



Naturally Speaking

Newsletter for the friends of the LaPorte County Parks.

Winter 2017-2018

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

New Faces at the Parks Department

Char Kalk joined the staff and is the Office / Finance Manager. She was born and raised in Michigan City. She has 2 grown children; Gretchen and Kevin. She celebrated her 20th year with the County in November. Eleven years were with the Child Support Division of the Prosecutors Office. Nine years as bookkeeper with the Clerk's office in Michigan City. She looks forward to working at the LaPorte County Parks Department for many years to come.



Char Kalk

Bob Goethals joined the staff as the Maintenance and Construction Supervisor. Bob has been a carpenter in the LaPorte area since 1986 and most recently owned Goethals Custom Builders LLC which was founded in 2001. Outside of work, he is active in several organizations including 4-H and the Draft Horse Association. Bob and his wife of nearly 25 years, Shelly, are proud parents of two college students: Grant, who is in his junior year at Western Michigan University; and Cameille, who is a freshman at University of Notre Dame.



Bob Goethals

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
Sharon Bonner - Office
Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper

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

A Year in Review



Jean Lawson retired from the Parks Department after 11 years of dedicated service. She is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren, sleeping in, and staying home when it snows!

A stream restoration and rehabilitation project took place at Creek Ridge County Park. The project was made possible thanks to a grant the department acquired. The project improved fish habitat, public access, and the overall water quality of this section of Trail Creek.



The Park Staff installed a brick path at Luhr County Park. You can purchase bricks to help support the County Parks. Each brick can have up to three lines on them but not to exceed 16 letters a line. Bricks can be purchased and placed at either Luhr County Park or Red Mill County Park.

Cornhole Games were installed at all the Parks. They replaced the horseshoe pits and are next to each shelter. You just need to bring your own bags to enjoy this game.



Programs -- Programs -- Programs

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

Tea Party

February 3 10 – 11:15 am
Luhr Park Nature Center
Ages 4 and up children must be accompanied by an adult
\$15 per couple, \$5 for each additional child

Bring your favorite cup and come enjoy tea or lemonade with the animals inside the Nature Center. There will be a storyteller, continental breakfast, arts & crafts and much more. **Pre-registration and payment is required on or before January 25. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first.**

See page 5 for registration form. Max 24

Attention Homeschool Participants

February 20, 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 January 31.

April 10, Fishing Fun

Participants will learn how to fish and go fishing. Poles and bait provided.
Luhr Park, 10-11 am
For ages 6 - 13
Min 5 / Max 30 Children
Pre-register by April 4.



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

Breakfast with the Birds

January 27 Free!
Luhr County Park
Nature Center
9:30 - 11 am



Come enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds grab a bite at the bird feeders. No pre-registration required. This program is open to all ages but, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Daddy/Daughter Dance "Princess Style"

Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm (New Earlier Time)

Red Mill County Park

Pat Smith Hall

\$15.00 per couple, \$5.00 for each additional daughter.

Get all dressed up and come out to Red Mill County Park to enjoy an evening of dancing. Pictures will be taken of all couples to take home. 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 February 22. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. Max 90 participants each night.** See page 5 for registration information.



Programs -- Programs -- Programs

Spa Day at the Park

Saturday, March 10
 Red Mill Park – Pat Smith Hall
 10 am – 12 noon
 FREE - First 50 will receive a goodie bag.



Calming the mind and pampering the body are what is in store for those who come. "Spa Day in the Park" will have sample services and/or products to share and sell. A variety of booths will greet you with services such as aromatherapy, make-up experts, chair massages, natural beauty care products, and jewelry to name a few. The first 50 will receive a goodie bag full of lots of great stuff. The only thing missing is you! No pre-registration is required.

Family Fishing Night

April 12
 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. No fishing licenses are required during the family fishing program. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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.



January 24- Home Sweet Home
 February 7- Turtle Talk
 February 21- Hello Down There
 March 7- Hard Working Animals
 March 21- Did You Call Me?
 April 11- When It Rains It Pours
 April 25- Fantastic Fish

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

January 22, 29
 February 12, 26
 March 12, 19
 April 2, 16, 30



Senior Lifestyles

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.

FREE 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

March 7 - Hearing loss and Dizziness: What you need to know, Chris Maddox, FNP

April 4 - The Art of Aging: treatment options, Stacy Bernhardt, Licensed Esthetician

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

Teachers - Groups Scout Leaders

Free Environmental Education Programs are offered to groups throughout the year. The programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge Park, Luhr Park, Bluhm Park or Red Mill Park. Call the Nature Center at 324-5855 for information or to make reservations.



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

LaPorte County Park Programs

Winter 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 at Luhr (Ages 3-8)

Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.

\$5 A Child / Per Program

___ January 24 ___ February 7 ___ February 21

___ March 7 ___ March 21 ___ April 11

___ April 25

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Daddy/Daughter Dance at Red Mill

Friday, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm (New Earlier Time)

\$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter. Registration due February 22 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, March 2 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Full Sorry!

OR

Want to attend Saturday, March 3 from 2 - 4 pm

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Tea Party (ages 4 and up) at Luhr February 3

\$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional Child
 Registration due January 25 or when the program is filled whichever comes first.

Name of Adult: _____

Name of Child: _____

Childs Age: _____

Name and age of additional Children:

_____ 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
Red Mill County Park
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