



Naturally Speaking

Newsletter for the friends of the LaPorte County Parks.

Spring / Summer 2018

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

A Fitting Gift for Park Departments 40 Year Anniversary

In October of 2015, the Parks Department was informed that our Foundation was listed as a beneficiary of a portion of the Trust of Margaret Buerger who unfortunately had passed away. Although most of us didn't know her, she was a frequent visitor to Red Mill County Park which was a favorite birding location of hers. She specified that the donation was to be used at Red Mill County Park, however the Foundation saw fit. Park staff, board and Foundation members discussed ideas and decided that a trail connector across the wetland would be a very fitting tribute to Margaret as well as all other visitors to Red Mill and its attached nature preserve. Extensive research, permitting and weather related issues delayed the project for quite some time but construction started in late February of 2018 and was completed in about two weeks. Now, thanks to Margaret's love for Red Mill and her estate planning, visitors are able to walk 200 feet across the Little Calumet Headwaters wetland into the adjoining Nature Preserve to enjoy one of LaPorte County's more natural areas.



This project is a good example of how donations to the LaPorte County Park Foundation are used for the betterment of your LaPorte County Parks. Without Margaret's donation and help from our Park Foundation many improvement projects like this would not happen. Margaret surprised everyone in our department, park board and foundation board with this donation and we hope that what we completed with her generous gift would have made her proud!

Join us for a dedication of this trail on June 23, at 10 am. This dedication is for all ages and will include a hands on wetland study, bridge dedication, and light refreshments. We would love to have you out to celebrate this great addition to your County Parks! No pre-registration is required.

To find out more about how you can help the LaPorte County Park Foundation continue to make improvements at your county parks please contact us at 219-325-8315.

LaPorte County Parks Staff

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

Seasonal Staff / Part-time

Joanne Janisch - Naturalist Assistant
Heather Banas- Nature Center Attendant
Sharon Bonner - Office
Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper

Park Board

Ronald Knickrehm- President
Brian Root- Vice President
Mary Foell
Erin Lozano
Amanda 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



2017 Award Recipients

Organization Of The Year Award



This years' recipient is the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte. This organization is committed to making LaPorte County a better place to live by helping fund projects not only in our county parks but other agencies throughout the community. The Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte has provided funding for construction of a ½ mile trail at Luhr County Park which will be built in 2018. Also, they partnered with the county parks to bring a bicycle SAG stop to Bluhm County Park and its trails during the Tour de LaPorte.

Outstanding Park Service Award

This years' recipient is Steve King. Steve has gone above and beyond what it means to be a Park Foundation Board member this year. Over the last several years Steve has been taking care of several landscaping beds at Luhr County Park. He also spear-headed a project to put a framed LaPorte County Park poster in every school in LaPorte County. This was Steve's idea and it was well received by several of the schools and staff.



Volunteer Of The Year Award



This years' recipient is Delia Blair. Delia has volunteered at programs over the last two years. She is always willing to do whatever is needed at Pioneer Days, the Mother Son Dance as well as others. Delia is also our caretaker and does a wonderful job cleaning on weekends at Red Mill. With our small staff, our programs would not be possible without our volunteers.



Programs --- Programs --- Programs



Joyful Movement

Luhr Park inside the Nature Center
7:45 am (beat the heat) 45 min.

Shake, Rattle and Move is perfect for all ages and abilities. Join us for a low-impact mindfulness, while stretching, meditation, heart pumping and balance fun. Whatever level you feel comfortable, sit or stand with this safe, easy to perform, self-paced program will improve your flexibility, balance, strength and stamina. Come out and enjoy the warm sunshine, quite nature and view wildlife along the way. Max 11

FREE - pre-registration required by calling 219-325-8315 one week in advance for each date.

May 21, 23, 30
June 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27
July 9, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30
August 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

Women's Nature Retreat Unplug into Nature and You

Friday, June 1
Red Mill Park, South Side Environmental Education Center
8:30 - 12:30 Sharp!
\$25 per person
For ages 18 and older
Min. 6/Max 20



You are invited to a stress free nature retreat; you will have a mindful day of joy and pampering while unplugged to the outside world. (no cell phones allowed). We will have, Hand Reflexogy, Reiki, Yoga/ Palettes, Chakra, Energy Healing, Aroma Therapy, Muscle Care, Walking Meditation into the nature preserve (rough terrain). Everything will be provided. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes (flip flops not recommended), it's time to have some fun, relax, reconnect, and have delicious snacks! Bring a yoga mat or use one of ours. **Pre-registration and payment is required on or before May 24. See page 5.**

Kids Fishing Fun Day

Saturday, June 2
9 - 11am
Luhr Park All Ages
Children must be accompanied by an adult. Co-Sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Steelheaders. Home Run Hot Dog Concessions will be at the event.
No pre-registration required. Free Program



Family Fishing Nights

June 18, July 26
6-7:30 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 week in advance. Call 219-325-8315

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 12 A Drop Around The World- Learn about the water cycle.

June 19 Sweet As Honey- This program will be all about bees.

June 26 What's Under The Canopy- Learn about forest animals.

July 17 Connecting Habitats- This program will be about people and our affects on animal homes.

July 24 Rock Your Planet- Learn about outer space and more,

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

Nature's Tiny Tots

Come explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers in our Nature Center. Designed for parents and grandparents to bring out the munchkins for some FUN. Enjoy music, dance with your kids, giggle, storytelling, take a hike (weather permitting) and just have plain ole fun. **FREE**

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

April 16, 30 / May 21 / June 4, 18
July 9, 23 / August 6, 20



Programs --- Programs --- Programs



Senior Lifestyles FREE

Join our senior circle 50+ Club, a delightful social club committed to help improve your quality of life. Plus you'll keep up with the health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing your active lifestyle. Come relax, enjoy nature, and have coffee or tea on the Parks with your new circle of friends.

Luhr Park Nature Center
9 – 10 am monthly on Wednesdays
Call 219-325-8315 at least one week in advance to sign-up & assure a spot. Max 30

May 2 - Recycling, Composting, Soil Health:
Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District

June 6 - Mixing Medicine,
over the counter do & don'ts,
Jeremy Blosser, Pharmacist

July 11 - Diabetes Awareness and sugar glucose with
Clarise Largen, LaPorte Hospital

August 1 - Meditation, Relaxation and Chair Yoga
with Danielle Kessler, The Crossing Wellness Center

September 12 - Putting your garden to rest for the season, with Sacha Gee-Burns, Solid Waste District

“Under the Shady Tree - Story Time”

Hey Pre-school – Elementary age kids, come to Luhr for story time at the Park. Siblings are welcome to join in the fun. Bring a blanket to sit under the shady tree for some fun at Luhr Park. This story time includes a fun activity. Afterwards, stick around for self-guided playtime or bring a snack. Rain or shine, if raining meet in the Morgan Shelter. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Luhr Park
9:30 am (30 - 45 min)
FREE - no pre-registration required.

June 20 - The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark
July 18 - Inside Your Outside
August 8 - Earl the Squirrel

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.



June 13- Water, Water, Everywhere
June 20-Sweet As Honey
June 27-Creepy Crawlers
July 18- Snakes Alive
July 25- Rock Your Planet
August 8- Hello Down There
Pre-registration and payment is required one week before each program. See page 5

Bridge Celebration, Dedication, and Wetland Study.

Saturday, June 23 10am
Red Mill Park, North side, Smith Hall

This dedication is for all ages and will include a hands on wetland study, bridge dedication, and light refreshments. We will be using nets to explore what creatures are living in the water. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
No pre-registration required. Free Program

Reptile and Amphibian Open House

Sunday, August 5
2-4 pm All Ages
Red Mill Park, South Side, EEC



Come to the EEC at Red Mill, any time between 2-4pm, to get up close and personal with turtles, salamanders, and a snake. You can even make an art and craft to take home. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
No pre-registration required. Free Program

Attention Homeschool Participants

August 13, Flying High
Participants will learn about birds, their calls and more.
Luhr Park, 10-11 am
For ages 6 - 13
Min 5 / Max 20 Children
Pre-register by August 6.

Sign up fast to avoid disappointment!
Call 219-325-8315 to Register. Children must be accompanied by an adult.





LaPorte County Park Programs

Registration Form

Mail this form with payment or pay in person at Red Mill County Park.

219-325-8315 www.laportecountyparks.org

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 Park
Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.
\$5 A Child / Per Program

___ June 13 ___ June 20 ___ June 27

___ July 18 ___ July 25 ___ August 8

_____ 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 12 ___ June 19 ___ June 26

___ July 17 ___ July 24

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Women's Nature Retreat Unplug into Nature and You Friday, June 1

Registration will end May 24th or when
the program fills up, whichever comes
first.

**You must be 18 or older to register for
this program!**

Name of Participant:

_____ Age: _____

Names of Additional Participants:

_____ Age: _____

_____ Age: _____

\$25 per person

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

**Registration Information
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

**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.**

Pioneer Days-----September 22 and 23, 2018



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