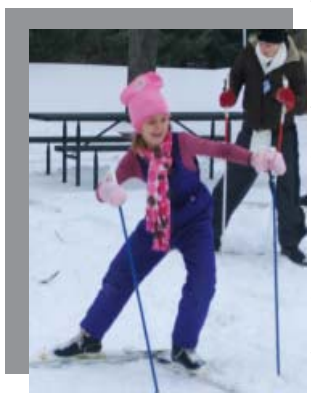
HANCOCK PARKS PROGRAM GUIDE

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2013

JANUARY

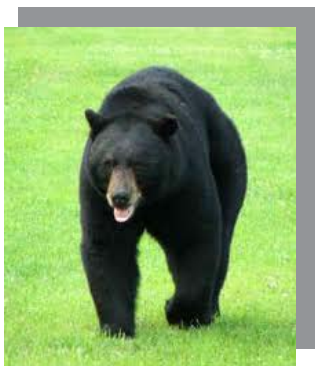
Saturday, January 5, 12, 19, 26 - Learn to Cross-country Ski Workshops
9-10:30am. RRA, Shelter 3 - Sign the family up for a single Saturday of snowy fun. We will teach basic ski techniques like gliding, turning, and rhythm. Wear layered clothing, including hats and gloves. Minimum participant age is 8 years old. Youth must register with a participating adult. Cost (including ski rental) is $10 per person. Register with payment by Fri. before each workshop at the HPD office. Workshops are subject to proper snow and weather conditions. (At least 4-6 inches of good snow base is required.). **VIP**



Monday, January 7 - Discovery Story: Screech Owls
10am & 1pm. ONP, DC - Recommended for children three to six years old with an adult companion. Other aged siblings welcome. Program includes a story, activities and a craft. **VIP**

Friday, January 11 - Planetarium Night: Introduction to the Night Sky
7pm. ONP, DC - Join us in our new portable planetarium as we explore the basic celestial objects that you see in the night sky. Recommended for ages three years old and up. No fee, but sign up by Wed., Jan. 9.

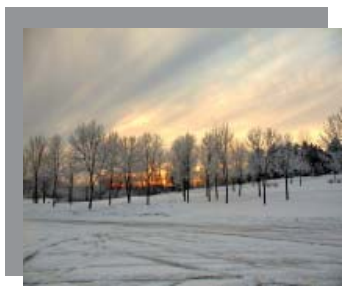
Thursday, January 17 - Black Bears of Ohio
7pm. RRA, BL - What do bears really do in the woods? Come learn about these fascinating animals and how they are once again calling Ohio home. Scott Butterworth, Wildlife Management Supervisor with the Ohio Division of Wildlife will discuss the life history and return of black bears to Ohio. Put your Smokey on or bring your favorite Teddy Bear. **VIP**



Saturday, January 19 - Historic Lecture Series: The War of 1812 Soldier and Fort Findlay
10 am. ONP, DC - Join Dan Woodward, Programs Manager for Fort Meigs, as he shares detailed information on the life of a War of 1812 soldier and what it was like to live at Fort Findlay during the war. Recommended for children 12 and older. Register with $2 per person by Fri., Jan., 18. **VIP**

Sunday, January 20 - Hands-On Nature: Winter Fun
1-4pm. ONP, DC - We are bringing the fun of winter inside for all ages, including snowball fights, children's ice fishing, and a craft. Join us for a mini cross-country ski demonstration at 2pm, exploring equipment and basics techniques. Great for those who have never skied before! Weather permitting; we will take the fun outside with some creative activities in the snow and cold. Then warm up around our outdoor fireplace. **VIP**

Saturday, January 26 - Drawing Animal Bones with Charcoal
10am-12pm. ONP, DC - Improve your monitoring skills of nature observation and expression. Each session will focus on different media usage and a variety of natural resource subject material. Be prepared to go outdoors. All supplies provided. Register with $2 per person by Wed., Jan. 23. **Adult Education**



Saturday, January 26 - Twilight Hike
4pm. RRA, Shelter 3 - Join us as we will hike in the light of the setting sun and glow of the rising full moon! Snow covered trails might be under our feet, so animal tracks could be abundant! Dress for the weather and trail conditions.

Monday, January 28 - Wee Ones: Tracks
10am & 1pm. ONP, DC - Recommended for children three years old and under with an adult companion. Other aged siblings welcome. Program includes a story, activities and a craft. **VIP**

FEBRUARY

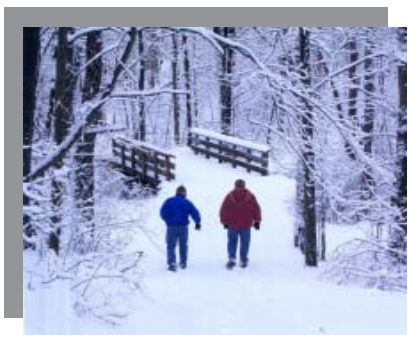
Saturday, February 2, 9, 16, 23 - Learn to Cross-country Ski Workshops
9-10:30am. RRA, Shelter 3 - See January for complete workshop description. **VIP**

Saturday, February 2 - Disc Golf Ice Bowl Benefit
Check-in at 12pm. RRA, Shelter 3 - The Disc Golf Community Association will be hosting the 8th Annual Ray Heverling Charity Ice Bowl benefiting the Family Center of Findlay-Hancock County. New and experienced players are invited to play one round of disc golf consisting of 18 permanent baskets and two temporary baskets for a total round of 20 holes. Win exclusive Ice Bowl prizes! Enjoy a warm fire and hot drinks. Play starts at 1pm. Entry fee: $20. First 10 registrants get an Ice Bowl Logo Mini Disc! Ace Pool Available! Contact Dale Wirt at dalewirt73@yahoo.com or 419-889-9567.

Monday, February 4 - Mother Nature Tea: The Story of Summer
9:30am, 11am, 1pm, 2:30pm, & 4pm. RRA, BL - Our enchanting character, Mother Nature, will share a story about her fun loving daughter, Summer. Enjoy "tea" served by Mother Nature's busy little bee friends. After "tea," participate in children's activities and a craft. This program is for children ages four to six years old only and their adult companion. One adult required for every two children. Register with $2 per person by Wed., Jan. 30. **VIP**

Friday, February 8 - Planetarium Night: February Nights
7pm. ONP, DC - Find out what will be happening in the night sky in the month of February. See what constellations will be out as well as what planets might be visible. Recommended for those ages three and over. No fee, but sign up by Wed., Feb. 6. **VIP**

Sunday, February 10 - Cabin Fever Winter Hike
1:30pm. RRA, Shelter 1 - Get out of the house and enjoy an afternoon hike with Program Assistant, Chris Allen.



Saturday, February 16 - Historic Lecture Series: Marriage
10am. ONP, DC - Join Historian Marta Vincent who will be discussing marriage during the 19th century. Register with $2 per person by Fri., Feb., 15. **Adult Education VIP**

Discover! Your Hancock Parks

PARK LEGEND

LMW	**Litzenberg Memorial Woods**
LMW, GH	Gate House
LMW, MH	McKinnis House
ONP	**Oakwoods Nature Preserve**
ONP, DC	Discovery Center
RRA	**Riverbend Recreation Area**
VIP	**Volunteer In the Parks Opportunity**

www.HANCOCKPARKS.com

Sunday, February 17 - Hands-On Nature: Woodpeckers and Snags
1-4pm. ONP, DC - What's a snag? See why these dead trees are so valuable, especially to woodpeckers. We'll take a hike at 2pm to see where the snags are on the trails and hopefully find some woodpeckers, too! Children will be able to make a pinecone bird feeder for the birds. Information about the seven species of woodpeckers found in Ohio will be available. **VIP**

Saturday, February 23 - Capture the Landscape
3pm. RRA, BL - Join multi-award winning photographer, Steve Perry, to discover the techniques the pros use to create landscape masterpieces. Steve will cover everything you need to start capturing award winning landscapes with your digital camera. Steve Perry is a self-taught landscape and wildlife photographer who has been exploring the natural world with his camera for nearly 30 years. His award-winning photographs have been recently featured in national publications such as Outdoor Photographer, Nature Photographer, Lake Superior Magazine, and Shutterbug Magazine. Check out Perry's work at www.backcountrygallery.com. **VIP**

Saturday, February 23 & Sunday, February 24 - Annual Photo Contest Open House
Sat. 4-6 pm. & Sun. 1-4pm. RRA, BL - View this year's photo entries. Stop in to vote for your favorite in the People's Choice category. ***Contest entries must be submitted by 12 noon on Mon, Feb. 11*** at the HPD office. Check out complete details, including categories, at www.HancockParks.com. Sponsored by AAA Car Care Plus, AAA Findlay Automobile Club, Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, Blanchard Valley Lawn & Pet, Findlay Image Makers, Gaslight Framing Plus, Hancock County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Hancock County Naturalists, Hancock Park District, Imagine That, Lishawa CPA, Rieck's Gallery, and VCA Animal Medical Center. **VIP**

Monday, February 25 - Wee Ones: White-tailed Deer
10am & 1pm. ONP, DC - Recommended for children three years old and under with an adult companion. Other aged siblings welcome. Program includes a story, activities and a craft. **VIP**

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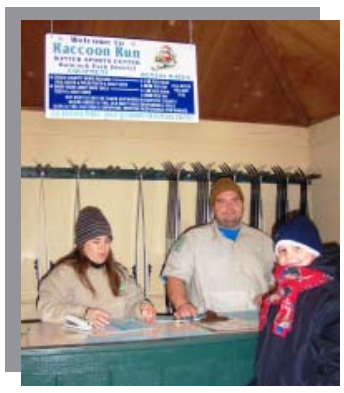
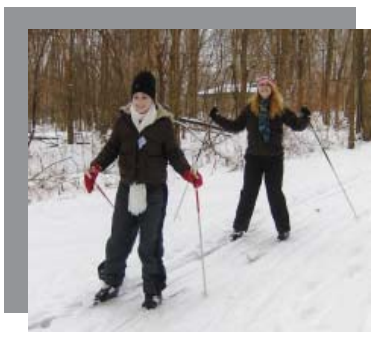
Celebrate Winter!



Lots of outdoor activities and exercise including cross-country skiing and snonshoeing await you in the Hancock Parks. Late December - early March, as soon as the weather and ground conditions permit, Raccoon Run Winter Sports Center will be open for business with four to six inches of good blanketing snow cover. Public rentals of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing equipment are available at the HPD concession located in Shelter 3 at Riverbend Recreation Area. Open for public rentals weekends and holidays, 11 AM - 5 PM, and other dates when good snow conditions are present. Download a brochure from the HPD website at www.HancockParks.com. Discount coupon available on-line.

TRAIL CONDITIONS - call the HPD office during normal hours (M-F, 8am - 4:30pm) or the concession when open at 419-424-1555.

RENTAL FEES - $7 per hour and includes a complete outfitting of skis, boots and poles for cross-county skiing or snowshoeing equipment, or $20 for an entire day. A wide variety of sizes are available for children and adults. Rentals available first come, first serve.



GROUP RESERVATIONS - groups of eight or more can arrange a time, other than normal hours of operation, for group outings after school or other times. Further details are available by calling the HPD office. Discount available.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI WORKSHOPS - held Saturday mornings in January & February. Additional details provided in the monthly program listing.

Environmental Stewardship & Monitoring

This hands-on approach to environmental monitoring and habitat restoration gives participants a wide range of physical and mental activities. Please dress for the weather and ground conditions.

Please e-mail Natural Resource Coordinator, Sarah Betts, at sbetts@hancockparks.com, with any questions. Check out the "Nature Notes" section online at www.hancockparks.com for more opportunities.

BIRD MONITORING
Join Bob Sams, Natural Resource Assistant, once a month to conduct a Bird Diversity and Population Census. Participants will count all observable birds. Hiking distances will vary with at least 1 ½ - 2 ½ hours on the trails. No fee or registration required. **Adult Education**
Friday, January 4 - 1pm. ONP, DC
Saturday, February 23 - 8am. RRA, Shelter 3

Helpful Information

PROGRAM REGISTRATION
Registration for all programs that involves a fee will be taken at the HPD office, unless otherwise noted. You may come in person or send your payment through the mail. You will not be registered for a program until payment is received. Checks are preferred, payable to HPD, or exact cash when making payment. HPD does not accept bills larger than $20. Reservations will only be taken over the phone by calling **419-425-PARK/7275** if there is no fee charged for the program. All programs that require registration have limited space. Nothing cancels a good program/ workshop quicker than everyone waiting till the last minute to register. Remember, the early bird catches the worm!!

PROGRAM FEE REFUND POLICY
Program fees are only refunded in the event that the HPD cancels a program due to lack of registrants or inclement weather. Registered participants who have paid with cash will have 30 days to pick up their registration fees. If cash fees are not picked up within 30 days, the program fee will be considered a donation to the HPD program department. Unless other arrangements are made at the time of the cancellation, all checks will be shredded.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS
Adults, at least 18 years of age, only can attend/register for these programs. Many programs qualify for Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist credit hours. Any questions, please contact the HPD office.

Stay In Contact

Keep yourself up-to-date and sign up for our HPD e-newsletter **"RACCOON TALES"**. A sign up is located on our website at www.HancockParks.com. The publication will be sent to you twice a month covering programs/ events, what's new, and a little park trivia. Sign up today!

HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

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