



Naturally Speaking

Spring/Summer 2022

2021 LaPorte County Parks Awards

Organization Of The Year

This year's Organization of the Year goes to the LaPorte County Highway Department. The Highway Department is always a great partner to our county parks but in 2021 they really stepped it up. The new playground at Bluhm needed a great deal of grade work to get it to the needed elevation. Duane offered his crew to move many tons of dirt to make ready for playground construction. They have also helped with many other items such as signage, equipment needs, asphalt patching, brush trimming along our park areas, and much more.



Duane Werner, Jeremy Sobecki

Volunteer Of The Year

This year's award goes to David Love. As part of an Eagle Scout Project David designed, acquired materials and constructed a lean-to at Luhr County Park that we can now use to store park items and equipment.



David Love, Jeremy Sobecki

Outstanding Park Service Award

We did this award a little different this year. We decided that our entire full time maintenance crew (Don Fuller, Boyd Lomow, Bob Walker) was deserving of this award together. This crew has had an incredible year this year. On top of maintaining all our parks and equipment as they always do, they also had to work on major renovation and improvement items at Bluhm. These guys truly are what keeps these parks running. They do most of this behind the scenes without much of the public knowing. Without their dedication and effort, these parks would not shine nearly as brightly as they do!



Bob Walker, Boyd Lomow, Jeremy Sobecki, Don Fuller

Programs - Programs - Programs

Bird, Frogs and Bugs oh My

April 12
Luhr Park
4 - 5 pm



Come out to Luhr and go for a hunt for birds, frogs and bugs; learn their sounds. Binoculars will be provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 219-325-8315 to reserve your spot. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Daddy/Daughter Dance "Princess Style"

Friday, May 20 from 6 - 8 pm

Saturday, May 21 from 2 - 4 pm



Luhr County Park(NEW Location)

Morgan Shelter- Partially enclosed
\$25.00 per couple, \$5.00 for each additional daughter.

Get all dressed up and come out to Luhr Park to enjoy an evening of dancing. Refreshments will be served. Fill out the form and mail it in with payment. Hurry this will fill up fast! **Pre-registration and payment is required on or before May 12. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. Max 72 participants each night. See page 5 for registration information.**

Earth Day Celebration

April 23
12 - 3 pm
Michigan City Library



Visit Ranger Laura and many other environmental partners at the Michigan City Library for Earth Day Celebration. There will be fun activities for all ages.

Story & Bingo

June 9
10 - 11 am
Luhr Park



Come out to Luhr Park for a summer story and bingo. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to reserve your spot 219-325-8315

Parent and Child Discovery Days

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

- June 1 The 3 B's Butterflies, Bees, Birds
- June 15- Web of life
- June 29-Animal Encounters
- July 20-Play Pod Exploration
- July 27-What's that Smell
- August 3-Scavenger Hunt Fun



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

Park Offices and LaPorte County Parks

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

Luhr Park Maintenance Facility 219-326-0524

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

Bluhm County Park
3855 S. 1100 West
Westville, IN 46391

Creek Ridge County Park
7943 W. 400 North
Michigan City, IN 46360

(undeveloped)
Kankakee Property
Kankakee Township

Foundation Properties:

(undeveloped)
Sebert Property
Springfield Township

George R. Menkes Nature Preserve
Galena Township

Luhr Park Nature Center Hours

Open
Tuesday - Thursday
1-4 pm
Saturday - Sunday
12-5 pm

Closed
Monday and Friday

Programs - Programs - Programs

Inclusive Playground Grand Opening

Ribbon Cutting
June 11
10 am
Bluhm Park



Come out and explore our new Inclusive Playground for children of all abilities offering interactive motion, social inclusion, and inspire independence. A universally designed, sensory-rich environment that enables children to develop physically, socially & emotionally. An engaging place that provides the just-right level of challenge and offers opportunities to succeed. Refreshments will be provided. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tai Chi Easy & Meditation

Luhr Park
June 15
9:00 - 10:00 Free
Meet Physical Therapist Diane Rich at the pond at Luhr. Diane will teach you simple techniques on how to achieve an inner calm and peace. Open to all skill levels, standing or sitting. (bring your favorite chair if you want to sit)
Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to reserve your spot 219-325-8315.



Natures Tiny Tots

June 13, 27
July 11, 25
August 8, 22
September 12, 19



10 - 11 am FREE Luhr Park
max total 16 (kids & parents)

Toddlers - Pre-School age

Call at least one week in advance to signup & assure a spot 219-325-8315

Come explore nature with your toddlers and preschoolers at Luhr Park. Designed for parents and grandparents to bring out the munchkins for some FUN. Enjoy music, dance with your kids, giggle, storytelling, hands-on activities, take a hike (weather permitting) and just have plain ole fun.

Tuesday Treasures

Tuesdays at Luhr Park 9am - 12pm **Ages 6-13**
Parents are not required to participate or stay during the program. \$8.00 per person / per program. All programs include arts and crafts.



June 14 Wildlife Detectives- Participants will learn about animals while using their detective skills.

June 21 Dig it Up- Soil will be the topic during this program. Participants will get their hands dirty!

June 28 Pollination Station- Participants will learn all about pollination and what it takes for flowers to reproduce.



July 19 Amphibian Adventures- Hands on knowledge will be gained about frogs, salamanders and other amphibians.

July 26 Your Roots - Trees, plants and other things with roots will be the topic during this program.

August 2 Nocturnal Animals- Participants will learn about creatures that are after at night.

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

Programs - Programs - Programs

Healthy Lifestyles

A delightful social club committed to help improve your quality of life. Come relax, enjoy nature, and have coffee or tea on the Parks with your new circle of friends. Luhr County Park from 9 - 10 am . Call at least one week in advance to register. 219-325-8315

April 13- Planting for Pollinators, Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District

June 8 - A better way of caring as a caregiver, Debbie Carriveau

July 13 - Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) heart health, Jacob Swider, Invasive Cardiology Director of Northwest Health

August 3- Ear & Hearing Care, Jessica Nichols, audiologist

September 14- Pairing your plants for multi-season display, Sacha-Gee Burns, Solid Waste District

October 5- Medicare 2021 Overview, Megan Rogers, SHIP Supervisor

November 2- Managing Stress with Moria Cogwell, Wellness Specialist, The Crossing



Family Fishing Nights

June 22
July 25
August 23



5- 7:30 pm Luhr Park

All ages welcome

Come out to the Pond at Luhr Park for an evening of fishing. A limited number of poles and bait will be provided. No fishing licenses are required during the family fishing programs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE Pre-registration is required at least one day before each program.

Call 219-325-8315

Inclusive Play Day Crafts and Music

July 17

2:30 - 4:30 pm

Bluhm Inclusive Playground

Come out to the new inclusive playground at Bluhm for Music and Crafts. Call to reserve your spot 219-325-8315. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Park Rental Facilities at Bluhm, Creek Ridge, Luhr and Red Mill Parks



Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill Park

Rent a shelter at Bluhm Park, Creek Ridge Park, Luhr Park or an indoor facility at Red Mill Park. To learn more about our rental facilities visit our web site at: www.laportecountyparks.org.

Call our Administrative office at 219-325-8315 for date availability and more information.



Shagbark Shelter at Luhr Park



LaPorte County Park Programs

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

Make Checks Payable to:
LaPorte County Parks Dept.

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

Name of Person filling out registration: _____

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

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to receive the Naturally Speaking Newsletter and don't already. Email ___ or Snail Mail ___

Parent/Child Discovery Days (Ages 3-8)
Wednesday nights 6:00 - 7:15pm at Luhr Park
Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.
\$5.00 A Child / Per Program

___ June 1 ___ June 15 ___ June 29

___ July 20 ___ July 27 ___ August 3

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Tuesday Treasures (Ages 6-13)
Tuesday Mornings 9 am - 12 pm at Luhr Park
Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.
\$8.00 per program.

___ June 14 ___ June 21 ___ June 28

___ July 19 ___ July 26 ___ August 2

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Daddy/Daughter Dance at Luhr Park

Friday, May 20 from 6- 8 pm
Saturday, May 21 from 2 - 4 pm

\$25 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Registration due May 12 or when the program is filled whichever comes first.

Name of Adult
Male: _____

Name of Daughter: _____

Daughter's Age: _____

Name of additional Daughter's: _____

Check the box for the dance you want to attend. Note the different times.

Want to attend Friday, May 20 from 6 - 8 pm

OR

Want to attend Saturday, May 21 from 2 - 4 pm

_____ 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.**



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Administrative Office
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