

Currents

PROGRAM GUIDE

JUL-OCT 2018 • VOL 9 ISSUE 2



ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

Friends of the Elkhart County Parks

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Our Mission

The Elkhart County Parks Department mission is to enhance the quality of life, preserve the County's cultural, historical, and natural resources; and provide educational and recreational opportunities.

Administrative Office

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed weekends and County holidays

Contact: For all park-related information, shelter reservations or program registration, call the Elkhart County Parks' Administration Office: 574-535-6458.

Office Location: 211 W. Lincoln Avenue, Goshen, IN 46526-3280

Park Hours

January, February, November, December	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
March, October	9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
April, September	9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
May, June, July, August	9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Park hours subject to change without notice.

Features

- 4 Master Plan**
Big plans are in the works and you can be a part of it!
- 8 Meet Indiana's New State Insect**
Learn illuminating facts about our new state bug!
- 9 Five Medals**
A celebration of people and stories that piece together the rich heritage of Northern Indiana.



The *Currents* Information and Program Guide is published three times a year. It is a publication of the Elkhart County Parks. Design by Annie Aguirre.



New Staff Spotlight



Phelicia Jozwiak

Elkhart County Parks' newest part-time Naturalist, Phelicia, joined the team in February.

A recent Purdue graduate with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science, Phelicia has a special interest in sustainability and green living. When she isn't sharing her excitement for environmental education with our community, she loves to spend time with her Great Dane, Harper. Be sure to check out Phelicia's upcoming programs in this issue's programs & events calendar.

Brian O'Connor

Ox Bow County Park has a new park manager! Brian O'Connor was promoted to the position in March. Brian has a great love for the outdoors and park visitors that he's developed over more than 20 years in parks and recreation – much of it with the City of Elkhart. Ox Bow staff are thrilled with their new manager who praise his fun attitude and great sense of humor. Brian is an avid fisherman and likes to spend as much time as possible outdoors – even on his days off. Welcome to the Elkhart County Parks leadership team!

► **Join the Parks team!** See current open positions at elkhartcountyindiana.com/apply

4-H Fair July 20-28

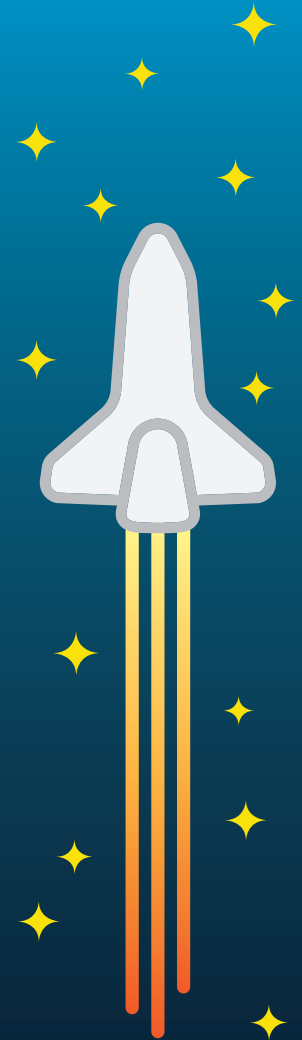


Summer is the time for corn dogs, elephant ears and the Elkhart County Parks booth at the Elkhart County 4-H Fair!

Stop by to find out about upcoming programs and events, hear what's new at the park properties, participate in our Master Plan survey, and learn about local wildlife. This year will include live insects and, naturally, the famous turtle pond.

Our booth is located next to Young MacDonald Farm

INITIATING COUNTDOWN TO LAUNCH



GET READY FOR A NEW WEBSITE

**LAUNCH DATE:
07-01-2018**

elkhartcountyparks.org

Love the *Currents*? Subscribe for the digital edition at elkhartcountyparks.org

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instagram.com
[/elkhartcountyparks](https://www.instagram.com/elkhartcountyparks)
[/elkhartcountyhistory](https://www.instagram.com/elkhartcountyhistory)



Website
elkhartcountyparks.org
elkhartcountyhistory.org

2019-2023 Master Plan

Over the coming months, the Elkhart County Parks will be working with Lehman & Lehman to gather community input for its 5-Year Parks and

Recreation Master Plan. System-wide parks and recreation master plans are prepared under the guidance of the Indiana DNR – Division of Outdoor Recreation. The planning process involves information gathering, surveying the public, analyzing issues and needs, setting priorities, developing an action schedule and allowing for public input and comment.

The outcome will allow Elkhart County Parks to determine what recreational facilities and programs are publicly desired and appropriate and will help prioritize and plan for new and renovated facilities and programs.

It is an exciting time to begin planning a new decade with many projects already underway and the recent celebration of the department's first 50 years.

The parks belong to all citizens of Elkhart County, therefore their involvement and input is much needed to create a plan that will address the outdoor recreation needs of the future.

There are several ways citizens are welcome to give their input:

1. **Online Survey:** Please visit our website at elkhartcountyparks.org in the coming weeks to give your input through a survey.
2. **Event Survey:** Ask a staff for a survey at one of our many public programs and events
3. **Public Meeting:** Join us for a public meeting to discuss the vision and needs of the Elkhart County Parks. A public meeting will be held at Cobus Creek County Park on Tuesday, July 31 at 6 p.m.



Volunteer Spotlight

Michael Case started volunteering at the Elkhart County Historical Museum in May of 2017.

In just a year's time, he has already put in over 600 hours! Michael is an avid history fan and a worker of immense dedication. His primary project has been to comb through hundreds of volumes of bound newspapers to help us compile a comprehensive database of those from Elkhart County that are on microfilm. Michael will then be helping us determine which newspapers are not available anywhere but at ECHM so we can work to make them more accessible.

You can follow Michael on the museum's Facebook page feature, Throwback Thursdays, and see then-and-now photographs he has taken inspired by stories and pictures in the very newspapers he is surveying.

Thank you, Michael, for all your hard work!

Photo Contest

Best of Show

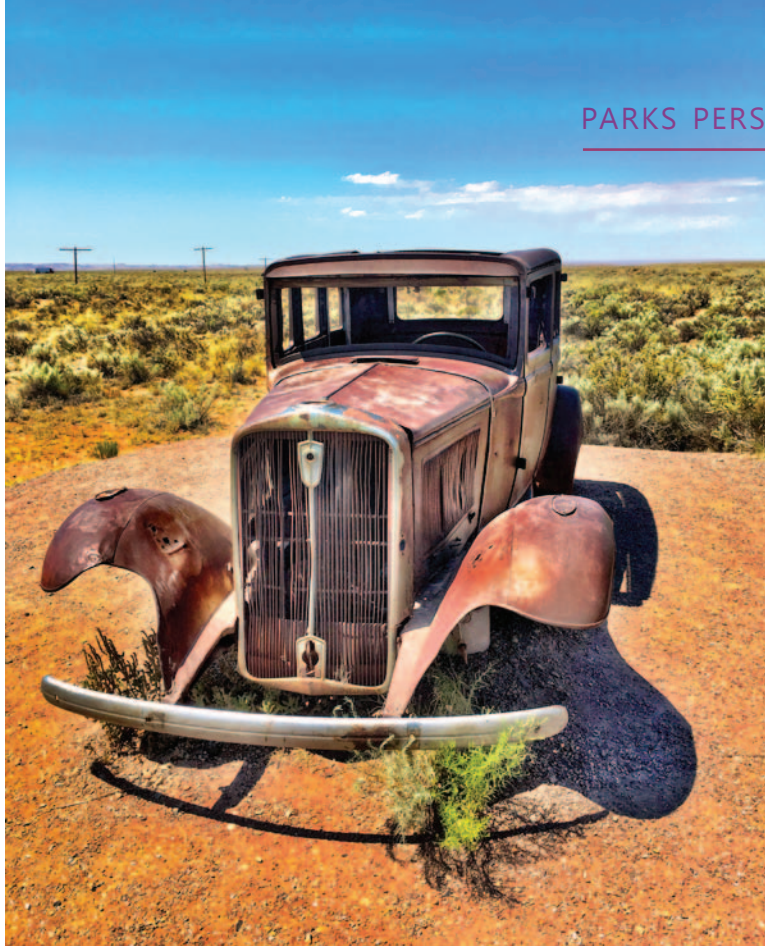
Brandon Banghart
"Route 66"

Our 38th annual photo contest received over 180 entries.

We had some incredibly talented photographers share their work, including Brandon Banghart, who won *Best of Show* with his photograph of an old truck.

What a shot!

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in this year's contest.



1st Place Winners

Categories: Elkhart County Parks, Nature of the Photo, Youth, A Colorful World, Black & White, Photographer's Choice Award

Nature of the Photo ▶
 Tina Nord
"Magnolia Bud"



⬆️ **Elkhart County Parks**
 Larry App
"Bonneyville Foot Bridge at First Frost"



⬆️ **Photographers Choice Award**
 Lindsey Kish
"Tiger Lily Through the Looking Glass"

⬆️ **Black & White**
 Mike Dubois
"Early Morning Stroll"

Youth ▶
 Alexandria Kokesh
"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall"

⬆️ **A Colorful World**
 Mike Dubois
"Nature's Curves"

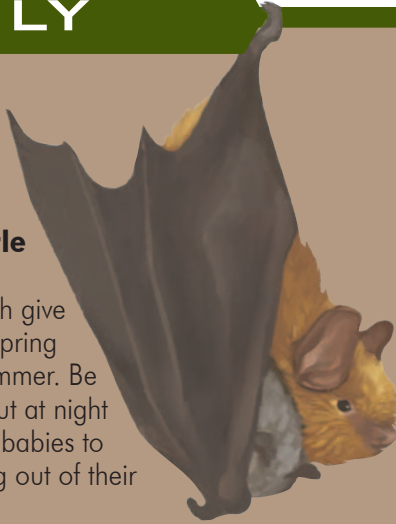


Nature's Calendar

by Phelicia Jozwiak, Interpretive Naturalist

JULY

- Indiana is home to the **Big and Little Brown Bat** species, which give birth in late spring and early summer. Be on the lookout at night for their new babies to begin coming out of their roosts.

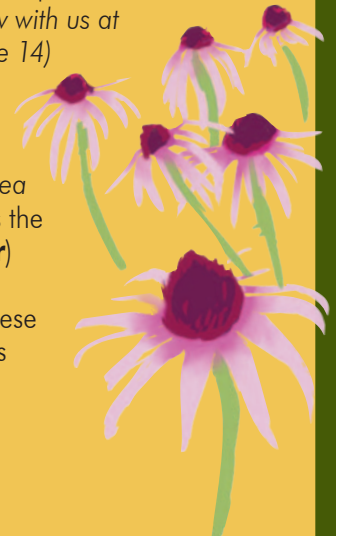


- **Blueberries** are ready for harvest. When picking blueberries, look for the ones that are the darkest blue or black in color.

AUGUST

- The **Perseids Meteor Shower** is one of the brightest of the year, with ideal viewing on Sunday, August 12. At its peak, Perseid will have between 60-100 meteors per hour! Experience this celestial show with us at Bonneyville! (Details on page 14)

- Named after the Greek word for hedgehog, *Echinacea pallida* (commonly known as the **Pale Purple Coneflower**) is a native wildflower in our area. Keep an eye out for these beautiful flowers in savannas and prairies this month to see them before they finish blooming.



SEPTEMBER

- **Monarch Butterflies** are heading south for the year. The peak period to see them passing through our area will be September 8–20.
- **American Bullfrog** tadpoles hatched from the previous summer will complete their metamorphosis into adults. Some bullfrogs are late bloomers and can take as many as two summers to transform.



OCTOBER

- October 8 is the best night to see the peak of the **Draconids Meteor Shower**. With an unusually early evening view time and a new moon giving way to darker skies, this is an excellent year to watch the showers.
- All those **Hornet** and **Wasp Nests** you spent the summer avoiding should now be empty. Wasps and hornets have left their nests and have transitioned into finding a good place to hibernate for the coming winter.



BONNEYVILLE FLOUR



For **quality flour** from a mill you can trust, use Bonneyville Mill products. Our mill makes delicious stone-ground flour and offers a selection to fit your cooking and baking needs.

Business Hours: Wednesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.



Cornmeal

Yellow & White
2 lbs for \$4.50
5 lbs for \$8.00
25 lbs for \$25.00

Grits

Yellow & White
2 lbs for \$4.50
5 lbs for \$8.00
25 lbs for \$25.00

Rye Flour

2 lbs for \$4.50
5 lbs for \$8.00
25 lbs for \$30.00
50 lbs for \$50.00

Whole Wheat

*Hard Red, Hard White
& Soft White*
2 lbs for \$4.50
5 lbs for \$8.00
25 lbs for \$30.00
50 lbs for \$50.00

Buckwheat Flour

2 lbs for \$6.00
5 lbs for \$12.00
25 lbs for \$45.00

Cracked Wheat

2 lbs for \$4.50
5 lbs for \$8.00
25 lbs for \$30.00
50 lbs for \$50.00

Spelt Flour

2 lbs for \$6.00
5 lbs for \$12.00
25 lbs for \$45.00

Scottish Oatmeal

2 lbs for \$6.00
5 lbs for \$12.00
25 lbs for \$45.00

*Offered monthly
August through October*

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Enjoy a hot cup of joe and a delicious treat with miller John at Bonneyville Mill. Bring your questions or a favorite story to share at this exclusive glimpse into life at the mill.

See pages 15–19 for details.

Cornbread Bake Day

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 29**

See page 17 for details.

On Cornbread Bake Day, mill visitors will enjoy free sample one our most popular mill products prepared in a cast iron dutch oven. Try three different recipes and see which one you like best!

Indiana's New State Insect

By Krista Daniels, *Interpretive Naturalist*

In March, Indiana officially became the 48th state to adopt a state insect—the Say's Firefly (*Pyroactomena angulata*). This mesmerizing critter was named for its founder, Thomas Say, an entomologist from New Harmony, Indiana, in 1825. The Say's Firefly is an early summer beetle, of which many kids and adults have spent time catching and watching. Hard to miss on a summer night, the amber flash of the Say's Firefly flickers with 8-12 rapid pulses and lasts for about one second with a 2-4 second delay between flashes.



Illuminating Facts:

- Fireflies are also called lightning bugs and their larvae, which also flash, are called glowworms
- The flash, or bioluminescence, is caused by two chemicals reacting when air enters the firefly's abdomen
- The cold light emitted is very efficient. None of its energy is put into creating heat, like many other light sources
- Firefly larvae are predators, hunting other insects, worms, snails and slugs
- Fireflies can't see blue light, so you can safely observe them using a blue flashlight
- You might see more than one type of firefly in your yard, each with their own unique flash color, pattern, and location
- Fireflies are susceptible to drying out, so if you put them in a jar, make sure you add a piece of moist paper towel to keep the jar humid
- Indiana has 43 species of fireflies

Catch a grasshopper



Feel the tickle of caterpillar legs



Dig for bugs under a log



Eat a chocolate-covered cricket



Find the queen bee in the hive



Befriend a butterfly



BUG NIGHT

Friday, August 10

6:30–8:30 pm

Cobus Creek
County Park

A fun evening of insect encounters for all ages!

See pg.14 for details

Be a witness to history and experience what life was like in this region before Indiana became a state.

Encounter reenactors portraying Native, French, British, and American cultures and learn about how their lives intersected.

Shop handcrafted wares of historic merchants and expert artisans.

Hear sounds and lively songs from centuries past.

Watch tensions between British, French, American, and Native settlers erupt in a battle on the prairie.



GATHERING
AT
5 MEDALS
OCTOBER 20-21
Details on pg.19



Epic Explorers

NEW PROGRAM

Epic Explorers is a new program designed for adventurous and enthusiastic kids age 10-15. This program will combine exploring the Elkhart County Parks and learning along the way. Each program will follow a different environmental theme through a discussions, crafts, hikes, and much more.

Meets: 2nd Monday of every month (through October)

Time: 4–5 p.m.

Age: 10–15

Cost: \$4/person (Limit 10)

Location: Rotating Elkhart County Parks sites. See the monthly Programs & Events for locations.



EXPEDITION DATES

JUL 9 – Bike Journey ▶ Ox Bow County Park (pg. 12)
Meet @ Ox Bow Haus Shelter

AUG 13 – All About Trees ▶ Ox Bow County Park (pg. 14)
Meet @ Ox Bow Haus Shelter

SEPT 10 – Elkhart River ▶ River Preserve County Park (pg. 16)
Meet @ Baintertown Park

OCT 8 – Fall Hike ▶ Cobus Creek County Park (pg. 18)
Meet @ Parking Lot



Nature Readers

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Interested in reading local, nature-based books?

If so, join Nature Readers on the third Tuesday of each month for friendly conversation and discussion of that month's book.

READ LIST

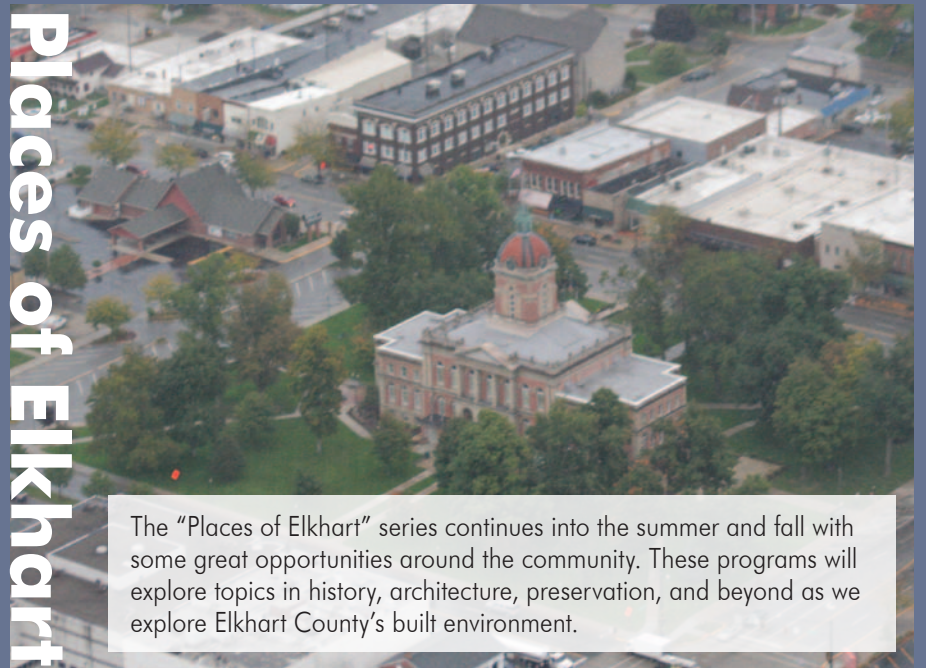
JUL 17 – H is for Hawk
by Helen MacDonald (pg. 13)

AUG 21 – The Bees
by Laline Paull (pg.15)

SEPT 18 – Bean Blossom Dreams
by Sallyann Murphey (pg.17)

OCT 16 – Salt
by Helen Frost (pg. 18)

Places of Elkhart



The "Places of Elkhart" series continues into the summer and fall with some great opportunities around the community. These programs will explore topics in history, architecture, preservation, and beyond as we explore Elkhart County's built environment.

PLACES

JUL 17 – City of Elkhart (pg. 13)
Meet @ Elkhart Civic Plaza

AUG 23 – Wakarusa (pg. 15)
Meet @ Wakarusa
Public Library

SEPT 13 – Schools (pg. 16)
Meet @ Elkhart County
Historical Museum

OCT 9 – Old Bag Factory (pg. 18)
Meet @ Old Bag Factory (Goshen)

MONTHLY PROGRAMS



Wednesday Bird Walk

From soaring eagles and swooping owls to colorful warblers and curious chickadees—experience the winged wildside of Elkhart County! Led by an experienced bird guide, these immersive group walks explore woodlands, prairies, meadows, and other natural areas abundant with bird life. Along with up-close encounters, each walk will offer participants the chance to learn how to find and recognize birds by sight and sound and other useful tips for birding.

Whether you're new to birding, or simply want to take a closer look at wildlife, grab your hiking boots and come discover the fascinating lives of birds!

What to Bring: Binoculars (extra pairs will be available for use) and comfortable walking/hiking shoes. Other items you may wish to bring – bottled water, a hat, and bugspray.

Meets: 1st Wednesday of every month

Time: 8–10 a.m.*

Cost: Free

Location: Rotating Elkhart County Park sites. See the monthly Programs & Events for locations.

* Bird walks begin promptly at 8 a.m. – please plan travel time accordingly



WALK DATES

JUL 11 – Lieber Nature Preserve (pg. 12)

Meet @ Elkhart County Historical Museum

AUG 1 – Bonneyville Mill County Park (pg.14)

Meet @ Feedlot (Main) Parking Lot

SEPT 5 – Boot Lake Nature Preserve (pg.16)

Meet @ Parking Lot

OCT 3 – Benton Dam, River Preserve County Park (pg. 18)

Meet @ Benton Dam Parking Lot

* In observance of Independence Day, July's walk will take place on the second Wednesday

We offer weekend walks, too! See pg. 14 & 18 for details!



Hiking Club

Get to know the diverse beauty, trails, and terrain of the Elkhart County Parks by joining the Hiking Club, offered on the third Thursday of every month through October. Whether you're a beginner looking to meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts or an experienced hiker seeking adventure, the Hiking Club is for you. Check out the calendar listings to see where each hiking adventure will take place!

Meets: 3rd Thursday of every month (through October)

Time: 6 p.m.

Cost: Free

Preregister by: Wednesday before each walk by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Rotating Elkhart County Park sites. See the monthly Programs & Events for locations.

HIKE DATES

JUL 19 – River Preserve County Park (pg. 13)

Meet @ Benton Spillway Parking Lot

AUG 16 – Cobus Creek County Park (pg. 15)

Meet @ Parking Lot

SEPT 20 – Ox Bow County Park (pg. 17)

Meet @ Black Maple Shelter

OCT 18 – Pumpkinvine Nature Trail (pg. 19)

*Meet @ Trailhead behind Dairy Queen
(416 N. Main St., Middlebury)*

1-27 Ted Drake: Art, Commerce, History

This exhibit explores Elkhart's own Ted Drake, who spent more than 50 years as an accomplished illustrator, cartoonist, and fine artist. It details Drake's artistic beginnings and training, his advertising career and fine art portfolio, showcasing decades of creativity and hard work through sketches, marketing publications, and iconic advertising designs exploring wind and its role in nature through hands-on activities, interactive games, snacks, and stories.

Exhibition Dates:

Friday, June 1– Friday, July 27

Location: Elkhart

Public Library

Cost: Free

3 Nature Nuts: Reptiles

Preschoolers are invited to meet live reptiles, learning how they are different from other animals and getting to know some of their amazing adaptations. A craft, story and snack will also be included.

Date: Tuesday, July 3

Time: 9:30–11 a.m.

Age: 3–5

Cost: \$4/child, \$3/additional sibling (Limit 12)

Preregister by: Tuesday,

June 26 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus,
Ox Bow County Park

6 Wildlife Rehabilitation

Hear amazing stories of rescue from local wildlife rehabilitator Dennis Badke as he shares his experiences working with injured and orphaned animals. During the talk, participants will meet live rehab critters up close. Dennis will answer questions about being a rehabilitator and knowledge of wildlife.



Date: Friday, July 6

Time: 6–7:30 p.m.

Cost: Free (Limit 25)

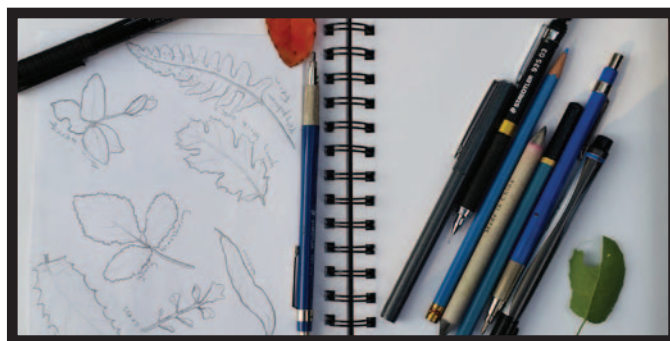
Preregister by: Thursday,
July 5 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus,
Ox Bow County Park

7 Nature Sketching Workshop

Explore your creative side drawing inspiration from nature through the art of sketching! This casual studio workshop will explore sketching techniques using different art styles and mediums, and will offer artists of all experience levels the chance to find their own creative approach in illustrating the natural world. All art supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring a sketchbook and to dress for activities outdoors.



Date: Saturday, July 7

Time: 1–4 p.m.

Age: Adult

Cost: \$25/person (Limit 15)

Preregister by: Thursday,
July 5 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Baldwin One-Room
Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill
County Park

9 Epic Explorers

Bring your bike and get ready to explore! The first Epic Explorers expedition will be a bike journey through Ox Bow. The group will get to know the bike trails and explore as much of the park as they can while carefully observing the environment around them. Stops along the way will highlight specific flora and fauna. Explorers will record their observations and compare their findings at the end of the ride.

Date: Monday, July 9

Time: 4–5 p.m.

Cost: \$4/person (Limit 10)

Preregister by: Monday,
July 2 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458

Location: Ox Bow Haus
Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

11 Wednesday Bird Walk: Lieber

Come enjoy an easy walk at Lieber Nature Preserve observing the impressive variety of birds that make this area their summer home. On the prairie loop, secretive sparrows, flycatchers, and warblers may be spotted defending territory or feeding newly-hatched chicks. Pipewort Pond wetlands are visible from the trail, where we may spot foraging shorebirds, egrets, or Sandhill Cranes with their young.

Date: Wednesday, July 11

Time: 8–10 a.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Elkhart County
Historical Museum (due to
parking limitations, we will
carpool to the site)

10-13 Adventure Day Camp
 Campers will enjoy a high ropes course with zip line, fun outdoor games, hands-on animal farm, a trip to Deep River Water Park, a magical time with science-experiments, and camp out under the stars.

Date: Tues–Fri, Jul. 10-13
Time: Tues–Weds (Daily) 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Thurs–Fri (Overnight) 10 a.m.–9 a.m.
Age: 10–13
Cost: \$80/person (Limit 15)
Preregister by: Friday, July 6 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Multiple Sites

17 Nature Readers: H is for Hawk
 Nature Readers will discuss *H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonald, a book about raising and rehabbing a wild hawk and how that journey also helps the author through personal struggle. Come prepared to discuss the book with others. Next month's book: *The Bees* by Laline Paull.

Date: Tuesday, July 17
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, July 11 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

12 Curator's Talk: Ted Drake
 Join Elkhart County Museum archivist Amy Christensen to explore Elkhart's own Ted Drake, who spent more than 50 years as an accomplished illustrator, cartoonist, and fine artist. This program will detail Drake's artistic beginnings during WWII, his advertising career in Chicago and beyond, and his love and dedication to fine arts.



Date: Thursday, July 12
Time: 6–7 p.m.
Cost: Free
Location: Elkhart Public Library

17 Places of Elkhart: City of Elkhart
 River travel, railroads, industry, and scientific developments – the history of the City of Elkhart has it all. In this walking tour, museum staff will highlight buildings and locations in the city as participants learn about their role in the community and Elkhart's impact on the region and the nation. Staff will also share historic photos from the museum collection so participants can compare and contrast how Elkhart looks today with how it looked in the past.

Date: Tuesday, July 17
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 20)
Preregister by: Monday, July 16 by 4 p.m.
Location: Elkhart Civic Plaza, 350 S. Main St., Elkhart

19 Hiking Club: River Preserve
 In July, the Hiking Club will trek a trail at River Preserve County Park. The hike will be 1.8 miles in length on mostly flat terrain.

Date: Thursday, July 19
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, July 18 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Benton Spillway, River Preserve County Park

14 Boot Lake Volunteer Work Day
 Lend a helping hand by assisting park staff in removing invasive plants from areas of the preserve. Assistance is much appreciated with work on our newest property. Snacks and drinks provided.

Date: Saturday, July 14
Time: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, July 11 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Boot Lake Nature Preserve

20-28 Elkhart County 4-H Fair Booth
 Stop by the Elkhart County Parks' booth to see animals, park and event information and, of course, the turtle pond. Special reptiles and amphibians talk will take place near the Park Stage on Friday, July 27 at 1:15 p.m.

Date: Friday, July 20-28
Time: See commercial building schedule for hours
Cost: Free with fair admission
Location: Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

For All Events & Programs Payment is due at time of preregistration. Participants under 18 must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at all times (unless otherwise indicated).

AUGUST 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

1 Wednesday Bird Walk: Bonneyville

Start the day off watching beautiful birds at Bonneyville! Enjoy an easy-paced walk with a seasoned birder along woodlands, waterways, and meadows seeking out the unique bird life hidden within. Summer residents, such as Baltimore Orioles, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Indigo Buntings will soon be heading south for migration, so the walk will give the group a chance to see these beautiful birds one last time before they depart.

Date: Wednesday, August 1 **Cost:** Free
Time: 8–10 a.m. **Location:** Feedlot Parking lot, Bonneyville Mill County Park

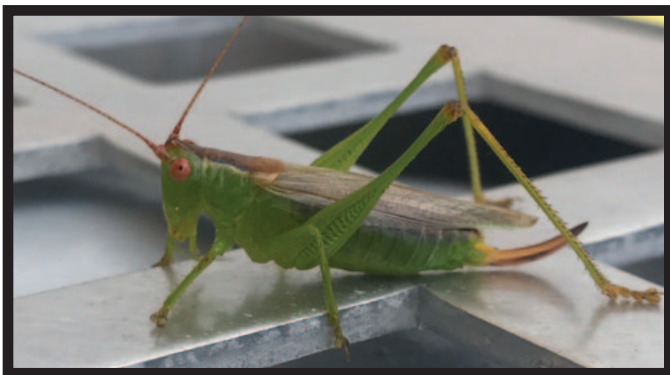
7 Nature Nuts: Shadows

Discover the magic of shadows by taking a walk outdoors to look for shadows, reading stories, playing shadow games, and making shadow crafts. Build your own shadow puppet box or create shadow tracings and explore this intriguing natural phenomenon!

Date: Tuesday, August 7 **Preregister by:** Tuesday, July 31 by 4 p.m.
Time: 9:30–11 a.m. **Call:** 574-535-6458
Cost: \$4/child, \$3/additional sibling (Limit 12) **Location:** Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

10 Bug Night

They're creepy, they're crawly, and they're back at this insect-enthusiasts event! Look at a grasshopper through a lens, tromp through the grass in search of a firefly or taste a chocolate-covered cricket! There will be crafts and activities for all ages. Bring the entire family for an evening of buggy fun! Insect-themed snacks will be for sale.



Date: Friday, August 10 **Cost:** \$2/person
Time: 6:30–8:30 p.m. **Location:** Cobus Creek County Park

11 Weekend Bird Walk

Join us for a special weekend walk exploring this important bird site brimming with wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, and colorful songbirds. The guided tour will feature a 2-mile hike on the nature trails with all birding gear provided, but participants are encouraged to wear hiking boots, bring water and come prepared for extended time outdoors. The group will head out at 9 a.m. sharp, so please plan accordingly.



Date: Saturday, August 11 **Preregister by:** Friday, August 10 by 4 p.m.
Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. **Location:** Boot Lake Nature Preserve
Cost: Free (Limit 30)

12 Perseids Party

Want to see the Perseids meteor shower but need a good place to look at the sky? We can help! Pick a spot to spread a blanket and enjoy a great view of the night sky to witness this celestial spectacle. While you're there, check out some constellations using a telescope. Naturalists will be on hand to help point you in the right direction. A campfire and refreshments will make this a wonderful night for the whole family.

Date: Sunday, August 12 **Location:** Briar Patch Shelter, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Time: 8:30–10:30 p.m.
Cost: Free

13 Epic Explorers

The second expedition of the Epic Explorers will be all about the trees in Ox Bow County Park. Explorers will hike around Ox Bow learning how to identify the different trees found in our region. On their quest, Explorers will gather needles, leaves, and twigs to construct their own paintbrushes to create natural masterpieces using natural paints.

Date: Monday, August 13 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 4–5 p.m. **Location:** Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park
Cost: \$4/person (Limit 10)
Preregister by: Monday, August 6 by 4 p.m.

14 Coffee & Conversation at the Mill

Experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes opportunity in this small gathering with miller John at historic Bonneyville Mill. Share your stories of the mill and get all of your mill questions answered over coffee and treats made with mill flour.

Date: Tuesday, August 14
Time: 9–10:30 a.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 10)
Preregister by: Friday, August 10 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Bonneyville Mill County Park

16 Hiking Club: Cobus Creek

In August we will hike at Cobus Creek County Park. The trail is 1.7 miles in length. The terrain is mostly flat.

Date: Thursday, August 16
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, August 15 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Cobus Creek County Park

18 Tubing the Elkhart River

Nothing is more relaxing than floating down the river on a warm summer day! Bring your favorite floatation device or borrow one of ours for a fantastic trip down the Elkhart River. This peaceful ride will last about an hour and is fun for the whole family. We will have life jackets available or bring your own. Please wear sandals or tennis shoes as well as sunscreen! Please specify if you need a floatation device when calling.

Date: Saturday, August 18
Time: 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Age: 9 & up
Cost: \$2/person (Limit 15)

Preregister by: Friday, August 17 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Benton Dam, River Preserve County Park

21 Nature Readers: The Bees

Nature Readers will discuss *The Bees* by Laline Paull, a book written from the perspective of a curious worker bee that creates drama by challenging the way of life and hierarchy of the hive. Come prepared to discuss the book with others. Next month's book: *Bean Blossom Dreams* by Sallyann Murphey

Date: Tuesday, August 21
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Friday, August 17 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

23 Places of Elkhart: Wakarusa

Established as Mt. Olive in the 1830s, later known as Salem, and finally as Wakarusa as we all know it today – this small town has seen a lot. Join Elkhart County Historical Museum staff on an interpretive walk and learn about the story behind the name Wakarusa, the fire that destroyed almost an entire city block, the town's connection to the railroads, and much more.

Date: Thursday, August 23
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 20)
Preregister by: Wednesday, August 22 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Meet outside of Wakarusa Public Library (124 North Elkhart Street, Wakarusa)

25 Cast Iron Cookout

Dutch oven enthusiasts and spectators are invited to come out to swap recipes, sample dishes, and learn cast-iron cooking tips from the experts at the annual Dutch Oven Gathering! Visitors new to the hobby can learn the basics of cast iron cooking in a 45-minute presentation. Following the lesson, participants are welcome to attend the friendly, non-competitive gathering where they will have the chance to sample delicious cookout creations.

Date: Saturday, August 25
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Age: Adult
Cost: \$4/person (Limit 100)

Preregister by: Friday, August 24 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Feedlot Shelter, Bonneyville Mill County Park

30 Introduction to Carbon Footprints

Families with young children are invited to come learn all about carbon footprints, what it means for our world, and discover the size of their own footprint. Along with learning about the causes and effects of carbon in the environment, participants will learn ways that they can reduce their output at home, school, and work. Participants will also use recycled materials to create a sustainable indoor herb planter.

Date: Thursday, August 30
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Age: 6 & up
Cost: \$3/person (Limit 12)

Preregister by: Friday, August 24 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Fisherman's Camp Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

For All Events & Programs

Payment is due at time of preregistration. Participants under 18 must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at all times (unless otherwise indicated).

SEPTEMBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

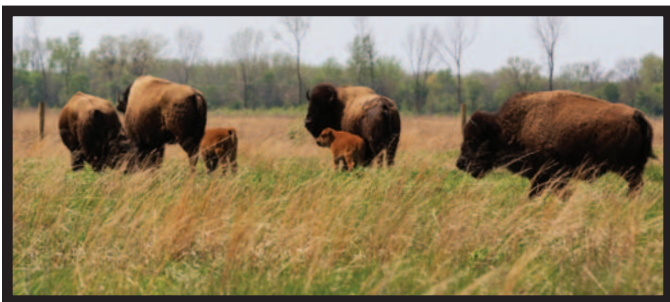
5 Wednesday Bird Walk: Boot Lake
 Witness the spectacle of fall migration at one of the best birding hotspots in the county! With over 300 acres of mixed prairie, wetland, and woodland habitat, the Preserve provides a crucial stopping point for south-bound birds to rest and refuel. Migrating hawks, shorebirds, waterbirds, and songbirds can all be seen in high numbers. At peak migration we are likely encounter a number of unique and rare birds not normally found in our region, so this is a walk birders won't want to miss!

Date: Wednesday, September 5 **Cost:** Free
Time: 8–10 a.m. **Location:** Boot Lake Nature Preserve

7 Astronomy Night
 Join us for an evening studying the stars. Learn about the world of astronomy, Greek and Roman mythology expressed in the naming of constellations, and how stars change through the seasons in an informational presentation. Participants will also make a star chart that will show the constellations at any time of year. Enjoy a hot dog or roast a marshmallow and gaze up at the beautiful heavens and about our stellar companions.

Date: Friday, September 7 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 10 p.m.–12 a.m. **Location:** Briar Patch Shelter, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Cost: \$4/person (Limit 20)
Preregister by: Thursday, September 6 by 4 p.m.

8 Birds, Blooms & Bison Trip
 Join the Friends of the Elkhart County Parks on a van trip to Kankakee Sands Preserve, a 7000+ acre prairie restoration project in northwest Indiana. The preserve is known as a paradise for birdwatchers and flower enthusiasts and provides viewing opportunities for the small bison herd also living there. Vans will leave from Ox Bow County Park and stop for an early lunch on the way. Trip participants are welcome to hike and view at their own pace while at the preserve, then snacks will be provided on return trip. Be sure to bring good hiking shoes, sunscreen, and binoculars.



Date: Saturday, September 8 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 9–6 p.m. **Location:** Kankakee Sands Preserve, Near Morocco, IN
Cost: \$40/person (Limit 25)
Preregister by: Friday, August 31 by 4 p.m. Meet at: Ox Bow Service Center, Ox Bow County Park

10 Epic Explorers
 This month, the Explorers will investigate the biology of the Elkhart River. The program will begin by constructing some water viewers out of recycled containers. Once the viewers have been perfected, Explorers will head down to the water to look beneath the surface and discover the life in the river. The group will share their discoveries and identify the creatures that call the Elkhart River home. Explorers will also learn about water conservation and why it is so important to try and keep our rivers and streams free of pollution.

Date: Monday, September 10 **Preregister by:** Tuesday, September 4 by 4 p.m.
Time: 4–5 p.m. **Call:** 574-535-6458
Age: 10–15 **Location:** Baintertown Park, River Preserve County Park
Cost: \$4/person (Limit 10)

11 Nature Nuts: Butterflies
 Preschoolers are invited to learn all about butterflies, their lifecycle and what they eat through fun, hands-on activities. Special guest, Audrey McGuire, will also show and tell her monarch-raising adventures with the group.

Date: Tuesday, September 11 **Preregister by:** Tuesday, September 4 by 4 p.m.
Time: 9:30–11 a.m. **Call:** 574-535-6458
Age: 3–5 **Location:** Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park
Cost: \$4/child, \$3/additional sibling (Limit 12)

13 Places of Elkhart: Schools
 One of our most meaningful shared experiences is going to school. This program will explore the history of school buildings throughout all of Elkhart County. From one room schoolhouses to our modern high schools, you will see how schools have changed over time while you relive some of your own memories of going to school.

Date: Thursday, September 13 **Cost:** Free
Time: 7–8 p.m. **Location:** Elkhart County Historical Museum

18 Coffee & Conversation at the Mill
 Experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes opportunity in this small gathering with miller John at historic Bonneyville Mill. Share your stories of the mill and get all of your mill questions answered over coffee and treats made with mill flour.

Date: Tuesday, September 18 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 9–10:30 a.m. **Location:** Bonneyville Mill, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Cost: Free (Limit 10)
Preregister by: Friday, September 14 by 4 p.m.

For All Events & Programs
 Payment is due at time of preregistration. Participants under 18 must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at all times (unless otherwise indicated).

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

18 Nature Readers: Bean Blossom Dreams

Nature Readers will discuss *Bean Blossom Dreams* by renowned Indiana author Sallyann Murphey. This story chronicles of a family's first two years trying to revive the broken-down Bean Blossom Farm in Brown County, Indiana. Come prepared to discuss the book with others. Next month's book: *Salt* by Helen Frost.

Date: Tuesday, September 18 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 6–7:30 p.m. **Location:** Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Friday, September 14 by 4 p.m.

20 Hiking Club: Ox Bow

In September, Hiking Club will explore a loop trail at Ox Bow County Park. This trail is 1.5 miles in length. The terrain is mostly flat.

Date: Thursday, September 20 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 6–8 p.m. **Location:** Black Maple Shelter, Ox Bow County Park
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, September 19 by 4 p.m.

21 Tails to Trails

Join a naturalist as we explore the wonderful Boot Lake Nature Preserve through your dog's eyes. Dogs walk at their own paces so signs will be placed along the path to find your way or stroll with the group. Water and doggy bags will be available for all dogs. All dogs must be on a leash and controlled at all times. The walk will take approximately an hour around the Preserve.

Date: Friday, September 21 **Cost:** Free
Time: 6–8 p.m. **Location:** Boot Lake Nature Preserve

22 Birding By Ear Workshop

Ever wanted the superpower to find and name every bird in your yard using only your ears? Now you can! This workshop will explore the ways birds use sound to communicate, and provide "ears-on" training for picking out and identifying their calls. The first part of the class will be an indoor presentation, followed by a 1½ hour bird hike where we will practice listening techniques and discover what birds we can find by using only our ears. All birding equipment will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, hiking shoes, and dress for activities outdoors.

Date: Saturday, September 22 **Preregister by:** Friday, September 21 by 4 p.m.
Time: Two sessions available 8–11 a.m. **-OR-** 1–4 p.m. **Call:** 574-535-6458
Age: Adult **Location:** Baldwin One-Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Cost: \$5/person (Limit 15)

23 Board Games in the Park

Calling all table top gamers! Come enjoy an afternoon of games in the park. Demo games will be provided by Secret Door Games and Better World Books or bring your own to play. There will also be giant versions of popular games like *Forbidden Island™*, *Jenga®* and *Hungry Hungry Hippos*. Take gaming to a new level by taking it outside!

Date: Sunday, September 23 **Cost:** Free
Time: 12–4 p.m. **Location:** Cobus Creek County Park

25 Project WET Teacher Workshop

Attention 1st and 2nd grade teachers! Learn fun, new ways to enhance your lessons through the Project WET program. Training will include both formal and informal instruction aligned with current science standards. Participants will receive the Project WET curriculum and activity guide with over 64 engaging water-themed activities. Professional growth points available.

Date: Tuesday, September 25 **Preregister by:** Tuesday, September 18 by 4 p.m.
Time: 9 a.m.–2 p.m. **Call:** 574-535-6458
Age: Adult **Location:** Baldwin One-Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Cost: Free (Limit 15)

27 Farm to Fork

Granger farm-to-fork restaurant Rocky River Tap and Table is partnering with Elkhart County Parks to showcase the local food landscape of our region. Spend an evening with the restaurant manager to learn the restaurant's philosophy, how and where they source ingredients in Michiana, and sample some of their delicious creations. Get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to operate a sustainable locally sourced restaurant in our area.

Date: Thursday, September 27 **Call:** 574-535-6458
Time: 6–7:30 p.m. **Location:** Baldwin One-Room Schoolhouse, Bonneyville Mill County Park
Cost: \$10/person (Limit 15)
Preregister by: Thursday, September 20 by 4 p.m.

29 Cornbread Bake Day

Enjoy one of Bonneyville Mill's most popular products – cornmeal! Learn the basics of cornmeal production with a milling demonstration and sample three different recipes of cornbread all prepared with products ground on site. Several types of stoneground cornmeal will be available for purchase to make your own tasty treats.

Date: Saturday, September 29 **Cost:** Free
Time: 11 a.m. (until samples are gone) **Location:** Bonneyville Mill, Bonneyville Mill County Park

OCTOBER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

2 Nature Nuts: Nature's Colors
See beauty in the many colors of nature as we go for a color walk, enjoy a colorful snack, and play some color games.

Date: Tuesday, October 2
Time: 9:30–11 a.m.
Age: 3–5
Cost: \$4/child, \$3/additional sibling (Limit 12)

Preregister by: Tuesday, September 24 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus, Ox Bow County Park

3 Wednesday Bird Walk: River Preserve
Fall brings some fantastic birds to our county—from tiny Golden-crowned Kinglets flittering in the pines to Red-breasted Nuthatches inching down trees. See these incredible birds up-close during our walk in a landscape colored by fall. Likely birds include cranes, sapsuckers, kinglets, and late south-bound warblers.

Date: Wednesday, October 3
Time: 8–10 a.m.

Cost: Free
Location: Benton Dam, River Preserve County Park

6 Fall Plant Exchange
Bring your bulbs, seeds, flowers, and shrubs for a fall plant exchange. Participants can bring as many plants as they like as long as they are healthy, labeled, and rooted in soil. Once all plants are displayed participants will then take part in an organized exchange picking new plants to take home. Pick up some new plants as well as some new gardening tips from fellow community gardeners. Plan to arrive early to take part in the exchange.

Date: Saturday, October 6
Time: 1 p.m.

Cost: Free
Location: Cobus Creek County Park

6 Weekend Bird Walk
October marks this season's last opportunity to see migrating songbirds heading south for the winter. Join us on a casual walk seeking out these south-bound birds and enjoying up-close encounters with some of the Preserve's unique year-round residents. Species we're likely to spot during the 1.3-mile walk include late warblers and vireos flycatching in the trees, herons and kingfishers stalking fish, and raptors soaring overhead. All birding gear provided, but participants are encouraged to wear hiking boots, bring water, and come dressed for a late summer hike. The bird walk will head out at 9 a.m. sharp, so please plan accordingly.

Date: Saturday, October 6
Time: 1–4 p.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 30)
Preregister by: Friday, October 5 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Benton Dam, River Preserve County Park

For All Events & Programs

Payment is due at time of preregistration. Participants under 18 must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at all times (unless otherwise indicated)

8 Epic Explorers
To celebrate fall, the Explorers will head out for a nature hike at Cobus Creek County Park. On a mile-long hike, the group will complete a scavenger hunt for species and objects in the natural world. Explorers will document their findings along the way and compare observations with the group.

Date: Monday, October 8
Time: 4–5 p.m.
Age: 10–15
Cost: \$4/person (Limit 10)

Preregister by: Monday, October 1 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Cobus Creek County Park

9 Places of Elkhart: Old Bag Factory
Come for a guided tour of the Old Bag Factory in Goshen! The building opened in 1896 as the Cosmo Buttermilk Soap Company, shipping soap and toilet paper across the country. In 1910, the building was used by the Chicago-Detroit Bag Company and produced anything from burlap sacks to sheer paper wrappers for candy. Staff from the Old Bag Factory will guide visitors around the facility and share the building's history in "bagology," and how after the factory closed in 1982 it became a furniture manufacturer and the home of artisans and merchants today.

Date: Tuesday, October 9
Time: 7–8 p.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 20)
Preregister by: Monday, October 8 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Old Bag Factory (1100 N. Chicago Ave., Goshen)

12 Night Owl Prowl
Join a naturalist to learn all about owls and other nocturnal creatures on a fun interactive night hike. Learn about local owl species, nocturnal animal adaptations, and more as we experience River Preserve after dark.

Date: Friday, October 12
Time: 7–9 p.m.
Cost: Free

Location: Benton Spillway, River Preserve County Park

16 Nature Readers: Salt
Nature Readers will discuss *Salt* by Helen Frost, a young adult historical fiction story of friendship between a Native American child and non-Native trader's child during war times in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Come prepared to discuss the book with others. Next month's book: *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

Date: Tuesday, October 16
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Friday, October 12 by 4 p.m.

Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Ox Bow Haus, Ox Bow County Park

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

18 Hiking Club: Pumpkinvine
 In October, we will hike part of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. This trail runs 2.2 miles in length and includes mostly flat terrain.

Date: Thursday, October 18
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, October 17 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Meet at Pumpkinvine trailhead behind Dairy Queen (416 N. Main St., Middlebury)

19 Tails to Trails
 Join a naturalist for a walk with our beloved pets around the scenic Ox Bow County Park landscape. Walking our pets has many advantages including exercise for both the dog and the owner, a closer bond between owners and pets, acclimation to a new environment, new smells, and meeting other dogs and people. Signs will be posted so you may walk with the group or by yourself. Water and doggy bags will be available for all dogs.

Date: Friday, October 19
Time: 6–8 p.m.
Cost: Free
Location: Ox Bow Haus Shelter, Ox Bow County Park

20 Boot Lake Volunteer Work Day
 Lend a helping hand by assisting park staff in removing invasive plants from areas of the preserve. Assistance is much appreciated with work on our newest property. Snacks and drinks provided.

Date: Saturday, October 20
Time: 10–12 p.m.
Cost: Free
Preregister by: Wednesday, October 17 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Boot Lake Nature Preserve

25-27 Halloween Campfire & Hayride
 Caramel apples, roasted marshmallows, hot cocoa, a campfire, and a hayride – yep, it’s that exciting time of the year again. The ever-popular Halloween Campfire & Hayride is back for three nights of autumn delights. The traditional family-friendly hayrides will be held on Thursday and Saturday, while Friday will feature the Scary Hayride! Hayrides run about 20 minutes in length.

Please note that advance tickets are required, and can be purchased on the day of the event. Tickets sell out fast.

Date: Thursday–Saturday, October 26–28
Hayride Times:
Thursday 6–9 p.m.
Friday 7–10 p.m.
Saturday 6–9 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Location: Red Pines Campfire Area, Ox Bow County Park
How to purchase tickets:
 ▶ Tickets go on sale October 18 at: elkhartcountyparks.org

30 Coffee & Conversation at the Mill
 Experience an exclusive behind-the-scenes opportunity in this small gathering with miller John at historic Bonneyville Mill. Share your stories of the mill and get all of your mill questions answered over coffee and treats made with mill flour.

Date: Tuesday, October 30
Time: 9–10:30 a.m.
Cost: Free (Limit 10)
Preregister by: Friday, October 26 by 4 p.m.
Call: 574-535-6458
Location: Bonneyville Mill, Bonneyville Mill County Park



GATHERING AT 5 MEDALS

Date: Saturday, October 20–21
Time: Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Sunday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Cost: \$5/person (free for ages 5 & under)
Location: Benton Spillway, River Preserve County Park

Our signature living history event will transport you back in time to experience life in Elkhart County more than 300 years ago. Visit the Woodland Native Village and witness a fur trade, enjoy historical music, watch a skirmish on the prairie, and so much more!

▶ Check out gatheringatfivemedals.org for full details on this exciting event!

DeFries Gardens



17477 C.R. 46 • New Paris, IN

Nestled in the River Preserve County Park, DeFries Gardens is a reminder of our human connection to the environment. This 13-acre site was once a private homestead and hosts an 1880s Victorian-style home surrounded by perennial gardens and woodland plantings. The site also hosts the enchanting Calendar Garden. This one-acre showpiece is a giant circular garden and flowering calendar. Its design features the solstices and equinoxes with unique structures marking each. Native and horticultural plantings follow the seasons throughout the year. A 365-foot circular path marks each day as it leads visitors through seasons of bloom. The site also provides a drinking fountain, modern restroom facilities, and a hiking trail. The garden is handicapped accessible.



Boot Lake Nature Preserve



51430 C.R. 3 • Elkhart, IN

Boot Lake Nature Preserve's sprawling 300 acres encompass wetland, forest, and prairie habitat. A portion of the site has a unique story—having been reclaimed from the City of Elkhart's sludge farm. The transformed site is now a state-dedicated nature preserve protecting Indiana's rare and endangered wetland plants and animals. The preserve is recognized by National Audubon as an Important Bird Area with over 200 species documented, including sensitive grassland-nesting birds found in the 80 acres of restored prairie. Visitors can enjoy a small picnic pavilion, wetland and prairie overlooks, and four miles of trails intertwined with the variety of habitats.



Treasure Island



56226 Armour Ave • Elkhart, IN

Located on the banks of the lower St. Joseph River, Treasure Island offers a place for visitors to relax and enjoy nature. This four-acre site just west of Elkhart provides beautiful views of the river, and waterfowl and migratory birds can often be seen. Facilities in the park include fishing, nature observation, and canoe access to the river. The park is closed in winter from December thru March (dependent on weather conditions).



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail



1302 E.Lincoln Ave • Goshen, IN

Nestled in the River Preserve County Park, DeFries Gardens is a reminder of our human connection to the environment. This 13-acre site was once a private homestead and hosts an 1880s Victorian-style home surrounded by perennial gardens and woodland plantings. The site also hosts the enchanting Calendar Garden. This one-acre showpiece is a giant circular garden and flowering calendar. Its design features the solstices and equinoxes with unique structures marking each. Native and horticultural plantings follow the seasons throughout the year. A 365-foot circular path marks each day as it leads visitors through seasons of bloom. The site also provides a drinking fountain, modern restroom facilities, and a hiking trail. The garden is handicapped accessible.



Bonneyville Mill



53373 C.R. 131 • Bristol, IN

Mill Hours (open seasonally May–Oct)
Wed–Sun • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Working antiquity and picturesque beauty await you at Bonneyville Mill. This water-powered mill is the oldest continually operating mill in Indiana, producing quality flour for over 150 years. Interpretive staff are on duty to lead visitors through the “daily grind” while the massive grist stones vibrate under their feet. While you are there, purchase freshly ground flours and visit the Barn Gift Shop where you will find a variety of unique historical and natural items for sale.

Elkhart County Historical Museum



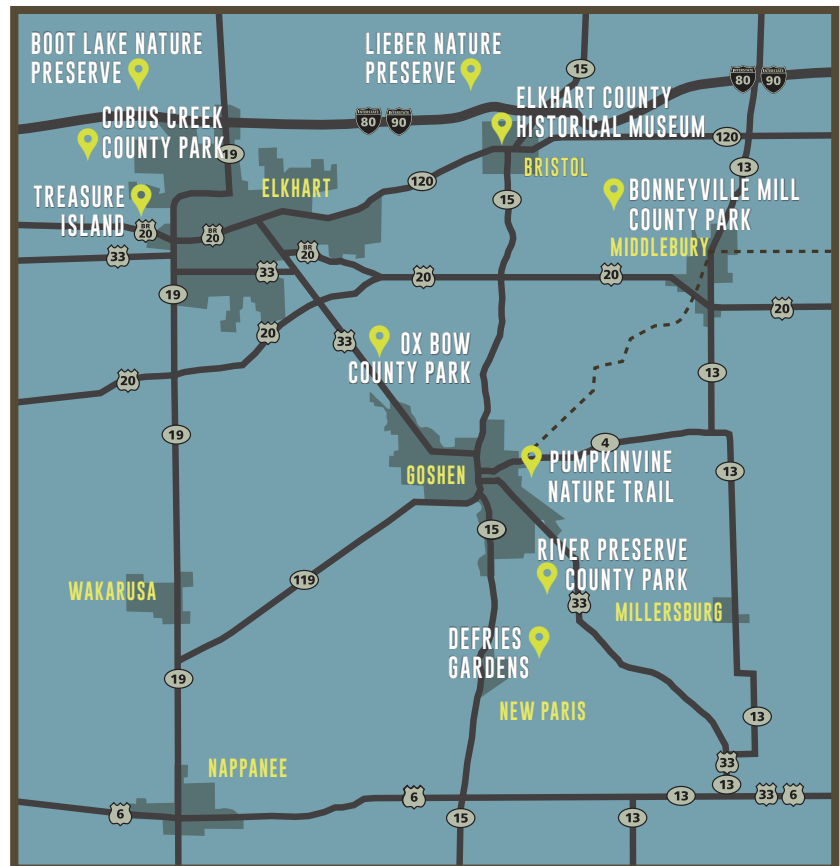
304 W. Vistula St. • Bristol, IN

Museum Hours (closed Sun–Mon)
Tues–Sat • 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Elkhart County Historical Museum features over 22,000 artifacts reflecting the county’s cultural heritage in its twelve permanent galleries. Temporary and touring exhibits are frequently hosted. The research center and genealogy library contain photos, diaries, family records, plat maps, census lists and more to help researchers discover their past. Public programs are hosted monthly.

Park Amenities Legend

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Fishing | Cross-Country Ski Trails |
| Hiking | Sledding Hills |
| Playground | Observation Tower |
| Biking | Picnic Area |
| Disc Golf | Shelter |
| Archery | Handicapped Accessible |
| Boat Landing | Restrooms |
| Boat Launch | |



Ox Bow County Park



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Bonneyville Mill County Park



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Reserve a Shelter

Park shelters are a great place to gather family and friends for those special moments in our lives. Shelters can be rented for birthday parties, baby showers, small weddings, anniversary celebrations, family reunions, and other events. Just bring the food and party favors and have a good time enjoying the outdoors.

Shelters not already reserved can be used on a first-come basis.

To see current rates and reserve a shelter, visit:

► elkhartcountyparks.org/shelter-listing

Ox Bow

1. Fisherman's Camp
2. Coffee Tree
3. Honey Locust
4. Black Maple
5. Cottonwood
6. Stable
7. Ox Bow Haus
8. Hickory Hill Chapel
9. Red Pines Campfire

Cobus Creek

19. Cobus Creek

Bonneyville Mill

11. Meadow
12. Lookout
13. Kum Mol Rie
14. Briar Patch
15. Feedlot
16. Schoolhouse
(Lower Level Only)

River Preserve

17. Baintertown
18. Benton

Elkhart County Historical Museum

20. Auditorium

River Preserve County Park



17



18

Cobus Creek County Park



19

Elkhart County Historical Museum



20



FRIENDS OF THE ELKHART COUNTY PARKS
 211 W. LINCOLN AVENUE
 GOSHEN, IN 46526-3280
 PARKSINFO@ELKHARTCOUNTY.COM

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Find a product in your range, test out equipment, and discover optics that brings nature and wildlife into perfect focus. Premier Sporting Optics is a local family-owned business.



115 East Warren Street
 Middlebury, IN 46540



Phone: (574) 849-6955



Fax: (574) 825-5465



Monday-Friday

9:00-5:00

Saturday

9:00-1:00

Become a Friend and help us grow.

Yes! I want to be a Friend and help build the future of the Elkhart County Parks.

I'd like to give...

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250

\$500 \$ _____

a one-time gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail checks payable to 'Friends of the Elkhart County Parks' Address:
 211 W. Lincoln Ave., Goshen, IN 46526

The Friends is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, and donations are tax-deductible. Gifts support future park projects such as playgrounds, board walks, shelter renovations, environmental education, public programs, and more.