

ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

SPRING / SUMMER '23

COMPASS

GUIDE



RIVER
PRESERVE

BOOT
LAKE

OX
BOW

COBUS
CREEK

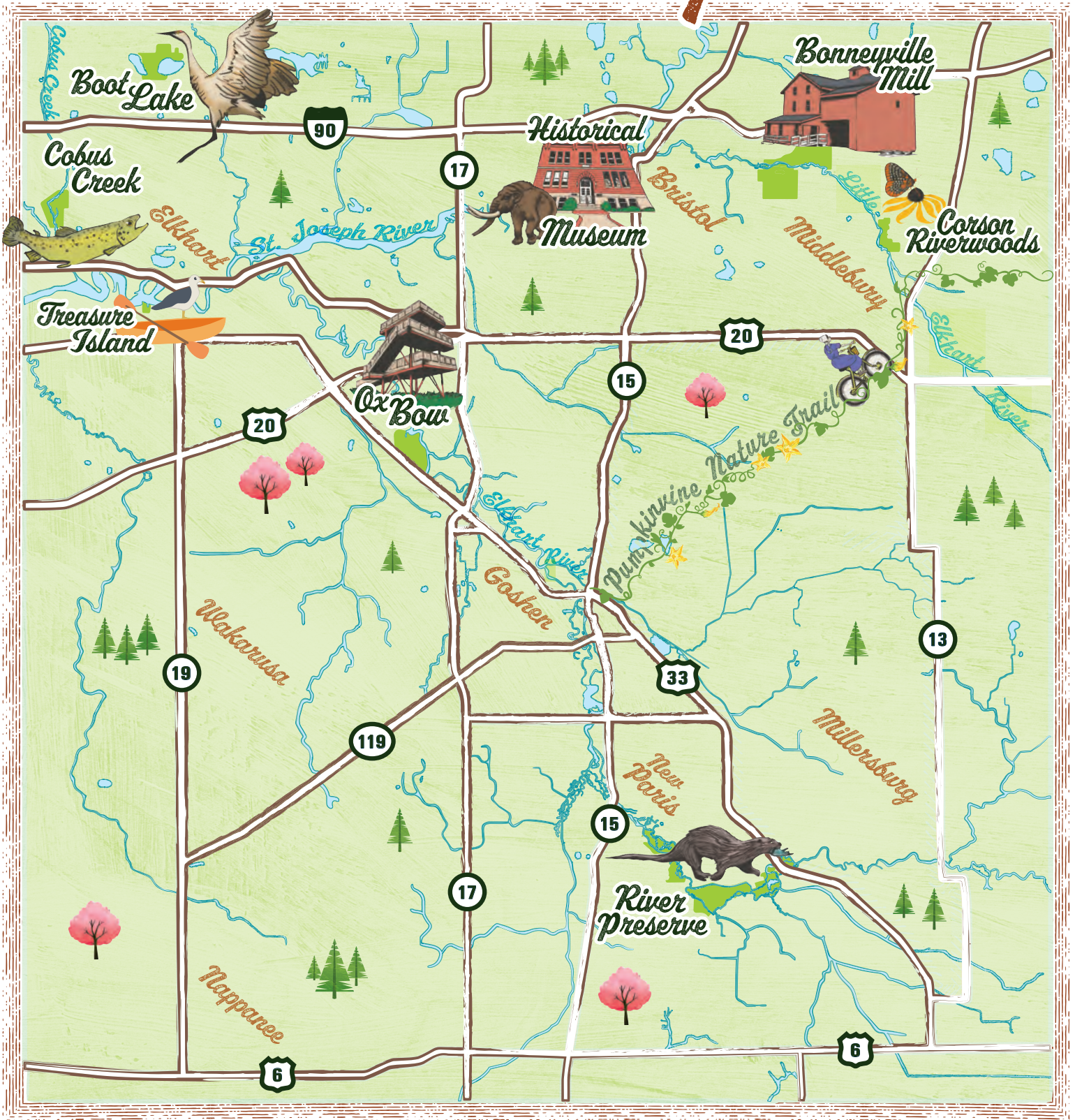
CORSON
RIVERWOODS

BONNEYVILLE
M I L L

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 CLOSSES 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



Corson Riverwoods

MIDDLEBURY, IN

ACRES: 81.5 (OPENS LATE 2023)



Our Mission

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS with CULTURE and NATURE

ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

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

PHONE / 574-535-6458

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PARK

OPERATIONS / Bernard J. Cunningham IV

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES / Donny Aleo

ELKHART COUNTY PARK BOARD

PRESIDENT / Klaus Mueller

VICE PRESIDENT / Karin Frey

SECRETARY / Karen Mackowiak

MEMBERS / Robert Kelly, Larry Andrews, John Hardy, & Will Wilson

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AT LARGE / Thomas Stump

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ELKHART COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT / Lloyd Miller

VICE PRESIDENT / Wayne Stubbs

TREASURER / Kim Clarke

SECRETARY / David Bird



michianaadventures
Cobus Creek County Park

It's amazing how you can see a place dozens of times, but each visit, you see something different. Beautiful capture, MichianaAdventures. ❤️

#ELKHARTCOUNTYPARKS

CONNECT WITH US!

elkhartcountyparks.org

[f](#) [i](#) [@elkhartcountyparks](#)

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THE COMPASS NEWSLETTER IS A BIENNIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ELKHART COUNTY PARKS.



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ON THE COVER / THE WONDER & DELIGHT OF FIREFLIES / PHOTO BY MEGAN BONHAM

Greetings from the ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

One of my favorite times of the year is observing spring transition into summer. Extra hours of daylight, warm breezes, and the scent of fresh air entice us to spend more time outdoors. During these seasons, we watch the blossoming journey of spring woodland wildflowers followed by the burst of leaves before summer begins. The sound of peepers on a cool spring night transition into the daytime strum of the bullfrog on hot summer days, and the cabbage white butterflies fluttering in the meadows are followed by the migrating monarchs in later months.



At the Elkhart County Parks we will soon be 'changing seasons' as well. This year begins the final phase of our 2019-2023 Master Plan. We will soon be underway to create an updated Elkhart County Parks – Five Year Master Plan. Although we have accomplished quite a bit these past few years, we will continue on the adventure of "Inspiring Connections with Culture and Nature" and the Elkhart County Park and Recreation Board wants you to be a part of that journey.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and being **INSPIRED** by YOU!

Sincerely, *Ronda*
RONDA DECAIRE
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

Community input is an integral part of creating a vision for future recreational needs in a park master plan. Proper planning will foster healthier communities, stimulate economic activity, promote conservation and preservation of both history and landscapes.

Later this summer, we will be inviting you to participate in upcoming public meetings and a community survey to help design the future of the Elkhart County Parks and create a framework for future park development and growth.

In a few months, check the Elkhart County Parks website and Facebook page for a link to the community survey as well as public meeting dates.

Want a personal invite? Send an email to parksinfo@elkhartcounty.com with your contact information (name, email, address) and we will be happy to send you a direct link to the Master Plan survey and meeting invites when they are ready!

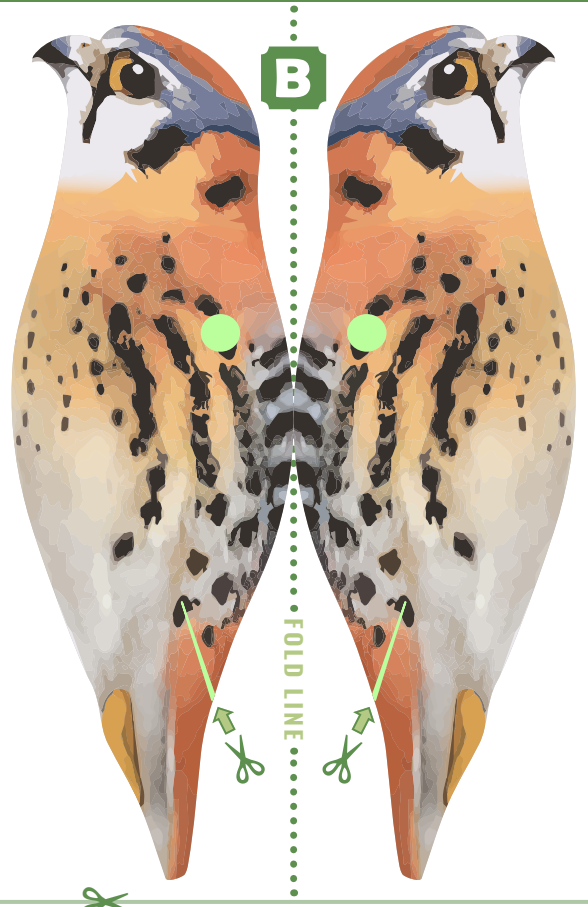
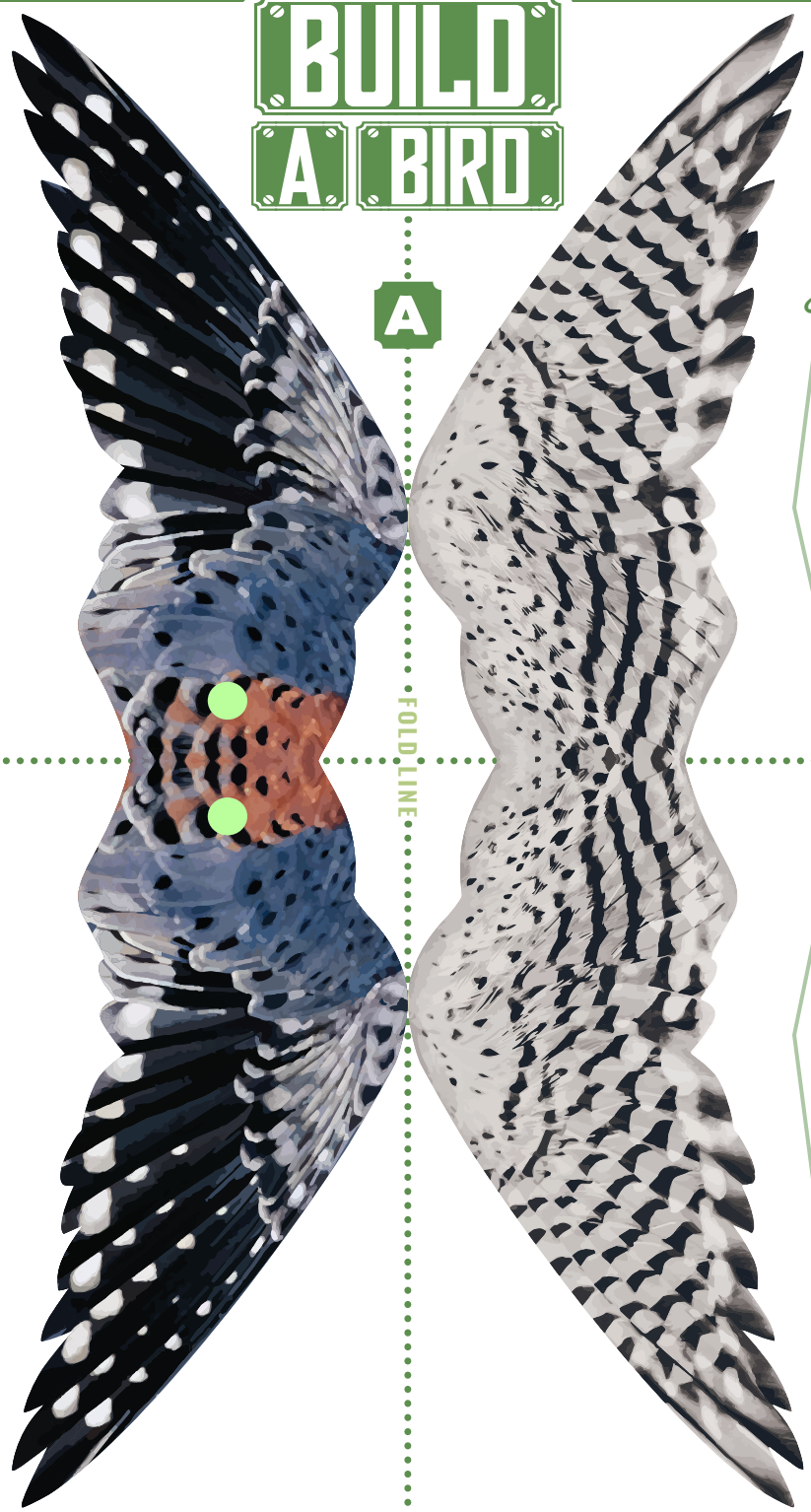
POST CARD

What will INSPIRE you to visit your county park facilities?

Will it be to...

- Recreate towards a healthier you?
- Learn about local history and diverse cultures?
- Explore nature and connect to the environment?
- Attend new programs and special events?
- Preserve more of our natural habitats and ecosystems?
- Volunteer to help activate the rivers and trails?
- Connect with family and friends outdoors?
- Tell the story of your place?

BUILD A BIRD



SUPPLIES YOU'LL NEED:

- Scissors
- Hole Puncher or Skewer
- Glue Stick or Spray Adhesive
- String or Fishing Line to hang the falcon

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Carefully remove the sections for A, B, & C from the sheet using the solid lines as a guide.
- 2 Before cutting the fine edges, fold each piece along the dotted lines so that the mirrored images are back-to-back, patterns facing out. This will help make sure both sides are cut evenly to match.
- 3 After folding the two sides, finish cutting out A, B, & C, periodically flipping them over to check that both sides stay lined up as you cut.

- 4 Once all the shapes are cut out, using a gluestick or adhesion spray, lightly glue together the folded inner sides of A, B, & C. Make sure all of the edges are evenly lined up.
- 5 Once the glue dries, fold the wings (A) in half to form a single wing, with the green dots facing out.
- 6 With the wings still folded, use a hole puncher or skewer to poke a single hole through the two dots.
- 7 Repeat the process with the

- main body (B), and punch a single hole through the shoulders.
- 8 At the marked line on the back of the body (B), cut an angled notch.
- 9 Fold the tail (C) in half (length-wise), and cut a short notch at the marked line in the middle (at the fold). Then, wedge the tail into the cut slot at the base of the body (B).
- 10 Place the wings (A) on top of the shoulders of the body (B), lining up the holes. Loop a string through the holes to connect them, tie off the string, and enjoy your falcon!

APRIL

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



**REGISTER
ONLINE**



2

**GEOLOGISTS
DAY**

SCAN THE SHORES
OF THE ELKHART
RIVER FOR
COOL ROCKS

3

9

EASTER

10

11

**NATURE NUTS:
ROBINS**

12

**NATURE NUTS:
ROBINS**

16

**TRAILTREKKERS:
WILDFLOWERS**

17

**HIKING
CLUB**

**WORM BIN
WORKSHOP**

23

24

25

26

**NATIONAL
AUDUBON DAY**
WAKE UP EARLY
TO HEAR THE
MORNING CHORUS
OF BIRD SONG

27

6



**SANDHILL
CRANES**

13

7

**INTERNATIONAL
BEAVER DAY**
VISIT LIEBER
NATURE PRESERVE
NEAR SUNSET TO
SEE THEM AT WORK

14



WOODPECKERS

21



**CREATURES
OF THE NIGHT**

28

ARBOR DAY
CONSIDER
PLANTING A
NATIVE TREE
IN YOUR YARD

1



**WILDFLOWER
BIOBLITZ KICKOFF**

8

15



**THE
HORTICULTURISTS**

22

**EARTH
DAY**

29



**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

**TROUT
DAY**

**BACKYARD
FORESTER**

30

MAY

sun

mon

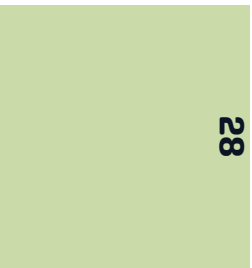
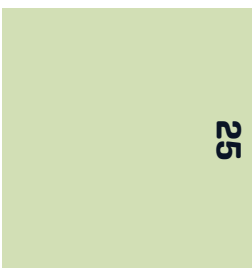
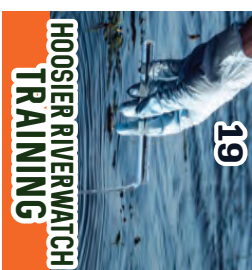
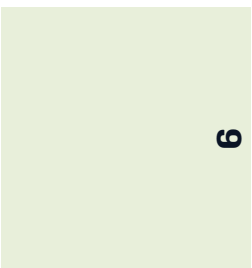
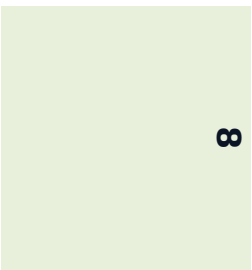
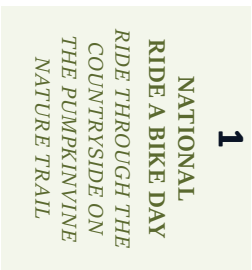
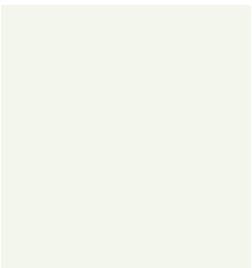
tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



REGISTER ONLINE

JUNE

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



**REGISTER
ONLINE**



4

FREE FISHING DAY
CHECK OUT THE
DEPT. OF NATURAL
RESOURCES WEBSITE
TO LEARN MORE

5

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

6



NATURE NUTS: DINOSAURS

7



WED. BIRD WALK

NATURE NUTS

11

12

13

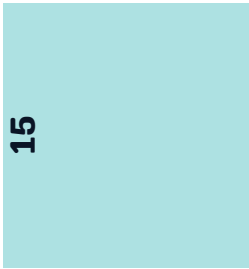
NATIONAL WEED YOUR GARDEN DAY

14

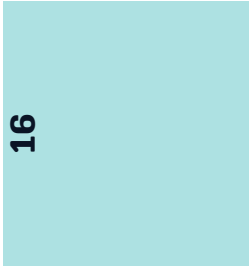


OPEN HOUSE AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE

15



16



17



FEATURE GRAIN DAY

18

FATHER'S DAY

19



TRAIL TREKKERS: BIKE HIKE

20



HIKING CLUB

21



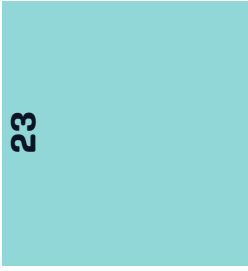
SUMMER SOLSTICE HIKE

22



CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

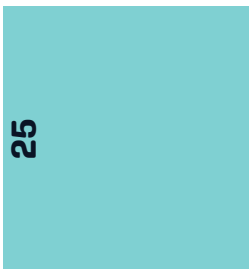
23



24

UPCYCLING DAY

25

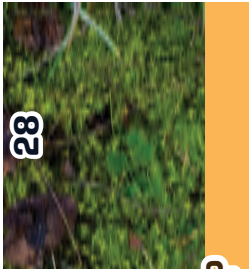


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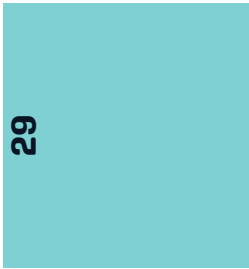
NATURE EXPLORER DAYCAMP

27



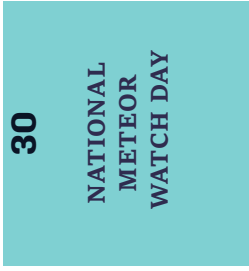
28

29



30

NATIONAL METEOR WATCH DAY



3



KELLOGG BIRD SANCTUARY TRIP

2



BOOKS & BOOTS

1



MUSEUM EXHIBIT OPENING

9



PRAIRIE HIKE

8



10



SWEET CYCLE RIDE

SCAVENGER HUNT

JULY

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



REGISTER ONLINE



1



EXHIBIT
TOUR 8

SWEET
CYCLE
RIDE



15

MUSEUM EXHIBIT
TOUR



22

MUSEUM EXHIBIT
TOUR



7

BOOKS
& BOOTS



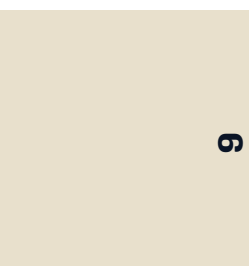
14

MUSEUM EXHIBIT
TOUR



21

BIKE
HIKE



13

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



OPEN
HOUSE 12

HOUSE
HISTORIES

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



20

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



19

HIKING
CLUB



4

INDEPENDENCE
DAY



11

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



17

CREATURES
OF THE NIGHT

TRAIL
TREKKERS



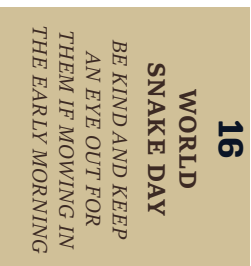
3

FULL
MOON
BUCK MOON



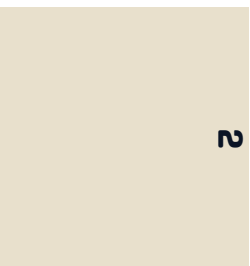
10

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



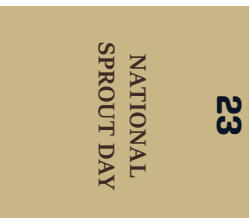
16

WORLD
SNAKE DAY
BE KIND AND KEEP
AN EYE OUT FOR
THEM IF MOWING IN
THE EARLY MORNING



9

ADVENTURE
BIKE CAMP



23

NATIONAL
SPROUT DAY



24



25



26



27



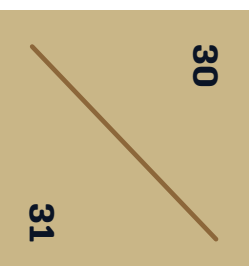
28

WORLD
NATURE
CONSERVATION
DAY



FEATURE
GRAIN DAY 29

EXHIBIT
TOUR



30

31

AUGUST

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

REGISTER ONLINE



1
NATURE NUTS: WORMS



2
WED. BIRD WALK
NATURE NUTS



3

4
BOOKS & BOOTS
BUG NIGHT



5
BAT WALK



6
NATIONAL TREE DAY

7

8

9
OPEN HOUSE AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE



10
NATIONAL S'MORES DAY

11
PERSEIDS PARTY



12
SWEET CYCLERIDE



13

14
WORLD LIZARD DAY

15
HIKING CLUB



16
NEW MOON

17


18
SUMMER ASTRONOMY



19

20

21
TRAIL-TREKKERS: AT/ATL



22

23

24
DIY DOG BISCUITS
CEMETERY TOUR



25
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOUNDERS DAY

26
CAST IRON COOKOUT & SWAPMEET



27

28

29

30

31
CREATURES OF THE NIGHT



SEPTEMBER

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat



REGISTER
ONLINE



1
MUTT
STRUT



2
MUSEUM EXHIBIT
TOUR

3

4
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
DAY



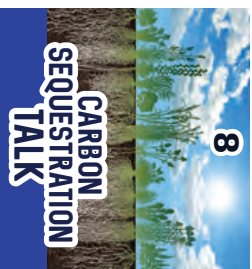
5
NATURE NUTS:
GRASSHOPPERS



6
WED.
BIRD
WALK
NATURE
NUTS



7
THIRST FOR
NATURE



8
CARBON
SEQUESTRATION
TALK



9
HOOSIER
RIVERWATCH
EXHIBIT
TOUR
BIKE
HIKE

10

11

12



13
OPENHOUSE AT THE
SCHOOLHOUSE

14

15
NEW
MOON



16
EXHIBIT
TOUR
NATURE
HIKE

17



18
TRAIL TREKKERS:
TREE ID



19
HIKING
CLUB

20



21
HISTORY
DETECTIVE



22
HISTORY
DETECTIVE



23
FEATURE
GRAIN DAY
EXHIBIT
TOUR
FALL
EQUINOX HIKE

24

25

26
NATIONAL
PANCAKE DAY
HAVE YOU TRIED
BONNEVILLE
MILLS' NEW
PANCAKE MIX?

27

28

29
FULL
MOON
HARVEST MOON



30
MUSEUM EXHIBIT
TOUR



ASK A NATURALIST (NOCTURNAL ANIMALS)

• BY PHELICIA JOZWIAK, INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST •

[PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLE MITCHELL]

Q: If moths are most active at night, why are they so attracted to lights?

A: Moths rely on a method of navigation called transverse orientation, meaning they point themselves towards a distant light source (for moths the moon) and keep that direction as they fly. Unfortunately for moths, they have not evolved to tell the moon from a porch light. When moths mistakenly align with a lightbulb, they will fly towards it until they reach it and end up lost with no direction to travel. Turning off the light can help moths get back on course.

Q: My friend told me owls can turn their head all the way around, is that true?

A: Nope. From a forward-facing position, owls can turn their heads up to 270° to the left or 270° to the right. Owls have evolved to do this because their eyes are in a fixed position, so the only way for them to follow the movement of their prey is to turn their heads.

Q: Why do deer eyes glow at night?

A: Eye shine comes from a light source hitting a layer of eye tissue called the tapetum lucidum. This tissue is iridescent acting as a mirror reflecting light back to the photoreceptors, giving the receptors a second chance to tell the brain what the eyes are seeing. This is why animals that have a tapetum layer see so much better than us in the dark!

Q: I saw a skunk out during the day it must be sick, right?

A: Probably not. Skunks are "crepuscular" animals, meaning they are most active at twilight, but will adjust their activity to avoid predators, food competition, or extreme temperatures. So a skunk out during the day is most likely taking advantage of warm spring weather or looking for a quick meal.

If you suspect an animal is sick, it is best not to approach it but to step back and watch. If its behavior continues to concern you, call a local rehabber or the humane society.

Q: Are bats really blind?

A: Some bats have poor eyesight during the day, but all bats can see as well or better than humans can in the dark. When bats fly really close to something it is usually just because they are curious. With their incredible use of echolocation combined with their eyesight, bats can avoid obstacles as small as a single human hair!



HAVE A NATURE QUESTION?

SHOOT US AN EMAIL AT
PARKSINFO@ELKHARTCOUNTY.COM

SPRING

N A C A T U R E ' S A S R

BY KRISTA DANIELS
INTERRETIVE NATURALIST

In early spring, you may notice new green leaves on some of the understory shrubs in the woods when most of the rest of the forest is still brown. These are most likely exotic, invasive plants such as **BUSH HONEYSUCKLE** or **AUTUMN OLIVE** that out compete our native species by leafing out early and taking more of the available resources.



Look to the bare ground areas as you walk and you may notice the small, lumpy, brown piles that look like little mounds of soil. These are, in fact, **CASTINGS**, or worm poop excreted at the surface by certain types of earthworms.



Approximately three months after laying their eggs in a sandy-soil underground nest in June, **COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE** hatchlings begin to emerge from their nest sites and make their way to the water.

You may notice a steady stream of small, yellow and black wasps entering and exiting a small hole in the ground late this season. These would be ground-nesting **YELLOW JACKETS** that have transformed an old mammal burrow into their nest site. Watch out, they are very protective and may sting if approached.

The adult **BARRED OWL** will invite and encourage their young to leave the nest and take their first flight in early May. The young, typically 2 owlets, will stay near their parents for the next four months before moving on to find their own territory.



As you stroll through the forest, seek out the bright, yellow clusters of flowers along woody branches of the **NORTHERN SPICEBUSH**. Spicebush is a native, understory shrub that is a host plant to many native insects and has a lemony scent when its leaves are crushed.

SUMMER



TROUT HOOK-UPS

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources up the odds for anglers by stocking waterways around the county with hundreds of Brown and Rainbow Trout each year.



RECIPE

HUSH GUPPIES

[YIELDS 20]

- 1 Cup Bonneyville Mill Cornmeal
- 1-2 TB Sugar
- ½ Tsp Baking Powder
- ½ Tsp Salt
- ½ Cup Milk
- 2 TB Vegetable Oil
- 3 TB Grated Onion
- 1 Cup All-Purpose Flour
- ½ Tsp Baking Soda
- ¼ Tsp Cajun Seasoning
- ½ Tsp White Vinegar
- 1 Large Egg
- **Optional:**
- Diced Jalapeño
- Cheddar Cheese

- ▶ In a large bowl, combine the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, Cajun seasoning, salt, and black pepper.
- ▶ In a medium bowl combine milk with vinegar and let stand. After 5 minutes whisk in oil, egg, and onion. Mix wet and dry ingredients together.
- ▶ In a large skillet or Dutch oven, heat vegetable oil. Using 2 small spoons form the "Hushguppies" and fry in oil 3-5 minutes until golden brown.



WHICH TYPE OF FISHERMAN ARE YOU?

1

PRETTY FLY FOR A FISH GUY



WEAPON OF CHOICE

Fly Rod



BAIT

Handmade Flies



ARMOR

Bucket hat with fancy handmade flies, waders, waterproof headlamp, creel, and a fishing vest with at least 50 pockets.



FIGHTING STYLE

Ventures deep into enemy waters. Wades waist-deep and uses hand-made fly fishing lures to bring in even the cleverest trout.

2

LAIID-BACK BOB

Rod and Reel

Lures or Live Bait

A well-loved John Deere hat, nice flannel, high-quality sunscreen, lawn chair, and comfy (but not entirely waterproof) boots.

Uses the element of surprise to time their attacks randomly (or just, like, whenever they feel like going out). Can be tenacious and stay out for hours, but never leaves the shore.

3

FAIR WEATHER FISHER

Cane Pole with a bobber

Corn straight from the can, or fresh worms

Bright rain boots, makeshift bucket, oversized sunhat, and a rustic outfit to match.

Fishes from the comfort of the shore, usually under a bridge, where the DNR releases trout. Almost always times their attack on stocking day. May lose interest if the bites are few and far between.



GO FISH

NOTE: A TROUT STAMP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL DAYS

OPENING DAY FOR CATCHING TROUT

[FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED]

• SAT, APR 29

STOCKING DAY AT BONNEYVILLE MILL. GO EARLY TO SNAG A GOOD FISHING SPOT, AND SWING BY THE MILL FOR A HEARTY PANCAKE BREAKFAST (STARTING AT 7:30).

FREE FISHING DAYS

[NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED]

• SUN, MAY 7

• SAT, JUN 3

• SUN, JUN 4

• SAT, SEP 23

JEEPERS, CREEPERS

HAVE YOU HEARD THOSE **PEEPERS**?

• BY ANNIE AGUIRRE, MARKETING COORDINATOR •

AS DUSK AND SPRING SHOWERS FALL OVER OUR COUNTY, THE CROAKING CHORUS OF FROGS AND TOADS RISE. LEARN HOW TO TELL THEM APART AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR THEM DURING THEIR PEAK ACTIVITY.

N. LEOPARD FROG

[*LITHOBATES PIFIENS*]

SEASON: Mid-March–October

HABITAT: Wetlands, marshes, and wet meadows

SOUND: Low trickling snore

ID TIPS: Look for its dark namesake spots (oval-shaped with a light halo around them).

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: While their main call resembles a trickling snore or rubbery balloon sound, they also can emit a very loud “scream” when startled.



SPRING PEEPER

[*PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER*]

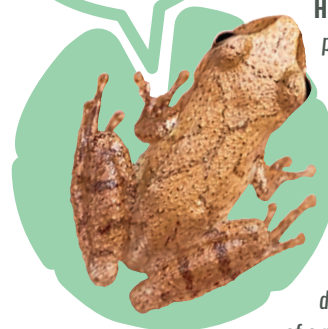
SEASON: Mid-March–October

HABITAT: Marshes, flooded fields, vernal ponds, and wet woodlands

SOUND: Loud, high-pitched “peep”

ID TIPS: If you manage to spot one of these tiny guys, look at its back for an easy ID — X marks the frog.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: Singing peepers can produce calls over 100 decibels at close range—the equivalent of a police siren going off right next to you!



AMERICAN BULLFROG

[*LITHOBATES CATESBEIANUS*]

SEASON: June–August

HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, ditches, and slow-moving waterways

SOUND: Low resonating “brr-rr-rr-rum”

ID TIPS: The largest of all North American frogs, this giant is distinguished by size, speckly olive-green skin, and large circular tympanum (external eardrum).

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: Bullfrogs can leap as far as 6 feet – 10 times their body length!



GREEN FROG

[LITHOBATES CLAMITANS MELANOTA]

SEASON: Late March–October

HABITAT: Marshes, ponds, and lakes

SOUND: Single gulps, like the twang of a loose banjo string

ID TIPS: Resembles a Bullfrog with brown-green coloring, but shows two ridges running down the back.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: Unlike many of the frog species in our area, Green Frogs rarely sing in chorus.



CHORUS FROG

[PSEUDACRIS TRISERIATA/MACULATA]

SEASON: February–Late April

HABITAT: Flooded fields, shallow marshes, and roadside ditches.

SOUND: Rolling “crr-rrr-eek”, like strumming down the teeth of a comb

ID TIPS: Look for dark ribbon-like bands running from the tip of the nose, through the eye, and down the sides of this Peeper-sized frog.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: This secretive frog is one of our region’s most reclusive — seldom seen outside of its breeding season.



WOOD FROG

[LITHOBATES SYLVATICUS]

SEASON: Mid-March–April

HABITAT: Vernal woodland ponds

SOUND: Hiccapped clucks or quacks

ID TIPS: Look for its iconic “robber’s mask” markings over the eyes and cheeks.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: In winter, these cool critters freeze into nearly solid “frogscicles”. Their bodies survive extreme ice exposure by producing a natural anti-freeze that protects their cells.



GRAY TREEFROG

[HYLIA VERSICOLOR]

SEASON: Early May–October

HABITAT: Wet woodlands and vegetated areas nearby ponds or wetlands

SOUND: Loud bubbling or bird-like trills

ID TIPS: Look for a light splotch under the eye and striking marigold color on the inner-thigh.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: As its Latin name suggests, this frog has the chameleon-like ability to change its color based on its surroundings.



AMERICAN TOAD

[ANAXYRUS AMERICANUS]

SEASON: Mid-April–October

HABITAT: Flooded fields, marshes, and wet woodlands

SOUND: Long high-pitched trill

ID TIPS: This squat toad lives up to its stereotype – it’s covered with large wart-like bumps.

UNFROGETTABLE FACT: Unlike the myth, you won’t get warts by touching it, but you should still probably wash your hands. A few of those “warts” are actually glands that produce a poisonous toxin to make them less palatable to predators.





HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

125+ YEARS!

BY MICHELLE NASH, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

The Elkhart County Historical Society (ECHS) began in 1896 and has partnered with various public organizations over time to maintain a museum and keep the collections accessible. In 1968, they partnered with the newly-formed Elkhart County Parks Department to open the current museum location in Bristol. This was a huge increase in the museum's footprint, and there was a period of high volume collecting to fill the space. Now, staff are reviewing those collections and paring them back down to keep only items that are relevant to Elkhart County history and make room for more stories to be told.



RELEVANCY

What does it mean to be relevant? For the Elkhart County Historical Museum (ECHM) collections, this means an object, archive, book, or photograph must help us tell the unique story of Elkhart County. Typically, it is something made here or used in some significant way by someone who was from here or living here. It is most relevant when it helps us tell a story that other materials in the collection don't. Studying history is like doing detective work and the more evidence we can gather from the greatest number of sources, the more fully we can understand it.

NEW COLLECTIONS: IT'S A GROUP EFFORT

How do we keep the museum collections relevant? Part of the process is periodically reviewing what we have and weeding duplicates or things that do not have a unique Elkhart County story, but it also requires careful consideration of taking new things into the collection. The ECHM collection is primarily donation based and all objects, archives, etc. offered for donation are reviewed by a committee of ECHS board members, museum staff, and community members.





ACCESS & PRESERVATION

Once an item is in the collection, the museum has two goals: to preserve it as best we can while still providing reasonable access to it. One of the ways we provide access is by developing different exhibits to display materials and talk about them. Another is by maintaining a research library for folks to come browse and/or request to see things that are not on display. To preserve the collection, the museum has a dedicated storage annex. More and more, we are trying to make items accessible digitally which both helps preserve the originals and provide wider and easier access.

PARTNERSHIPS: A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Another way we make the collection more accessible is through partnerships. In 2018, the Elkhart Public Library hosted our exhibit on Ted Drake, making it easier for folks in the community where Ted worked to visit. In 2019, we joined Indiana Memory, in partnership with the Indiana State library and hundreds of others, to begin making the ECHM collections available online. Just this past year, we partnered with the Indiana Historical Society to borrow a large format book scanner, increasing our capacity to digitize our records.

VOLUNTEERS: MORE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

ECHM staff is aided in our digitization efforts, as well as many other collections projects, by our awesome corps of collections volunteers. Over the last 5 years, even with COVID shutdowns, they have averaged a thousand hours a year just in collections work! Many of them also help us with programs and events. Both long term and project volunteers are invaluable to the process of caring for the collections and making them available. This is a huge undertaking, and we can't thank them enough!

CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

Overseeing all these efforts is the museum's Curator of Collections. The position was created in 2011 and has only had two people occupy it so far. As the current curator, I started in 2016. It is my job to keep track of and care for all the items in the collection, oversee the volunteers and essentially strive to make sure the ECHM collection is preserved, accessible, and relevant for folks today and for generations to come.

A SENSE OF PLACE

AN ELKHART COUNTY HISTORY PODCAST

BY PATRICK MCGUIRE, CURATOR OF EDUCATION

FOR three years now, the museum has been sharing the history of Elkhart County through streaming services with *A Sense of Place: An Elkhart County History* podcast. The podcast was born when the museum was approached by the *Goshen News* as the paper wanted to expand its digital platforms. The partnership has allowed the museum to reach more people and share more stories on a variety of topics. From talking about how the towns in Elkhart County got their names or the impact the St. Joseph River has had on the people who have lived here, it is a great space to present history that hasn't made it into an exhibit or program.

The podcast also lends itself well to interviews and discussions. All the staff at the museum have taken their seat in the podcast studio. We have talked about new exhibits or the work we do at the museum that the public doesn't see when they visit. We have also had great discussions with guests from the community. Some of the most interesting episodes have been exploring Goshen's past as a sundown town, the efforts of the Jewish community to rescue Jews during the rise of Nazi regime in Europe, and a play that toured the region highlighting the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana in the 1920s. It is the most rewarding for me, as the host, to have people

share their perspectives of the past from their lived experiences.

Sense of Place became, not by design, a place for advocacy on the importance of history in our society. Over the life of the podcast things like the debate over (and misunderstanding of) Critical Race Theory, the fight over statues, the publishing of the 1619 Project, and other issues have placed history in the middle of a national conversation. The podcast has given the museum a platform to talk about these issues and bring a perspective from the history community that we hope adds to the dialog in a productive way and allows people to reflect on their views of these topics.

If you have never listened to the podcast, you can hear past episodes wherever you get your podcasts, and new episodes come out monthly. Take a listen, and we hope it contributes to your sense of place.

TOP 10 SENSE OF PLACE PODCAST EPISODES



#10 [Season 1, Episode 2] **Where Did That Name Originate?**

Why it's worth a listen: I had always wondered the origins of the names of towns in Elkhart County so I found out and shared it with the audience.



#09 [Season 3, Episode 2] **A Talk with Lloyd Miller**

Why it's worth a listen: Talking with the newly elected president of the Elkhart County Historical Society at the time, and his take on history and how it fits in our society.



#08 [Season 1, Episode 7] **African Americans in Elkhart County**

Why it's worth a listen: This episode chronicles the history of the African American community in Elkhart County, and the successes and challenges they have faced.



#07 [Season 2, Episode 3] **From 'Curly Top' to 'A League of Their Own'**

Why it's worth a listen: A fun history of Violet Schmidt who became a celebrity with the New York Central Railroad and the All American Girls Professional Baseball League.



#06 [Season 1, Episode 9] **Evolving History**

Why it's worth a listen: With the debate around statues in our communities, this episode talks about the importance of research and how we evaluate who should be memorialized with a statue.



#05 [Season 3, Episode 3] **Plop, Plop, Fizz Fizz**

Why it's worth a listen: A really interesting history that brings in the contributions of two women in male dominated industries and how they have changed peoples' behavior.



#04 [Season 2, Episode 4] **Juneteenth, 1619 Project, & Evolving History**

Why it's worth a listen: I brought a museum professional and historian's background and perspective to inform the exploration of some topics facing society today to hopefully let people reflect on their beliefs.



#03 [Season 3, Episode 4] **A Play About the Klan**

Why it's worth a listen: This podcast really talks about the almost forgotten grip the KKK had on all of Indiana during the 1920s and the efforts of newspaper writers and editors to expose the corruption.



#02 [Season 2, Episode 8] **A Holocaust Rescue Story**

Why it's worth a listen: A great conversation about a documentary on the Plaut family, whose efforts to save Jews from Nazi Germany was unknown for decades.



#01 [Season 1, Episode 8] **Goshen's 'Sundown Town' History**

Why it's worth a listen: My favorite interview I've done on the podcast. My guests Dan Shenk and Le Roy Berry talk about their efforts to have Goshen acknowledge its past as a sundown town.



TUNE IN TO THE PODCAST AT
goshennews.com/news/podcasts

A TRIBUTE TO A WONDERFUL EMPLOYEE

– BY ANDY LANGDON –
INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST

Lynn Matthews, River Preserve County Park manager, has been a dedicated, hard-working and beloved member of our team since 1989 and plans to retire this August. Her 34-year parks career began at Ox Bow County Park, and in 1994 she transferred to the River Preserve County Park where she is still working today.



• LYNN MATTHEWS •



In reflection of her years with the Parks, Lynn said:

“It has been an honor working with such an awesome park staff. Knowing that the wildlife and park visitors benefit from our hard work is a plus. To hear the birds and see wildlife when I am out in the field is the best. When you can enjoy those moments everyday it does not feel like a job. I love what I do, that’s why I have been here at the parks for so long.”

Lynn plans to move to upstate New York after retirement where she will stay connected with the outdoors through volunteerism and other projects. While we are so very sad to see her go, we are very excited for this next chapter of her life and wish her all the best. We know she will do well in anything she does and will bless those around her as well.

Thank you, Lynn for all you have done for the Elkhart County Parks and the residents of Elkhart County. You will be greatly missed!

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THE LEGACY



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WITH THE
PARKS



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Reserve

When was the last time you went on a family picnic?



Take time to enjoy the simple things in life with your family because before you know it, they'll be grown and gone. Make memories!



Find the right place

ELKHARTCOUNTYPARKS.ORG/RESERVE

OX BOW

	TYPE	CAPACITY	OUTLETS	DEPOSIT	RATE
OX BOW HAUS	ENCLOSED	50	✓	\$100	\$165
FISHERMAN'S CAMP	COVERED	75	✓		\$120
COFFEE TREE	COVERED	50			\$75
HONEY LOCUST	COVERED	75			\$95
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

COBUS CREEK

COBUS SHELTER	PARTIALLY ENCLOSED	100	✓	\$100	\$200
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MUSEUM

AUDITORIUM	ENCLOSED	300	✓	\$250	\$350
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BONNEYVILLE MILL

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

RIVER PRESERVE

BAINTERTOWN	COVERED	50			\$50
BENTON	COVERED	25			\$30
DEFRIES GARDENS [WEDDING CEREMONIES]	OPEN AIR	50		\$250	\$225

FOR PARK INFORMATION AND HOURS, SEE PAGE 3.



ELKHART COUNTY PARKS
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