 1 pm \$

### APRIL

- 3 **Easter Egg Hunt with Rosco the Clown, 10 am & 1 pm \$**
- 10 GPS Exploration, 1 pm \$
- 11 Jr. Girl Scouts – Your Outdoor Surroundings, 1 pm \$
- 17 **Earth Day Celebration, 11 am – 3 pm \$**
- 18 “Green” Your Wedding, 1:30 pm \$
- 24 Girl Scouts 11-17, Sr. & Ambassador Girl Scouts – Water Drop Patch, 9:30 am – 4 pm \$
- 24 Jr. Girl Scouts & Brownies – Water Drop Patch, 1 pm – 4 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Jr. Girl Scouts – Science in Everyday Life, 10 am & 1:30 pm \$
- 2 Savannah Cabana, 1 pm \$
- 8 High School Students – Earn Those Service Hours, 1 pm
- 15 Girl Scouts 11-17, Sr. & Ambassador Girl Scouts – Water Drop Patch, 9:30 am – 4 pm \$
- 15 Jr. Girl Scouts and Brownies – Water Drop Patch, 1 pm – 4 pm \$
- 16 Boy Scouts – Wilderness Survival Merit Badge (part I), 10 am \$
- 22 Boy Scouts – Environmental Science Merit Badge (part I), 10 am \$
- 23 Boy Scouts – Wilderness Survival Merit Badge (part II), 10 am \$
- 29 Microscope Photo Fun, 1 pm \$

## INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK NATURE CENTER near White Lake 248-625-7280

Please preregister for programs

### APRIL

- 10 Basic Orienteering, 10 am \$
- 11 Bear Scouts – Sharing Your World with Wildlife, 10 am & 1 pm \$
- 18 Brownies – Watching Wildlife, 10 am & 1 pm \$
- 24, 25 Webelos Badge Day – Forestry, Naturalist & Geology, call for times \$

### MAY

- 1, 2 Webelos Badge Day – Forestry, Naturalist & Geology, call for times \$
- 8 Tot Time – Bird Nests & Eggs, 1 pm \$
- 15, 16 Webelos – Outdoorsman, 10 am \$
- 22 Bear & Wolf Scouts – Indian Lore, 10 am & 1 pm \$
- 22 Toadily Cool, 1 pm \$
- 23 Brownies & Jr. Girl Scouts – Indian Lore, 10 am & 1 pm \$
- 29 Wildflower Stroll, 1 pm \$
- 29 Music of the Night, 8:30 pm \$

## KENSINGTON METROPARK PARK EVENTS near Milford/Brighton 1-800-477-3178 or 248-685-1561

### APRIL

- 25 March of Dimes Walk for Babies

### MAY

- 8 Tour of Kensington Valley Bike Race (Midwest Cycling Group)
- 15 SRAM State High School Championship Regatta
- 30 Oakland Bass Master Fishing Classic

## HUDSON MILLS METROPARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS near Dexter/Ann Arbor 1-800-477-3191 or 734-426-8211

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 28 **Easter Egg Hunt, noon \$**

### APRIL

- 3 Bird Hike, 7:30 am \$
- 10 Hike by Bike – Spring Rains, noon \$
- 17 Weekend Walk – Early Greens, noon \$
- 24 Jr. Girl Scouts – Water Wonders, 1 pm \$\*

### MAY

- 1 Bird Hike, 7:30 am \$
  - 8 Brownies – Watching Wildlife, 1 pm \$\*
  - 9 Mother’s Day Wildflower Hike, 1 pm \$ (moms free)
  - 15 Brownies – Animals, 10 am \$\*
  - 22 Jr. Girl Scouts – Wildlife, 10 am \$\*
  - 23 Jr. Girl Scouts – Earth Connections, 1 pm \$\*
- \* see GSH of M program planner

## KENSINGTON METROPARK FARM CENTER near Milford/Brighton 248-684-8632

Please preregister for programs

**HAYRIDES WEEKENDS, NOON – 4 PM \$**

### APRIL

- 3 **The Great Egg Hunt, 1 pm \$**
- 8 Fun on the Farm, 10 am \$
- 10 Farmer for a Day, 10 am – 3 pm \$
- 22 Fun on the Farm 10 am \$
- 24, 25 **Spring Festival, noon – 4 pm \$**

### MAY

- 6 Fun on the Farm, 10 am \$
- 15 Farmer for a Day, 10 am – 3 pm \$

# SPRING calendar

## KENSINGTON METROPARK NATURE CENTER near Milford/Brighton 248-685-0603

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 6 Chickadee Chow-Down, 1 pm \$
- 7 Deer Trailing, 2 pm \$
- 13 Survival Saturday – Fire Building, 1 pm \$
- 14 Planting to Attract Birds, 2 pm \$
- 20 Webelos: Forester, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 21 Birding the Bluebird Trail, 2 pm \$
- 27 Survival Saturday – How to Get Unlost, 1 pm \$
- 28 Return of the Ducks, 2 pm \$
- 28 Sugar Full Moon Walk, 7:30 pm \$

### APRIL

- 3 Signs of Spring Walk, 1 pm \$
- 4 Heron Watch, 1pm – 4 pm
- 7 Searching for Pond Critters, 2 pm \$
- 8 Birding for Beginners, 10 am \$
- 9 Calling All Owls, 8 pm \$
- 10 Cold-Blooded Chorus, 1 pm \$
- 11 Webelos – Naturalist, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 17 Snakes in the Lobby, noon
- 17 Webelos – Geologist, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 18 Jr. Girl Scouts – Rocks Rock, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 22 Earth Day Habitat Restoration Workday, 2 pm – 6 pm
- 24 Survival Saturday – Shelter Building, 1 pm \$
- 25 Birding by Ear, 2 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Leave No Trace: Camping for Scouts, 1 pm \$
- 2 Webelos – Forester, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 8 Welcome Home the Birds, 10 am \$
- 8 Webelos – Outdoorsman, 1 pm – 4 pm \$
- 9 Frog's Eye View, 2 pm
- 15 May Bird Count, 7 am
- 16 Heron Watch, 1 pm – 4 pm
- 22, 23 Heron Days, noon – 4 pm**
- 28 Corn Planting Full Moon Walk, 9 pm \$
- 29 Beasts on the Beach, 1 pm – 4 pm
- 30 Heron Watch, 1 pm – 4 pm
- 31 Birding Spring Hill, 10 am \$
- 31 Going Buggy, 2 pm \$

## OAKWOODS METROPARK NATURE CENTER near Flat Rock 734-782-3956

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 6 Tadpoles, 10 am, 2-5 yr. olds \$
- 6 Nature NUTS, 10 am, 6-10 yr. olds \$
- 6 Webelos – Naturalist, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 7 The Great Awakening, 1 pm, \$
- 8 Homeschool Monday, 10 am \$
- 8 Mommy & Me, 10 am \$
- 13, 14 Build a Bluebird House, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 19 Pancake Supper at Willow Food Bar, 5 pm & 7pm \$
- 20 Maple Sugar Day at Willow Food Bar, 10 am & noon \$
- 21 Animals Baby! 1 pm \$
- 27 Easter Egg Scramble at Willow, 10 am \$**
- 27 The Great Amphibian Hunt, 2 pm \$

### APRIL

- 3 Easter's Bunnies, 10 am \$
- 10 Tadpoles, 10 am, 2-5 yr. olds \$
- 10 Nature NUTS, 10 am, 6-10 yr. olds \$
- 10, 11 Build a Bat House Weekend, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 12 Homeschool Monday, 10 am \$
- 12 Mommy & Me, 10 am \$
- 16 Evening Woodcock Walk, 7 pm \$
- 17 Earth Day Cleanup, 10 am
- 17, 18 Woodcarvers Weekend, 10 am – 4 pm**
- 24 Spring Birding Workshop I, 8 am – 11 am \$
- 24 National Frog Month...Day, 10 am \$
- 25 The Importance of Being Vernal, 2 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Tadpoles, 10 am, 2-5 yr. olds \$
- 1 Nature NUTS, 10 am, 6-10 yr. olds \$
- 1 Spring Birding Workshop II, 8 am – 11 am \$
- 1 Evening Murder Mystery, 6 pm \$
- 8 Spring Birding Workshop III, 8 am – 11 am \$
- 8 Spring Woods Scavenger Hunt, 10 am \$
- 9 Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, 2 pm \$
- 10 Homeschool Monday, 10 am \$
- 10 Mommy & Me, 10 am \$
- 15 Watching Warblers, 8 am \$
- 15 Snakes of Oakwoods, 2 pm \$
- 15 Webelos – Forestry, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 22 Birding the Backwaters, 8 am \$
- 22 Polishing Petoskey Stones, 10 am & 2 pm \$
- 23 Wild about Weather, 2 pm \$
- 29, 30 Canoe Kick-off Weekend, 10 am & 2 pm \$

## WILLOW METROPARK PARK EVENTS near New Boston 1-800-477-3182 or 734-697-9181

### MAY

- 1 Willow Duathlon
- 2 27th Annual Metro Grand Spring Tour
- 8 Michigan Recumbent Bicycle Rally

## STONY CREEK METROPARK NATURE CENTER near Rochester/Washington Township 586-781-9113

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 6, 7 Science Olympiad Workshop – Don't Bug Me, Noon, 1:30 pm & 3 pm \$
- 13, 14 Science Olympiad Workshop – Wildlife Safari, noon, 1:30 pm & 3 pm \$
- 21 Bear Scouts – Sharing Your World with Wildlife, 2 pm \$
- 24 Homeschool – The Food Chain Goes On & On..., 11 am, \$
- 27 Naturally, It's Easter! 1 pm \$**
- 28 Brownies – Watching Wildlife, 2 pm \$
- 31 Homeschool – Make a Hiking Staff, 11 am \$

### APRIL

- 5 Spring Break Special – Walk-n-Hotdogs, 11 am \$
- 6 Spring Break Special – Make a Kite, 11 am \$
- 7 Spring Break Special – Make a Hiking Staff, 11 am \$
- 8 Spring Break Special – Turtle, Frog, Snake – Make & Take, 11 am \$
- 9 Spring Break Special – Unmasking Animal Myths, 11 am \$
- 14 Homeschool – Monster Moths, 11 am \$
- 17 Nature Center Clean-up, 9 am
- 17, 18 Webelos – Geologist, 2 pm \$
- 24 Webelos – Geologist, 11 am & 2 pm \$
- 25 Jr. Girl Scouts – Rocks Rock, 2 pm \$
- 28 Homeschool – Pond Exploration, 11 am \$

### MAY

- 2 Brownies – Earth & Sky, 2 pm \$
- 8 Moms & Marshmallows Campfire Program, 7:30 pm \$ (moms free)
- 9 Mother's Day Walk-A-Mom, 10 am - 4 pm \$
- 15 All About Bees, 11 am
- 27 Full Moon Walk – Flower Moon, 8 pm \$

# SPRING calendar

## METRO BEACH METROPARK NATURE CENTER near Mount Clemens 586-463-4332

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 6 Webelos – Naturalist, 10 am \$
- 6 Brownies – Watching Wildlife, 1 pm \$
- 7 Family Nature Activity – Build a Bird Box, 1 pm \$
- 13 The Animals from Over the Hedge, 1 pm \$
- 20 Signs of Spring Hike, 1 pm
- 21 Adult Natural History Series – Waterfowl, 9 am \$
- 21 Tot's Storytime – Mousekin's Easter, 1 pm \$
- 22 Adult Natural History Series – Waterfowl, 9 am \$
- 27 Gardening for Wildlife, 1 pm \$
- 28 Go Fly a Kite! 1 pm \$

### APRIL

- 3 Natural Egg Dyeing, 1 pm \$
- 11 **Owl Festival, noon – 4 pm \$**
- 17 20th Annual Earth Week Cleanup Day, 9 am – 2 pm
- 18 Frog Calls and Other Wetland Sounds, 1 pm \$
- 24 Sidewalk Astronomy Night, 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
- 25 Adult Natural History Series – Frogs & Salamanders, 1 pm \$
- 30 Evening Frog Walk, 8 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Webelos – Forestry, 10 am \$
- 1 Brownies – Plants, 1 pm \$
- 2 Girl Scouts 11–17 IP – All About Birds, noon \$
- 8 **International Migratory Bird Day, 9 am – 4 pm \$**
- 14 Evening in the Marsh Hike, 7:30 pm \$
- 15 Family Nature Activity – Exploring the Wetland, 1 pm
- 16 Adult Natural History Series – Spring Wildflowers, 1 pm \$
- 22 **Re-Enactment of Lewis Cass 1820 Expedition, noon – 4 pm**
- 23 Tot's Storytime – Birds and Nests, 1 pm \$
- 26 Evening in the Marsh – Voyageur Canoe, 7 pm \$

## LAKE ERIE METROPARK MARSHLANDS MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER in Brownstown 734-379-5020

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 6 Crack O' Dawn Coffee Club, 7 am, donations
- 7 Beginner's Guide – Whitetail Ways, 2 pm \$
- 13 Muskrat Club – Deer are Near, 10:30 am \$
- 14 Walking the Rough – Golf Course Nature Hike, 2 pm \$
- 20 Webelos Badge Day – Forester, 10 am & Naturalist, 1 pm \$
- 21 Make it at the Marsh – Dowel Birds, 2 pm \$
- 27 Critter Contact, 10:30 am \$
- 28 Beginner's Guide – Indian Artifacts, 2 pm \$

### APRIL

- 3 **Easter Egg Scramble, 10 am \$**
- 5-9 Easter Week Short-takes, 10 am & 2 pm
- 10 Crack O' Dawn Coffee Club, 7 am, donations
- 10 Muskrat Club – Finger Sight, 10:30 am \$
- 11 **Museum Road Show, 2 pm, \$ for appraisals**
- 17 Critter Contact, 10:30 am \$
- 18 The Sturgeons of Fighting Island, 2 pm \$
- 24 Jr. Girl Scouts Badge Day – Water Wonders, 10 am & Earth Connections, 1 pm \$
- 25 Happy Winds Day, 2 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Crack O' Dawn Coffee Club, 7 am, donations
- 2 Frog Focus Feature, 2 pm \$
- 8, 9 **Welcome Home Bird Bash: Celebrating our Returning Migratory Birds, 7 am – 5 pm**
- 15 Muskrat Club – Butterfly Birds, 10:30 am \$
- 16 Woodlot Wander, 2 pm \$
- 22 Critter Contact, 10:30 am \$
- 22 Archaeology Saturday, 1 pm
- 23 Creature Feature – Aquatic Investigations, 2 pm \$
- 29, 30 A Lost Weekend Refound, 10 am – 5 pm

## WOLCOTT MILL METROPARK HISTORIC CENTER in Ray Township 586-749-5997

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 18 Homeschooler's Maple Syrup, 10 am \$
- 20, 21 **Toddler Egg Hunt, noon & 3 pm \$**

### APRIL

- 7 Fish Print T-shirts, 1 pm \$
- 8 Decorate a Cupcake, 1 pm \$
- 9 Sun Dials, 1 pm \$
- 17 Earth Day Volunteers, 10 am
- 18 Settling in Michigan, 2 pm \$
- 23 Homeschooler's Moon & You, 10 am \$
- 24 You and the Moon, 2 pm \$
- 25 Top to Bottom Tour, 2 pm \$

### MAY

- 1 Geocache Class, 2 pm \$
- 7 American Indian Night Walk, 7:30 pm \$
- 8 Jr. Girl Scouts – Sky Search, 2 pm \$
- 15 Family Fun with Grain, 2 pm \$
- 16 Settler's Gardens, 2 pm \$
- 29 Top to Bottom Tour, 2 pm \$

## WOLCOTT MILL METROPARK FARM CENTER near Ray Township 586-752-5932

Please preregister for programs

### MARCH

- 13 Horse Trailing Seminar, 1 pm \$
- 14 Make an Easter Centerpiece, 1 pm \$
- 20 Sheep Shearing Saturday & Fiber Fair, 10 am – 3 pm \$
- 28 **Farm Egg Scramble, noon – 3 pm \$**

### APRIL

- 6-10 Baby Animal Tour. 10 am, noon & 2 pm \$
- 10 Showmanship Clinic, 1 pm \$
- 17 Earth Day Cleanup 9 am – noon
- 18 Trail Clinic, 1 pm \$
- 25 Hunt Seat/Hunter Jumper Horse Clinic, 1 pm \$

### MAY

- 2 Western Pleasure Horse Clinic, 1 pm \$
- 9 Flowers & a Wagon Ride, noon – 3 pm \$
- 15 Horse Workshop I, 11 am \$
- 16 Saddle Seat Horse Clinic, 1 pm \$

Interpretive programs are for families and individuals, unless stated otherwise. Programs for groups are available at other times by appointment. Call the desired center. A Metroparks vehicle entry permit and registration fee are

required for all programs. Individuals needing mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance to participate in any of these programs should contact the appropriate center at least 72 hours prior to the program.

# HURON-CLINTON metroparks

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

13000 High Ridge Drive, Brighton MI 48114-9058  
 Phone or TTY: 810-227-2757 or 800-47-PARKS  
[www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com)  
 Email: [mail@metroparks.com](mailto:mail@metroparks.com)

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Huron-Clinton Metroparks News

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DENISE SEMION <i>Editor</i>	AMANDA STREBY <i>Graphic Designer</i>
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## DELHI METROPARK

(Park Office at Hudson Mills Metropark)  
 734-426-8211 or 800-477-3191

## DEXTER-HURON METROPARK

(Park Office at Hudson Mills Metropark)  
 734-426-8211 or 800-477-3191

## HUDSON MILLS METROPARK

8801 North Territorial Road, Dexter, MI 48130  
 734-426-8211 or 800-477-3191

## HURON MEADOWS METROPARK

8765 Hammel Road, Brighton, MI 48116  
 810-231-4084 or 800-477-3193

## INDIAN SPRINGS METROPARK

Environmental Discovery Center  
 5175 Indian Trail, White Lake, MI 48386  
 248-625-6640 or 800-477-3192

## KENSINGTON METROPARK

2240 West Buno Road, Milford, MI 48380-4410  
 248-685-1561 or 800-477-3178

## LAKE ERIE METROPARK

32481 West Jefferson, Brownstown, MI 48173  
 734-379-5020 or 800-477-3189

## LOWER HURON METROPARK

17845 Savage Road, Belleville, MI 48111  
 734-697-9181 or 800-477-3182

## METRO BEACH METROPARK

31300 Metro Parkway, Mount Clemens, MI 48046-6905  
 586-463-4581 or 800-477-3172

## OAKWOODS METROPARK

(Park Office at Lower Huron Metropark)  
 734-782-3956 or 800-477-3182

## STONY CREEK METROPARK

4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316-4907  
 586-781-4242 or 800-477-7756

## WILLOW METROPARK

(Park Office at Lower Huron Metropark)  
 734-697-9181 or 800-477-3182

## WOLCOTT MILL METROPARK

63841 Wolcott Road, Ray, MI 48096-2434  
 586-749-5997 or 800-477-3175

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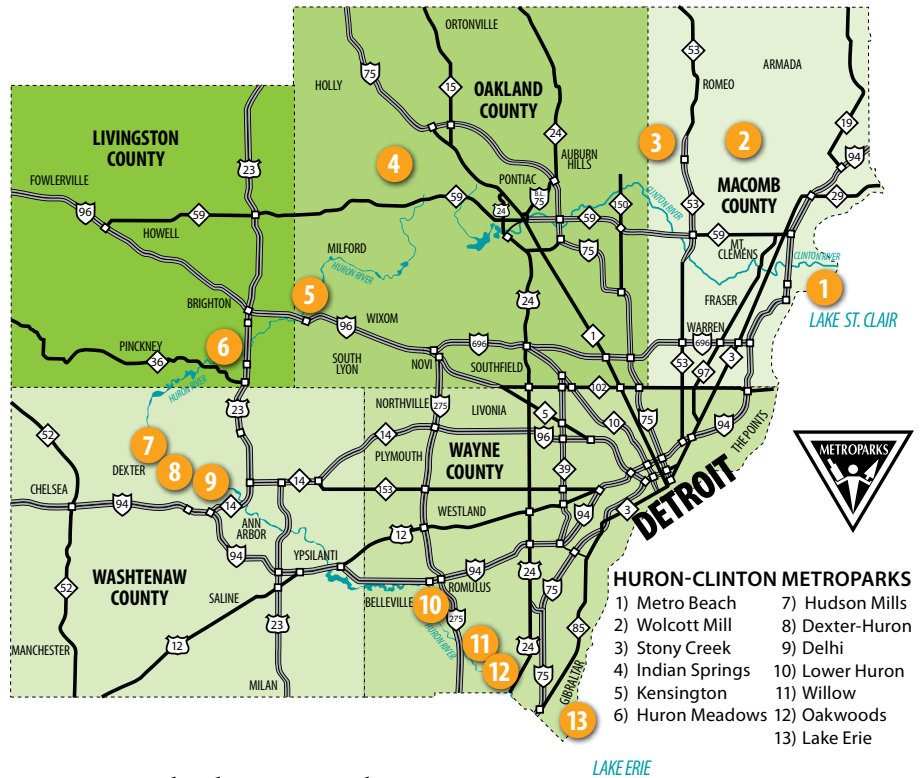
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## MISSION statement

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, a regional park system created in 1940 by the citizens of Southeast Michigan, provides excellent recreational and educational opportunities while serving as stewards of its natural resources. Our efforts are guided by the belief that the use of parks and exposure to natural environments enhance society's health and quality of life.



Annual \$25/Senior \$15 • Daily \$5