

# ELKHART COUNTY PARKS

education resource guide





# Unique experiences to feed growing minds

The Elkhart County Parks strives to create a learning ecosystem for students that spark their natural curiosity and deepen connections to their local history and heritage.

With interpretive programs centered on environmental and historical education, the Elkhart County Parks offers one-of-a-kind learning environments crafted to fit your student's needs. Whether your class is exploring the outdoors, or we bring the outdoors to your classroom, your students will walk away with hands-on experience they will not soon forget.

Most programs can be offered at any of our parks. *Bonneyville Mill Tour*, *Flashback Farming*, and *19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson* are only available at Bonneyville Mill County Park. *Regional Native American History* and *Our Story: Elkhart County* are only available at the Elkhart County Historical Museum.

CALL 574.535.6458 | VISIT [ELKHARTCOUNTYPARKS.ORG](http://ELKHARTCOUNTYPARKS.ORG)







## Nature Hike

See, hear, smell, touch, and taste nature around you on an immersive naturalist-led hike.\*

**Grade Level:** pK–6

*\*Requires park as program site*



## Bonneyville Mill Tour

Take a guided tour of Indiana's oldest continuously operating grist mill. Experience the mill turning grains into stoneground flour using water power.\*

**Grade Level:** pK–6

*\*Requires Bonneyville Mill County Park as program site*



## Animals of Indiana

Compare and contrast characteristics of the six major animal classes: insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds.\*

**Grade Level:** pK–6

*\*Requires park as program site*



## Insects

Investigate insects in action and discover their amazing diversity and life cycles through hands-on activities and up-close encounters with LIVE local specimens.

**Grade Level:** pK–6



## Fish

Learn what life is like for Indiana's fascinating finned fauna and where they can be found beneath the surface of our local waterways.

**Grade Level:** pK–6





## Reptiles & Amphibians

From frogs and toads to turtles and snakes, discover curious cold-blooded critters that call Indiana home through interactive encounters with LIVE local species.

**Grade Level:** pK-6



## Birds

Let your mind soar like a bird as you learn to identify the diverse feathered residents of our region and explore the adaptations that make each species so unique.

**Grade Level:** pK-6



## Mammals

Find out what makes mammals so mesmerizing through hands-on activities, artifacts, and exploration of their clever survival habits and homes.

**Grade Level:** pK-6



## Animal Adaptations

Discover the wide range of unique adaptations animals use to thrive and survive.

**Grade Level:** pK-6



## Animal Tracks & Signs

Learn how to detect and interpret evidence of animal activity and behavior.

**Grade Level:** K-3

# PROGRAMS



## Weather & Clouds

Learn to identify types of clouds and what they tell us about the weather. Find out how weather patterns and severe weather impact our community.

**Grade Level:** K-3



## Benefits of Bats

Explore the ways bats are beneficial, discover their amazing abilities, and dispel common myths.

**Grade Level:** K-6



## Animal Habitats

Hike through diverse habitats and discover the unique homes animals make within.\*

**Grade Level:** K-6

*\*Requires park as program site*



## Recycling

Explore the three R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and the role they play in sustaining the earth.

**Grade Level:** K-6



## Predators & Prey

Discover how energy flows through an ecosystem's food web with hands-on activities.\*

**Grade Level:** K-6

*\*Requires park as program site*





## Geologic Forces

Study the geologic forces that shape the earth and the types of rocks that make up the world around us.

**Grade Level:** 1-4



## Everyday Items from the Past

See how we are all connected to the past through hands-on investigation of artifacts from the Elkhart County Historical Museum.\*

**Grade Level:** 1-6

*\*Requires offsite location*

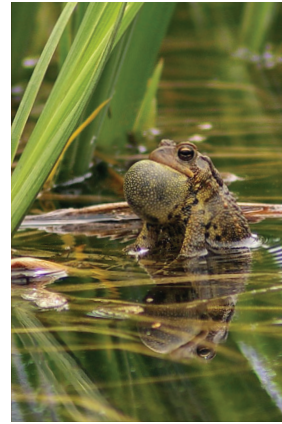


## Flashback Farming

Learn the steps of the historical farming process from planting seeds to harvesting grain for Bonneyville Mill.\*

**Grade Level:** 1-6

*\*Requires Bonneyville Mill County Park as program site*



## Wild About Wetlands

Find out why wetlands are important and investigate wild and wet creatures. Wetland dipping and exploration included.\*

**Grade Level:** 3-6

*\*Requires park as program site*



## Survival Skills

Start a fire, build a shelter, construct a primitive trap, and forage for edible plants.\*

**Grade Level:** 3-6

*\*Requires park as program site*



## Regional Native American History

Identify the major native groups of our region with a focus on Miami and Potawatomi history and culture.\*

**Grade Level:** 3–6

*\*Requires Elkhart County Historical Museum as program site*



## Our Story: Elkhart County

Discover how Elkhart County was established and how it has changed and grown.\*

**Grade Level:** 3–6

*\*Requires Elkhart County Historical Museum as program site*



## 19<sup>th</sup> Century School Lesson

Become a student of the 1870s in an immersive living history experience at an authentic one room schoolhouse.\*

**Grade Level:** 3–6

*\*Requires Bonneyville Mill County Park as program site*



## Orienteering & Maps

Learn to read a variety of map types and utilize navigation tools and techniques.

**Grade Level:** 3–6

Have an idea for a **custom** program?

**Let's talk!**

We're happy to help design a unique learning experience for your class.



# FIELD TRIP Destinations

Everybody loves a field trip—especially us! We love seeing students learning together and enjoying the thrill of discovery as they explore new places.

At our park sites, we offer completely customized learning opportunities designed to engage the senses, bring lessons to life, and inspire curiosity.

Along with site-specific programs, interpretive staff can tailor field trip lessons to provide a deeper experience for students during their visit.

## Ox Bow County Park

23033 County Road 45  
Goshen, IN 46528

## Cobus Creek County Park

30680 County Road 8  
Elkhart, IN 46561

## River Preserve County Park

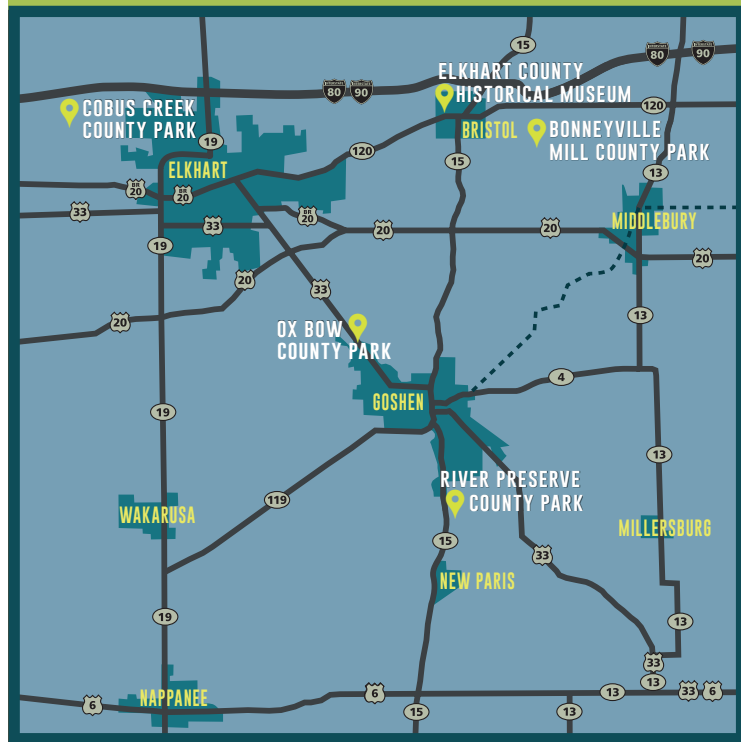
67380 County Road 29  
New Paris, IN 46553

## Elkhart County Historical Museum

304 West Vistula Street  
Bristol, IN 46507

## Bonneyville Mill County Park

53373 County Road 131  
Bristol, IN 46507



# Program PRICING

## ONSITE (PARK)

**RATES: \$2/person**  
(including adults)



**\$1/person/add-on programs**  
(for same day)

**\$20 minimum fee**  
(for booking)

## OFFSITE (CLASSROOM)

**RATES: \$30/program**  
(up to 2 concurrent classes)



**\$10/add-on programs**  
(for same topic & same day)

**\$100 Assembly Fee**  
(for 3 or more concurrent classes)



# Book a PROGRAM

Ready to book? Here are the next steps:



Visit the Parks  
on a **Field Trip**

[ pick a **park** & **program** ]



First, choose  
**which way**  
you would like  
to experience  
the Parks.



Bring the Parks to  
**your Classroom**

[ pick a **program** ]

Next, plan ahead by reviewing the **booking checklist**.

## Cancellations

Group, per person, and offsite fees for field trips and public programs will be refunded if notification is given more than ten (10) working days prior to the program day. Cancellation less than ten (10) working days prior to the event date will not be refunded.

## Weather

Programs are held rain or shine – please dress appropriately. Inclement weather is not a valid reason for any refunds unless the park or shelter has been officially closed to the public or a program has been cancelled by the Elkhart County Parks. If a field trip is cancelled by the Elkhart County Parks, a full refund, credit, or make-up class will be offered. In the event school is cancelled due to weather, we will make every effort to reschedule your field trip.

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# BOOKING CHECKLIST

Please be prepared with the following info when you make your booking:

- Program Name
- 2–3 Potential Dates
- Start time and End time
- Number of Students for Each Program
- Number of Chaperones (on Field Trip)
- Special Needs/Accessibility Arrangements
- Invoice Date
- Contact (Email + Phone)

**All Set?** Call the Elkhart County Parks at 574-535-6458 to book your program. Payments can be made via check, money order, or credit card. Reservations should be made at least **2 weeks in advance**.



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