

ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

COMPASS

GUIDE

FALL / WINTER '22 / '23



RIVER
PRESERVE

BOOT
LAKE

BONNEYVILLE
MILL

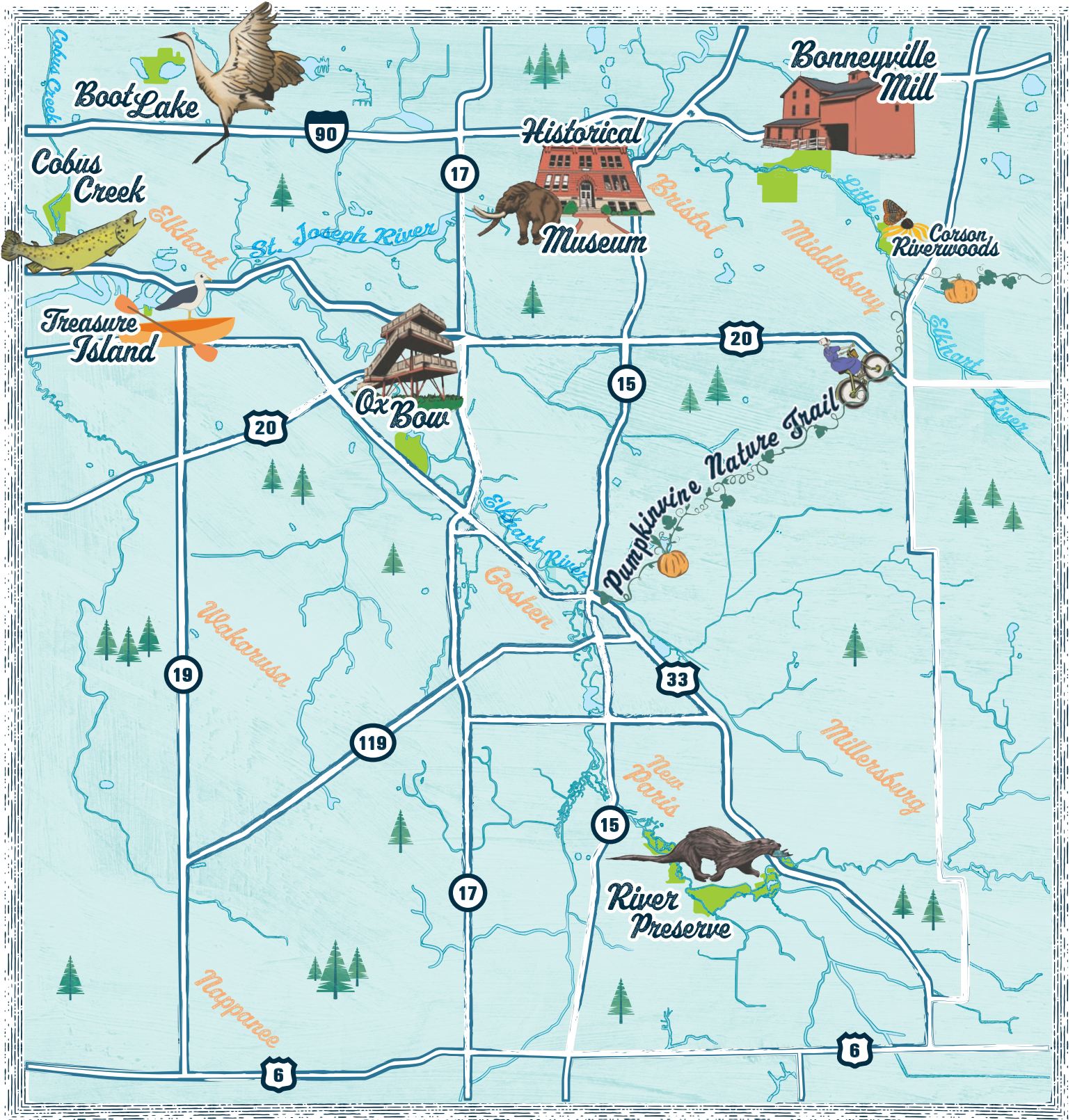
OX
BOW

COBUS
CREEK

PUMPKINVINE
NATURE TRAIL

HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

EXPLORE THE *Elkhart County Parks*





Ox Bow

23033 C.R. 45 • GOSHEN, IN

ACRES: 200



PLAN
YOUR
VISIT



HOURS

[SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE]

NOTE: BOOT LAKE NATURE PRESERVE
CLOSES 1 HR BEFORE ALL OTHER PARKS

JAN / FEB / NOV / DEC

9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

MAR / OCT

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

APR / SEPT

9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

MAY / JUN / JUL / AUG

9 a.m. – 9 p.m.



OFFICE

[CLOSED WEEKENDS + COUNTY HOLIDAYS]



MON-FRI

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



LOCATION

211 W. Lincoln Avenue,
Goshen, IN 46526-3280



PHONE

574-535-6458



TRAIL INFO

ELKHART
COUNTY
PARKS
.ORG



Bonneyville Mill

53373 C.R. 131 • BRISTOL, IN

ACRES: 222



River Preserve

17477 C.R. 46 • NEW PARIS, IN

ACRES: 358



Boot Lake

51430 C.R. 3 • ELKHART, IN

ACRES: 300



Cobus Creek

30680 C.R. 8 • ELKHART, IN

ACRES: 84



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

COUNTY-WIDE • SEE WEBSITE FOR ACCESS POINTS

MILES: 16.5



Elkhart County Historical Museum

304 W. VISTULA ST. • BRISTOL, IN

🕒 TUES-SAT 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Treasure Island

56226 ARMOUR AVE. • ELKHART, IN

ACRES: 4 (CLOSED FOR THE SEASON)



Corson Riverwoods

MIDDLEBURY, IN

ACRES: 81.5 (OPENS SUMMER 2023)



Our Mission

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS with CULTURE and NATURE

ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

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Goshen, IN 46526-3280

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARK

OPERATIONS / Bernard J. Cunningham IV

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERPRETIVE

SERVICES / Donny Aleo

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VICE PRESIDENT / Klaus Mueller

SECRETARY / Karin Frey

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John Hardy, Karen Mackowiak,
& Will Wilson

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DISTRICT 3 / Darryl J. Riegsecker

DISTRICT 4 / David L. Hess

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PRESIDENT / Lloyd Miller

TREASURER / Kim Clarke

SECRETARY / John Thompson



[cindim.photography](https://www.instagram.com/cindim.photography)
Ox Bow County Park

Did you know Barred Owls use shelters at Ox Bow, too? Cindi Meyers spotted this youngster sportin' some serious bed head. How owldorable! ❤️

[#elkhartcountyparks](https://www.facebook.com/elkhartcountyparks)
Facebook/Instagram

Let's keep
in touch!



visit ► elkhartcountyparks.org

THE COMPASS NEWSLETTER IS A BIENNIAL
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PLEASE RECYCLE.

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ON THE COVER / BONNEYVILLE MILL / PHOTO BY MARK RENNER

Greetings from the ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

As you read this issue of *The Compass*, you will soon be surrounded by colorful leaves or sparkling snow! Cooler weather and shorter days require warmer clothes and different gear for outdoor play. Nevertheless it is still important to get outside and embrace Mother Nature and all it has to offer.



If you prefer the comforts of the indoors, give the Elkhart County Historical Museum a visit. As you explore exhibits you may notice how the history of Elkhart County is interwoven with the natural resources. Whether it is the mastodon tusk found in Middlebury, the legacies of the Miami and Potawatomi who lived on the fertile prairies, or the construction of Bonneyville Mill that harnessed the power of water – the natural resources helped shaped what Elkhart County is today.

Protecting these resources is important for our future history as well. As we look at how Elkhart County has been developed over the past 200 years, what we do today will shape the quality of life for future generations. Our Park Board is committed to helping protect some of the remaining forest, meadow, wetland, and river habitats. Read the exciting news below about the future Corson Riverwoods County Park to learn more about our most recent project.

Sincerely, *Ronda*
RONDA DECAIRE
DIRECTOR OF PARKS



Post Card Corson Riverwoods



In 2018, the late Mr. Tom Corson donated 81.5 acres of land to the Elkhart County Park and Recreation Board. This is one of the last gifts he gave to the community before he passed away in 2019. Mr. Corson was able to celebrate with the naming dedication of which he was proud. It was important to him that the word "Riverwoods" was added to reflect the natural resources the park was protecting. His gift of land was then matched by a Land & Water Conservation Fund grant, which unfortunately was placed on hold due to the pandemic. With the project released last year and the engineers at the Elkhart County Highway department completing the design

in-kind, the project has now been put out to bid. We look forward to construction of the trail taking place late fall/early winter and completion of the parking lot and other amenities by early summer of 2023. A feature of the Corson Riverwoods County Park will be a Pollinator Play Path that has received partial funding from the Well Foundation and Bontrager Family Foundation. Other grants and funding are presently being sought to assist with park amenities. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page to learn more about when Corson Riverwoods County Park will open to the public in 2023!

OCTOBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

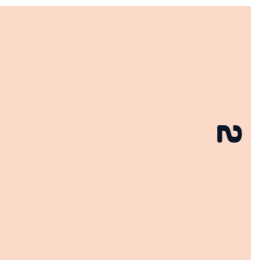


REGISTER
ONLINE



PANCAKE
BREAKFAST

FALL PLANT
EXCHANGE



2



3

WORLD
HABITAT
DAY



4

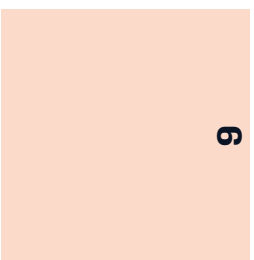
NATURE
NUTS



5

WED.
BIRD
WALK

NATURE
NUTS



6



7

OWL
PROWL



8

VOLUNTEER
WORK DAY



9

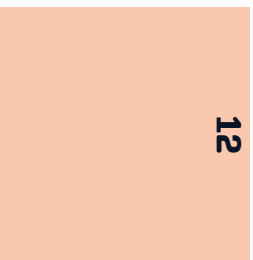
FULL
MOON
HUNTER'S MOON



10



11



12



13



14

BASKET
WEAVING

OWL
PROWL



15

VOLUNTEER
WORK DAY



16



17

TRAIL
TREKKERS



18

HIKING
CLUB



19

OPEN HOUSE AT THE
SCHOOLHOUSE

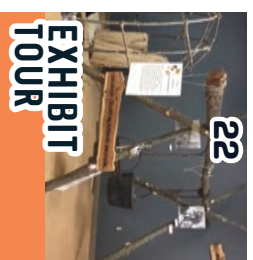


20



21

PARK
IN THE DARK



22

EXHIBIT
TOUR



23



24



25

NEW
MOON



26



27



28

HALLOWEEN
CAMPFIRE & HAYRIDE



29



30



31

HALLOWEEN



31



31



31



31



31



31

NOVEMBER

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

6

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
ENDS
ENJOY 1 HOUR
OF EXTRA SLEEP
(BEGINS AT 2 A.M.)

13



AMERICA
RECYCLES DAY

20



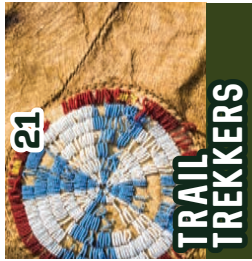
FEED
THE BIRDS

27

7

14

21



TRAIL
TREKKERS

28

1



NATURE
NUTS

8

FULL
MOON
+
LUNAR
ECLIPSE
(PEAKS AT 6 A.M.)

15

22

29

2



WED.
BIRD
WALK

NATURE
NUTS

9

URANUS AT
OPPOSITION
BRIGHTEST OF THE
YEAR (VISIBLE ALL
NIGHT LONG WITH
THE AID OF A SCOPE)

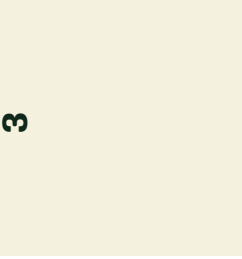
16

23

NEW
MOON

30

3



10

PROFILES
IN SERVICE

17

NATIONAL
TAKE A HIKE
DAY

24

THANKSGIVING

4

11

INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE'S DAY

18

25

5

12



HOLIDAY
AT THE MILL

MUSHING
101



SANDHILL
CRANE TRIP

26



REGISTER
ONLINE



DECEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



REGISTER ONLINE



4

WORLD
SOIL DAY

5



NATURE
NUTS

6

WED,
BIRD
WALK



NATURE
NUTS

7



FAVORITE
THINGS TOUR

8

9



CHICKEN TOY
WORKSHOP

1

2

10



MAKING
YEAST BREAD

3

11

STATEHOOD
DAY
HAPPY 206TH
BIRTHDAY,
INDIANA!

12



ILLUMINATED
TRAIL HIKE

13

14

GEMINID
METEOR
SHOWER
PEAKS THE 13TH
THRU TONIGHT

15

16

17



GINGER
BIRD HOUSE

18



TRAIL
TREKKERS

19

20



WINTER
SOLSTICE HIKE

21

22

23

NEW
MOON

24

25

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

26

27

28

29

30

31



CHRISTMAS
BIRD COUNT

JANUARY

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

FIRST DAY HIKE

8
 STATE RECORD:
 GREATEST
 SNOWFALL
 IN A SINGLE DAY:
 26 INCHES
 (SOUTH BEND, 2011)

15

22
 LUNAR
 NEW YEAR
 YEAR OF THE
 RABBIT

29

SCAVENGER HUNT

2

9

16
 MARTIN LUTHER
 KING JR. DAY

23

TRAIL TREKKERS

30
 MERCURY AT
 GREATEST
 ELONGATION
 BEST VIEW OF THE
 YEAR (LOOK LO TO
 THE SOUTHEAST
 BEFORE DAWN)

3
 QUADRANTID
 METEOR SHOWER
 PEAKS TONIGHT
 THROUGH THE 4TH

10

NATURE NUTS

17

24

31

4

WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK

11

NATURE NUTS

18

25

31

5

12

19

HISTORY DETECTIVE

26

31

6

BOOKS & BOOTS

13

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINE

20

HISTORY DETECTIVE

27

31

7

WINTER MUTT STRUT EXHIBIT TOUR

14

SOURDOUGH BREAD 101 EXHIBIT TOUR

21

BASICS OF XC SKIING EXHIBIT TOUR

28

EXHIBIT TOUR



REGISTER ONLINE



FEBRUARY

sun

mon

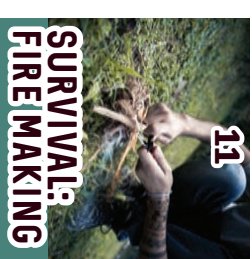
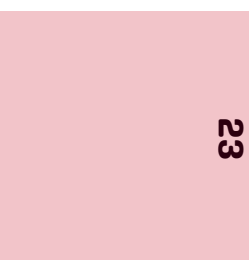
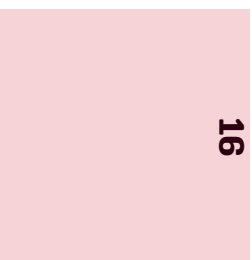
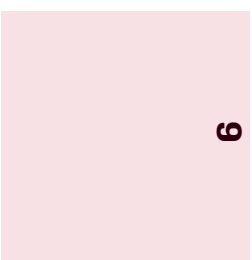
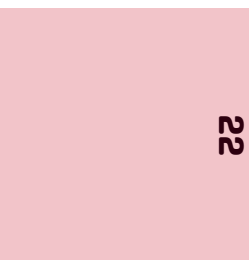
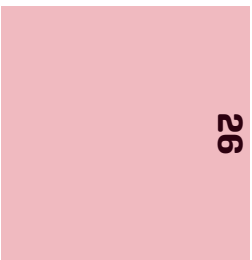
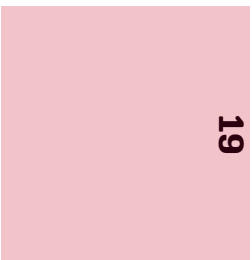
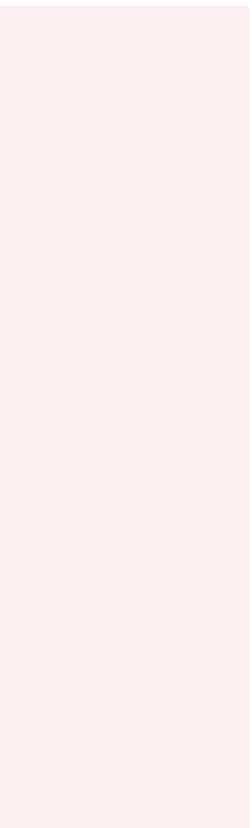
tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



REGISTER
ONLINE



MARCH

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



**REGISTER
ONLINE**



5

12

**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS BEGINS
TIME TO SPRING
FORWARD 1 HOUR
(BEGINS AT 2 A.M.)**

19

6

13

**TRAIL
TREKKERS**



**SPRING
EQUINOX HIKE**

27

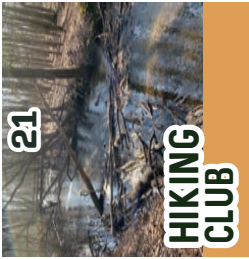
7

14



**NATURE
NUTS**

21



**HIKING
CLUB**

28

1



**WEDNESDAY
BIRD WALK**

8



**NATURE
NUTS**

15



**TIMBERDOODLE
TREK**

22

2

9



**HISTORY
DETECTIVE**

16

23

3

10



**HISTORY
DETECTIVE**

17



**ST. PATTY'S DAY
SCAV. HUNT**

**THE AMAZING
TURKEY VULTURE**

24

31

4



**EXHIBIT
TOUR**

11



**SURVIVAL:
ORIENTEERING**

**EXHIBIT
TOUR**

18



**EXHIBIT
TOUR**

25



**KITE
CREATIONS**

**EXHIBIT
TOUR**

26

30
NATIONAL
TAKE A WALK
IN THE PARK
DAY

Winter SCAVENGER HUNT

It may be cold outside, but don't let that stop you from enjoying it! Even now, nature has plenty of things to encounter, once you step out and start looking. So here's a little something to kick that cabin fever. Grab a friend or family member and give this winter-themed scavenger hunt a go!

<p>A Clump of Moss</p> 	<p>Something Delicate</p> 	<p>An Old Nest</p> 	<p>The Perfect Skipping Stone</p> 	<p>3 Things Colored Red</p> 
<p>Something Unexpected</p> 	<p>An Animal Burrow</p> 	<p>Something Prickly</p> 	<p>The Scent of Pine</p> 	<p>Something that Crunches Underfoot</p> 
<p>Something Heart-Shaped</p> 	<p>3 Kinds of Tracks</p> 	<p>FREE SPACE</p>		<p>3 Different Mushrooms</p> 
<p>Something Nibbled On</p> 	<p>A Flock of Birds</p> 	<p>The Sound of an Animal</p> 	<p>4 Seeds or Cones</p> 	<p>Something to Create Music With</p> 
<p>A Wisp of Smoke or Mist</p> 	<p>A Tree with a Single Leaf</p> 	<p>An Interesting View of the Sky</p> 	<p>WINTER</p> <p>The Word "Winter"</p>	<p>Three Kinds of Leaves</p> 



ASK A NATURALIST (ALL ABOUT BIRDS)

• BY ANNIE AGUIRRE, MARKETING COORDINATOR •

Over the years leading the Wednesday Bird Walks, I've received a lot of interesting questions from park visitors on birds. Here's a roundup of a few of them:

Q: Why does that bird look like it's been in some kind of bleaching accident?

A: What you're seeing is a leucistic bird – a genetic mutation similar to albinism that causes patches of feathers to lack color pigment. While uncommon, leucism is a fairly regular occurrence in the bird world compared to the much rarer albinism (where 100% of the feathers and body are pure white, and the eyes are red or pink).

Q: My feeders seem to be a hit-or-a-miss with the birds. What gives?

A: Depends on who's coming through and when. When food is abundant, birds have options, so they may choose to feed elsewhere. Seasonal migration and weather also play a huge part on what's around. The good news is, as long as you're providing a steady supply of varied food options, birds will come back. Some of the best days for feeder activity are ones where the weather is nasty and wild food sources are limited, especially in late winter and early spring.

Q: I was on a walk in the woods and heard a lot of upset birds calling. What's up with that?

A: You've likely come across a flock of birds "mobbing" a predator. Think of it like a neighborhood watch group. There's safety in numbers, so when a predator, like a hawk or owl is lurking about, smaller birds flock together and gang up on the bully to push it out of their turf.

Q: Why are these robins still hanging around? Didn't they get the memo it's winter?

A: Contrary to popular belief, many robins don't fly south for winter. While there's some seasonal movement depending on weather conditions and food supply, you may end up having robins in your yard year-round.

Q: Why am I seeing so many hawks along the highway all of the sudden?

A: In the cooler months, our raptor population booms as hawks, falcons, and eagles overwinter in our region. Red-tailed Hawks in particular like to take advantage of highways, using the plentiful posts for scoping out prey that wanders onto the road, or an easy roadkilled meal.



HAVE A NATURE QUESTION?

SHOOT US AN EMAIL AT INFO@ELKHARTCOUNTY.COM

AUTUMN

N A C A T U R E ' S R



Enjoy the deep, vibrant red of the native **VIRGINIA CREEPER** vine wrapped around tree trunks in our wooded areas this fall. This vine can be identified by its five toothed-leaflets and dark blueish berries, which are poisonous, so don't taste them.

Each year, thousands of beautiful **SANDHILL CRANES** gather at the migration stopover in Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife area near Medaryville, IN. Join the Elkhart County Parks on a caravan to see these majestic and amazing birds in their full glory on Nov. 19. Sign up at elkhartcountyparks.org/events

The **QUADRANTIDS METEOR SHOWERS** are one of the best meteor showers of the year with 60-120 meteors per hour. January 3-4 are the best viewing dates but the shower will last from the last week in December to the first couple weeks in January. The best time to view them is after midnight and before dawn.

In late winter, a walk through the forest and a sharp eye to the ground will reveal a small, fern-like flower with white petals and black anthers called **HARBINGER OF SPRING**, *Erigenia bulbosa*. It is also called Salt and Pepper, due to the pattern of colors and the pleasant parsley flavor of the leaves.



Look for **GOLDENROD GALLS** (insect homes) well camouflaged in old fields and meadows this month. There are three common types to seek out: A very round bulge in the stem of the plant is called a ball gall and is caused by the Goldenrod gall fly. The spindle gall is an elongated bulge in the stem caused by the Goldenrod gall moth. And the rosette gall, a clump of haphazard-looking leaves at the top of the stem is caused by the Goldenrod gall midge.

WINTER

Get out and discover the wonderful world of **ANIMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS**. Raccoon scat by the river's edge can reveal what the critter has been eating. Footprints, or tracks, in the snow can show the direction and pattern of an animal's movement. A chewed nut can give a clue as to who was snacking nearby.





CAMPFIRE SKILLS

BY PHELICIA JOZWIAK, INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST

Backyard bonfires make a great way to enjoy the outdoors, during the cool fall and early spring. Some homeowners are even able to get through frigid Midwest winters with indoor wood stoves and fireplaces. Read on for methods and tips on how to create and manage a safe fire.

FIRE BUILDING

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- ➔ **A BURNING SPACE:** Consider the distance from sheds, large structures, or trees.
- ➔ **TINDER:** Very dry material that acts as fuel. Some great options include:
 - **Dry plant foliage:** Dead grasses, cattail fluff & milkweed pod fluff.
 - **Home materials:** Dryer lint, balled up sheets of paper & cardboard.
 - **Kindling:** Pieces should be larger than tinder but smaller than firewood.
 - **Materials:** Small twigs & branches.
- ➔ **FIREWOOD:** The drier the firewood, the better it will hold a flame. Each tree species has different burning characteristics:
 - **Maple:** High heat & long burntime
 - **Cherry:** Aromatic & low smoke
 - **Oak:** Abundant & high heat
 - **Hickory:** Easy to light & high heat
 - **Ash:** Very low smoke & medium heat

SAFETY

- *Never leave a fire unattended*
- *Have some form of fire extinguisher nearby*
- *Be aware of local burn bans*
- *Check city/county policies on fire ordinances*

FIRE STYLES

THE STAR



(LEVEL 1)

PROS

- Easy to build
- Potential for long burntime

CONS:

- Requires large pieces of firewood

THE TEEPEE



(LEVEL 2)

PROS

- Larger/longer fire if well-supplied with firewood
- Provides vertical heat for cooking

CONS:

- Requires higher maintenance to avoid collapsing

THE LOG CABIN



(LEVEL 3)

PROS

- Consistent outward heat
- Minimal maintenance, once lit

CONS:

- May collapse if not built correctly



RECIPE

S'MORRITO

[SERVES 1]

- 1 Flour Tortilla
 - 1-2 TB Nut Butter (Peanut, Cashew, Almond)
 - ½ Banana
 - Chocolate Chips
- On a sheet of aluminum foil, place the tortilla.
 - Spread nut butter on top.
 - Carefully cut the banana into long strips or small slices and place on buttered side.
 - Sprinkle with chocolate chips.
 - Gently, but firmly roll the stuffed tortilla up like a burrito, with ends tucked inside.
 - Wrap foil around the outside and carefully place at the edge of the campfire.
 - Use tongs to turn the burrito over, making sure all sides heat evenly.
 - Once chocolate melts, dig in to your delicious dessert burrito!

S'MOREOS

[SERVES 1]

- 1 Oreo
 - 1 Marshmallow
 - 1 Piece of Bite-sized Chocolate Candy, such as:
 - Andes Mints
 - Peanut Butter Cups
 - Ghiradelli's Squares
 - Stuffed Dove Squares
 - Mini Chocolate Bars
- Gently separate oreo and place bottom half cream-side up.
 - Layer chocolate candy on top of the cream of the base cookie.
 - Roast marshmallow to desired toastiness.
 - Carefully add marshmallow to top half of oreo.
 - Combine cookie and enjoy!

TRACKS

BY ANNIE AGUIRRE
MARKETING COORDINATOR

IN WINTER, WILDLIFE LEAVE STORIES IN THE SNOW WITH EVERY STEP THEY TAKE. EACH TRACK IS A MYSTERY WAITING TO BE REVEALED. ON YOUR NEXT OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, USE THIS GUIDE TO CRACK SOME OF THESE COLD CASES AND REVEAL THE CRITTERS BEHIND THE CLUES.

BOUNDERS

SPECIES: OTTERS & WEASELS

HAVE SHORT LEGS AND LONG BODIES. THEY MOVE LIKE AN ACCORDION – THEIR BACK FEET LAND WHERE THEIR FRONT FEET STEPPED AS THEY BOUND.



RIVER OTTER



WADDLERS

SPECIES: RACCOONS, BEAVERS, OPOSSUMS, MUSKRATS, SKUNKS

SHORT LEGS AND ROUND BODIES. THEIR WALKING PATTERN RESEMBLES WADDLING, WITH AN ALTERNATE SIDE-TO-SIDE MOTION. WADDLERS APPEAR TO MOVE ONE SIDE OF THEIR BODY AND THEN THE OTHER SIDE WHEN THEY WALK, AS THOUGH THE FRONT AND BACK FOOT ARE CONNECTED BY AN IMAGINARY STRING.



RACCOON



BEAVER



HOPPERS

SPECIES: RABBITS, SQUIRRELS, CHIPMUNKS & MICE

HOPPERS MOVE BY PLACING THEIR REAR FEET SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF THEIR FRONT FEET AND PUSHING OFF SO THEIR FRONT FEET LAND FIRST, AND THEIR BACK FEET LAND IN FRONT. THEIR HOPPING PATTERN IS SOMETIMES CALLED "LEAP-FROGGING".



RABBIT



SQUIRREL



BURROWERS

SPECIES: VOLE

IN DEEP SNOW, VOLES PREFER TO REMAIN BENEATH THE SURFACE IN TUNNELS. AS THE SNOW MELTS, THESE WINDING, SNAKE-LIKE TUNNELS BECOME EXPOSED.

VOLE



TROTTERS

SPECIES: CAT, DOG, COYOTE, FOX, DEER, & LARGE BIRDS.

TROTTERS MOVE WITH A SMOOTH ZIG-ZAGGING PATTERN. MANY TROTTERS CONSERVE ENERGY BY LANDING THEIR BACK FEET IN THE TRACKS WHERE THEIR FRONT FEET PREVIOUSLY FELL. THIS SIMPLE LEFT-RIGHT PATTERN GIVES THE ILLUSION OF ONLY TWO FEET LEAVING BEHIND TRACKS, AND IS EASY TO SPOT.



DEER



TURKEY



WHICH PAW IS WHICH?

CANINES AND CATS CAN BE TOUGH TO PICK APART. HERE'S SOME FIELD MARKS TO HELP YOU GET A PAWS-ITIVE ID.

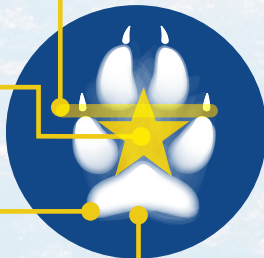
SLIGHT GAP BETWEEN TOP & BOTTOM TOES (NO OVERLAP)

FOX

STAR-SHAPED NEGATIVE SPACE BETWEEN PADS

FUZZY PAWS SOFTEN TRACKS

NARROW PAD SHAPED LIKE BOOMERANG



DOG

BLUNT CLAWS OFTEN VISIBLE

NO CLEAN GAP BETWEEN TOP & BOTTOM TOES (SHOWS OVERLAP)

LARGE ROUND TOES ALWAYS SPLAY OUTWARD

SHORT WIDE PALM PAD



COYOTE

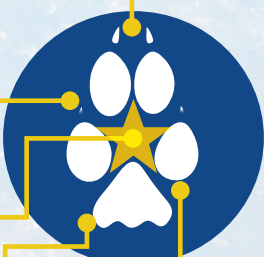
SHARP MIDDLE CLAWS OFTEN POINT INWARD

SHARP OUTER CLAWS HARD TO SEE

STAR-SHAPED NEGATIVE SPACE BETWEEN PADS

THREE BUMPS AT BOTTOM OF PAD

NARROWER PAW COMPARED TO OTHER CANINES



CAT

NO CLAW MARKS

C-SHAPED NEGATIVE SPACE BETWEEN PADS

TWO BUMPS AT TOP OF PAD

PROPORTIONALLY LARGE PALM PADS

THREE BUMPS AT BOTTOM OF PAD





MIAMI SUGARING

SIHSIPA AHKWIKAANI

BY JULIE PARKE, MUSEUM ADMINISTRATOR

DID you know that it takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple sugar?

The Elkhart County Historical Museum is thrilled to be partnering with the Myaamia Heritage Museum and Archive in Miami, Oklahoma to bring our audiences the poplar exhibit, *sihsipaahkwikaani*, on the history and importance of maple sugaring for the Miami people.

Sugaring has been a part of Myaamia culture for centuries. This exhibit begins with early depictions of sugaring and continues through modern day sugaring operations. Learn about the traditional techniques of sugaring and uncover stories associated with the skill. Understand how the Miami adapted long-standing knowledge and skills to the available sources in Kansas and Oklahoma following their forced removal in the mid-19th century from their homelands of Indiana.

Another key feature of the installation is Myaamia language. An essential thread that runs throughout

Myaamia heritage, language is a vibrant part of Myaamia culture today. This exhibit includes Myaamia headings across each section of the exhibit and introduces visitors to vocabulary within each section. For instance, *iihkisaminki* is the word for syrup, and *sihsipaahkwiki* is maple sugar.

In addition to the elements of a sugar camp, the exhibit includes artifacts and reproductions, historic imagery, and contemporary photos. Objects range from a traditional bark basket, copper pots from trade with Europeans, and finally modern stainless-steel buckets. Some of the historic photos are borrowed from the Minnesota Historical Society and depict Potawatomi and Ojibwe sugaring operations. Both groups also live in our region along with the Miami.

Please come to the museum and see *sihsipaahkwikaani* through March 2023 to learn more.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



HISTORY DETECTIVE

BY PATRICK MCGUIRE, CURATOR OF EDUCATION

Working in history is very much like detective work, and in 2023 the museum will be revealing how this work is done in the new History Detective program series. The series

will examine subjects from Elkhart County history and show how research has shaped the way we have come to understand the importance of the topic. One of the most fascinating things we find in studying history is that the work never ends. The History Detective programs will show how, as more sources are found, ongoing research can completely change our understanding of these topics and update our understanding of the past.

The series kicks off in January with a look at the Machine Shop that was built in Elkhart for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. The shop built in the 1870s, was a grand building that could house more than 20 locomotives. Its larger importance to Elkhart's community and diversity has only really started to be understood in the last 20 years. Following that, March's program looks at the playwright Charles Gordone. Gordone was the first African American to win a Pulitzer prize for drama, but his legacy reached far beyond this prestigious award. History Detective will chronicle how Gordone's career places him right at the forefront for the quest for Civil Rights in America.

History Detective will be presented bi-monthly throughout all of 2023, and each program will be presented in-person at the Elkhart County Historical Museum, with a virtual encore presentation taking place the day after the in-person offering. Presenting in these two formats removes barriers to participation. With a virtual presentation, it does not matter where you live, if weather is bad, or you don't want to leave your home. If a topic interests you, there will be an opportunity to see these programs. The History Detective series will be a great way to see how research, and its unending search, shapes how we view history, and how our understanding of history continuously evolves and grows, and what that means for us today and in the future.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LS & MS RAILROAD MACHINE SHOP

- JAN 19: 7-8 PM [MUSEUM]
- JAN 20: 1-2 PM [VIRTUAL]

CHARLES GORDONE & CIVIL RIGHTS

- MAR 09: 7-8 PM [MUSEUM]
- MAR 10: 1-2 PM [VIRTUAL]



Address

53373 C.R.131
BRISTOL, IN

Mill Hours

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

10 A.M.-5 P.M.

MID-APRIL

-THRU-

MID-NOVEMBER

Phone

574.825.9324

The milling season for Bonneyville Mill has typically run through the end of October. In the past, November 1 is the beginning of the "closed" season. This year has started a new trend. Bonneyville is now extending the milling season by two weeks at the beginning and end. This will add 4 additional weeks to our season and allow visitors to experience the mill just a little longer each year. The new normal for Bonneyville is to open in mid-April and continue to run until mid-November.

So what does the Mill staff do in the closed season? One very important job during this time is to separate the big millstones and prepare them for the next grinding season. We have two sets of millstones at Bonneyville Mill. Each millstone weighs between 1800 and 2000

BONNEYVILLE MILL WINTER WORKINGS

BY COURTNEY FRANKE, MILL MANAGER

pounds. Two heavy-duty wooden crane arms do the heavy lifting. The crane arm swings directly over the top of each set of stones. A screw mechanism consisting of several large metal pieces is attached to the top millstone on each side. The top "runner" stone is slowly lifted about three feet high using the screw mechanism. The crane arm swings the top stone over away from the bottom "bed" stone where it is rotated and lowered to the floor. Mill staff operates the entire lifting system without any motorized

assistance. The whole process produces a chorus of creaking, popping and groaning as the 2000-lb stones are repositioned for winter cleaning. Small bits of flour, grain, and cornmeal have to be removed from the pockets and spaces located in the stones. Mill staff cleans all the debris away using wire and plastic brushes, small picks and a mild bleach solution. In the spring before opening staff repeats the whole process in reverse to reassemble the stones and prepare them for another milling season.



HOISTING STONE



CENTERING STONE



BALANCING STONE



READY FOR TEST GRIND



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY DONNY ALEO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The first smiling face you will see when visiting our administration office and often the first person you will speak with if phoning in over the last 35 years is Marlene Lantzer, our Parks Secretary. She is the frontline for scheduling, bookings, and sometimes even unhappy customers. Marlene is a straight shooter and appreciated for her wisdom and honesty. Marlene has watched the department grow in both property size and program offerings over her many years in service. She and her husband have been married for 46 years and in her free time she enjoys cooking, baking, gardening and rock and roll music.

MARLENE LANTZER • SECRETARY



PLANT A SEED

FOR OUR FUTURE



The Elkhart County Parks Legacy Fund was established with an estate gift from the late Catherine Metzger who loved the natural world.

Cathy was a teacher, co-worker, and friend to many. Her generosity planted the seed of an Elkhart County Parks Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. This endowed fund will nurture Elkhart County Park projects and programs for decades to come.

We invite you to help plant more seeds to help us grow!

To help grow the Legacy Fund, please reach out to:

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County

☎ 574-295-8761

or visit

inspiringgood.org/GiveOnline

and select "Elkhart County Parks Legacy" under "Choose a Fund"



Reserve

RENTAL SPACES



Spend a day where the biggest decision to make is how toasty you like your marshmallow.



Summer's over, vacation days are depleted, and so is your mental energy...why not take a break? Relax with an easy outdoor getaway at your own pace at one of our scenic park facilities, within easy reach of home. From cozy indoor retreats to hearthside havens, the parks has you covered.



Find your happy place at
ELKHARTCOUNTYPARKS.ORG/RESERVE

Ox Bow COUNTY PARK

23033 C.R. 45 • GOSHEN, IN

	TYPE	CAPACITY	ELECTRICITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	RATE
OX BOW HAUS	ENCLOSED	50	✓	\$100	\$165
FISHERMAN'S CAMP	COVERED	75	✓		\$120
COFFEE TREE	COVERED	50			\$75
HONEY LOCUST	COVERED	75			
BLACK MAPLE	COVERED	50			\$75
COTTONWOOD	COVERED	75	✓		\$125
STABLE	COVERED	110			\$125
RED PINES CAMPFIRE	OPEN AIR	50			\$25
HICKORY HILL CHAPEL	OPEN AIR	50			\$75

Bonneville Mill COUNTY PARK

53373 C.R. 131 • BRISTOL, IN

	TYPE	CAPACITY	ELECTRICITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	RATE
BALDWIN ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE	ENCLOSED	35	✓	✓	\$150
BRIAR PATCH	PARTIALLY ENCLOSED	150	✓	✓	\$120
FEEDLOT	COVERED	150	✓		\$150
MEADOW	COVERED	50			\$60
LOOKOUT	COVERED	50			\$60
KUM MOL RIE	COVERED	100			\$85

River Preserve COUNTY PARK

67380 C.R. 29 • NEW PARIS, IN

	TYPE	CAPACITY	ELECTRICITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	RATE
BAINTERTOWN	COVERED	25			\$50
BENTON	COVERED	50			\$30
DEFRIES GARDENS [WEDDING CEREMONIES]	OPEN AIR	50		✓	\$225

Cobus Creek COUNTY PARK

30680 C.R. 8 • ELKHART, IN

	TYPE	CAPACITY	ELECTRICITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	RATE
COBUS SHELTER	PARTIALLY ENCLOSED	100	✓	✓	\$200

Museum

304 W. VISTULA ST. • BRISTOL, IN

	TYPE	CAPACITY	ELECTRICITY	SECURITY DEPOSIT	RATE
AUDITORIUM	ENCLOSED	300	✓	✓	\$350



ELKHART COUNTY PARKS
📍 211 W. LINCOLN AVE,
GOSHEN, IN 46526-3280
✉️ PARKSINFO@ELKHARTCOUNTY.COM

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