



Naturally Speaking

Newsletter for the Friends of the LaPorte County Parks.

Fall 2017

Administrative Office
Red Mill County Park
Open: 7am-12pm-12:30pm-5pm
Monday - Thursday

0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350
219-325-8315
Fax 219-325-8317
E-Mail lcparcs@csinet.net
rangerjeremy@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

Naturalist Office
Luhr County Park

3178 S. 150 West
LaPorte, IN 46350
219-324-5855
E-Mail natureniki@csinet.net
rangerlaura@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

Luhr Park Maintenance
Facility

219-326-0524

Creek Ridge County Park

7943 W. 400 North
Michigan City, IN 46360

Bluhm County Park

3855 S. 1100 West
Westville, IN 46391

(undeveloped)

Kankakee Property
Kankakee Township

Foundation Properties:

(undeveloped)

Sebert Property
Springfield Township

George R. Menkes
Nature Preserve
Galena Township

Being a Good Steward of Your Natural Areas

The definition of a land steward is a person who acts for another in management of land. As employees of the county parks that is exactly what we do for your parks. Currently we have several projects underway that are improving or enhancing the quality of the habitat and lands. In July, a contractor started invasive species removal from the south side of the power lines at Luhr County Park. This area was infested with bush honeysuckle and other plants that had basically out competed native understory species in the past 15-20 years. This contractor has also recently been removing invasive species from the West Woods at Bluhm County Park. Also, at Luhr County Park, 7 acres of overgrown farm field was restored to native prairie on a parcel of land owned by our park foundation. We also continue to work with the Valparaiso University Biology Club to remove stream altering log jams at Creek Ridge County Park. With the dead ash trees along the stream banks this is becoming more common with every wind storm we have. Left unchecked, these log jams could completely dam up the creek and eventually make the stream uninhabitable to many species that currently live there. In August, construction will begin on a stream restoration/bank stabilization project in Trail Creek at Creek Ridge County Park. Park staff removed several non-native trees and grasses from landscaping areas at Red Mill to be replaced with native species.

Future stewardship projects include addressing invasive species below the dam at Red Mill, burn the prairie at Bluhm County Park, continue replacing non-native species in our landscaped areas, and continuing to address re-sprouts of invasive species in areas that have already been treated.

If you are out at the parks and see some of this work going on feel free to ask questions to find out what is going on. After all these parks are for you and we want you to know what we are doing.

Continued on page 2

LaPorte County Parks Staff

Jeremy Sobecki- Superintendent
Jean Lawson-Office & Finance Manager
Niki Schmutte - Chief Naturalist
Laura Moyer - Rec. and Ed. Programmer
- Maintenance Supervisor
Boyd Lomow - Maintenance Technician
Barb Janeczko - Maintenance Technician

Seasonal Staff / Part-time

Joanne Janisch - Naturalist Assistant
Sharon Bonner - Office
Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper
Andrea Dove- Maintenance
Katie Gurnicz - Nature Center / Maintenance
Jacob Pickens- Maintenance
Canaan Pickens- Maintenance

Park Board

Brian Root- President
Ronald Knickrehm- Vice President
Mary Foell
Erin Lozano
Jon Nebelung
Jim Holifield
Kate Ardissono

Foundation Board

Jim Jessup, President
Stephanie Oberlie, Treasurer
Sandy Menne
Bill Hedge
Steve King
Liz Kaminski
Ed Merrion
Tom Thode
Amy Riehle

County Commissioners

Richard Mrozinski
Michael Gonder
Vidya Kora

County Council Members

Jeff Santana
John Sullivan
Randall Novak
Mark Yagelski
Terry Garner
Cary Kirkham
Mike Mollenhauer

Luhr Park Nature Center Hours

Open
March - October
Tuesday - Thursday
and
Saturday - Sunday
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Continued from page 1

Lastly, we'd like to thank our LaPorte County Park Foundation, people who have donated to our foundation, Indiana DNR Lake and River Enhancement program, Great Lakes Commission and the Coolspring Township Trustee for funding the majority of these projects. Without outside funding it would be very difficult to actively address most of these issues. Thank you also to our visitors for enjoying these natural places and giving us a reason to manage these lands for you.

Jeremy Sobecki

The woods at Luhr Park before Bush Honeysuckle removal.



The woods at Luhr Park after Bush Honeysuckle removal.



Programs - Programs - Programs

Northern Indiana Walk for PKD – 2-Mile Walk

September 9
Check in 10:00 am
Walk 11:10 am
Creek Ridge County Park



Walk, form a team, help with the committee, volunteer and more! Register online and take advantage of a host of effective and free online team features like emailing members, tracking team progress and fundraising tools. www.walkforpkd.org/northernindiana. For more information, please contact Walk Coordinator, northernindianawalk@pkdcure.org



PKD FOUNDATION
Polycystic Kidney Disease

Mom and Son Dance “Halloween Style”

October 27
6:30 – 8:30 pm Red Mill
\$15 per couple, \$5 for each additional son



Come out to Red Mill County Park to enjoy an evening of friendly games, gross & disgusting treasures, night hike (weather permitting), light refreshments and much more. Kids costume contest. Hurry this will fill up fast!



Pre-registration required by October 19 or until full, whichever comes first. See page 5.

Poochpalooza Halloween Dog Social

October 2 5:45 pm
Creek Ridge County Park

Dress up your dog and join us at Creek Ridge County Park – No leash Bark Park for our Halloween Dog Social! Judging categories will be best homemade costume, scariest, and best owner/pet combination and best tricks.



FREE - Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Call 219-325-8315
Min 5 dogs

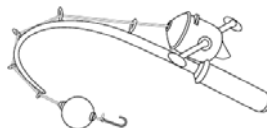
Family Fishing Nights

October 10 and/or October 19
6-7:30 pm
Luhr County Park
All ages welcome
Min 10 Max 40



Come out to the Pond at Luhr Park for an evening of fishing. A limited number of poles and bait will be provided. After dark we will be fishing with glow bobbers. No fishing licenses are required during these family fishing programs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FREE - Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Call 219-325-8315



Attention Homeschool Participants

October 12
On the Move



Luhr Park 10-11 am
For ages 6 - 13
Min 5 Max 30 Children
Participants will learn about animal tracks, animal scat, and animal movement..
Pre-register by October 5th..

November 14
Wonderful Water Cycle

Luhr Park , 10-11 am
For ages 6 - 13
Min 5 Max 30 Children
Go on a journey as a water droplet while learning about the water cycle.
Pre-register by November 7th.

Call 219-325-8315 to Register. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pioneer Days



September 23 & 24
10 am - 5 pm
Creek Ridge County Park
\$2 for Adults / \$1 Child or Seniors

Step into the past, visit with historically clad re-enactors and vendors. Bring the whole family and experience outdoor cooking, crafts, candle dipping, wagon rides, food, and much more.
No pre-registration required.



Programs - Programs - Programs

Pet Fest and Kids Pumpkin Decorating in the Park



FREE – no pre-registration
October 21
Luhr County Park
9 -11:30 am
Rain or Shine



Pet related vendors will have stations set-up along the trail with all kind of goodies. We will have demonstrations, Pet costume contest, obedience tips; and much more.

****NEW this year**** Kids ages 3-15 can decorate their very own pumpkin, all supplies provided. Note a limited amount of pumpkins will be available and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Fall into Wellness with Essential Oils

November 4
9:30-11:30 am
Luhr County Park Nature Center
\$16 for all three products
min 5/max 25

Three make-n-take; immune roll on support, sore muscle & joint rub, and indigestion tummy care.

Meet Amelia Lasky inside the Nature Center at Luhr Park and learn what's all the buzz about essential oils and the health and lifestyle benefits.

Pre-registration required by October 26 or until full, whichever comes first. See page 5.

Senior Lifestyles Free

Luhr Park Nature Center
9-10 am
Join our senior circle 50+ Club.
Call 219-325-8315 to register.



September 13 - Fall Flowers, seeds for the future, soil health, composting and fall cleanup with Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District

October 4 - Understanding Medicare by John Williams

November 1 - Foot and ankle care by Dr. Christopher Grandfield, Podiatrist

Snowflake Break



December 28
1 - 3 pm Luhr Park **Ages 5-10**
FREE min 5/max 24

Brrrr! It's cold outside! School's out so take a "snowflake Break" with us as we turn the Park into a winter wonderland. Come out to the Nature Center at Luhr and make crafts, play games and have a snack. The County Park and Solid Waste is partnering for this Fun filled winter break program assured to be loads of exciting adventures. Come dressed for the winter as some activities are outside. **Parents are not required to participate or stay during the program.**



FREE - Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. Call 219-325-8315



Parent and Child Discovery Days

6-7:15 pm Luhr Park **Ages 3-8**
\$5.00 A Child / Per Program
An adult is required to participate.



- Oct. 11** - Wiggly Workers
- Oct. 18** - Tree Treasurers
- Nov. 1**- What's That Color
- Nov. 15**- Hooting Good Time
- Nov. 29**- Bat Basics
- Dec. 13**- Winter Wonder Land

Pre-registration and payment is required one week before each program. See Page 5.

Nature's Tiny Tots (FREE)



Come explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers in our Nature Center. Enjoy music, dance with your kids, giggle, storytelling, take a hike (weather permitting) and just have plain ole fun.

10 – 11 am at Luhr County Park
Toddlers – Pre-School age
Call at least one week in advance to sign up & assure a spot 219-325-8315

- Aug. 21, 28**
- Oct. 16, 23 (come in Halloween Costume & bring treats to share)**
- Nov. 6, 13, 27 Dec. 11, 18**



LaPorte County Park Programs

Mail this form with payment or pay in person at
Red Mill County Park. 219-325-8315
www.laportecountyparks.org Please Print

Name of Person filling out registration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/ Child Discovery Days (Ages 3-8)

Wednesday nights 6:00-7:15pm at Luhr County Park
Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.
\$5 per program / per child.

___ Oct. 11 ___ Oct. 18 ___ Nov. 1

___ Nov. 15 ___ Nov. 29 ___ Dec. 13

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Registration Information

Make Checks Payable to:
LaPorte County Parks Dept.

Mail form and payment to:
LaPorte County Parks Dept.
Program Registration
0185 South Holmesville Road
LaPorte, IN 46350

No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. If you are interested in a program, avoid disappointment and sign up right away.

Fall into Wellness with Essential Oils

November 4
9:30-11:30 am
Luhr County Park Nature Center
\$16 per person
min 5/max 25

Number of attendees: _____

Name(s) _____

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Mom / Son Dance "Halloween Style"

October 27 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Red Mill
\$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional Son
Registration is due on or before October 19 or
until the program is full whichever comes first.

Name of
Adult Female: _____

Name of
Son: _____

Son's Age: _____

Name of additional
Sons: _____

Additional Son's Age _____

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

**Visit our website for more
park information:**

www.laportecountyparks.org

Regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility; or who desires further information regarding Title VI or subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Pub. L. 101-336, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities should write to:

LaPorte County Parks
Attn: Superintendent
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350

National Park Service
Attn.: Director Equal
Opportunity Program
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Receive this newsletter by email

To receive this newsletter by email send us a message at natureniki@csinet.net. Please include Naturally Speaking in your subject. In the message please include your full name and email address you would like to receive the newsletter at.

**All the Parks are
Open 7am to
sunset daily.**

LaPorte County Parks
Administrative Office
Red Mill County Park
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350

