

CLARK COUNTY WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE

DECEMBER 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024









ADULT pgs. 7 - 9

EVERYONE pgs. 15 & 16

YOUTH pgs. 10 - 12

GENERAL pgs. 1 - 6, 13 - 14 & 17 - 18

LEANN'S LITTLE BIT

The Park District is committed to enhancing the quality of life for our residents and playing a significant role in shaping the character of our community through our parks and recreation. Together, we maintain over 2,000 acres of parkland with 50 miles of roads and multi-use trails, 164 acres of wetlands, a historic park and museum, a wide variety of athletic venues and recreational facilities, and numerous playgrounds and shelters, all for the benefit of Springfield and Clark County! The combining of the Clark County Park District and the National Trail Parks and Recreation District is nearly complete, and as we head into the New Year, we will begin our operations as one unified organization serving the residents of Clark County.

Our parks provide a sense of place, creating critical community connections through the natural environment, recreational pursuits, historical appreciation, and special events. This sense of place shapes the cohesive fabric of vision and values of the community while promoting an active lifestyle for all ages. We strive to meet the needs of today's residents while planning for future generations by balancing environmental, economic, and equity concerns. We are excited about the future and know we are "Better Together"!

Looking back on the past year, we are thankful for the thousands of

visitors we have greeted in our parks, on our trails, and at our facilities, programs, and events. This time spent together in the parks creates unique opportunities for memories with family and friends. We are glad that you have been a part of our year!

As the winter weather approaches, the desire to "hibernate" for a few months strengthens. However, I encourage you to get out and explore our numerous parks, miles of trails and enjoy the crisp, fresh air of winter! Enjoying nature in winter is not only satisfying but also beneficial to our

health and well-being. So grab your friends and family, bundle up, and fight off those "winter blues" while playing in a park or participating in one of our many programs!



Learn G. Castillo

Leann Castillo,
Director - National Trail Parks &
Recreation District
Interim Director - Clark County
Park District

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

HOW

Registration is on a "first come, first serve" basis up to the maximum enrollment. Late registrations and transfers are only possible when there are openings. A late registration fee of \$5 will be charged after regular deadlines. You may register online, by mail, walk-in or phone. Early registration is encouraged as many programs fill up fast. Preregistration is required for all programs that have a deadline date noted.

PAYMENT

Payment of fees are due when you register. Phone registrations must be paid by credit card. Please make checks payable to: NTPRD. Note: \$25 service fee on all returned checks.

CONFIRMATION

Upon receipt of registration form and fee, that individual is automatically enrolled (space permitting). You will receive an email confirmation with available program details. Please show up for the first class at the appointed time and place unless you are notified otherwise. Athletic League participants will be contacted by a coach with practice and game information once they have had their initial meeting.

IF PROGRAMS ARE FULL

If the program is full, you may request to be put on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a space becomes available.

REFUNDS

All customer-initiated program or activity withdrawals are entitled to receive a household credit for the program fee minus a 15% refund processing fee if requested in the allotted time:

Camps • Two days following the original registration deadline.

Athletics • One month following the original registration deadline.

Special Events - Single Day Events or Instructor-Provided Classes • Prior to original registration deadline.

NTPRD and CCPD reserves the right to cancel or postpone any program or activity upon which the customer is entitled to a full refund of the program fee in the form of a check.

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

National Trail and CCPD recognizes that recreation is beneficial to all persons. To meet this need, NTPRD and CCPD are committed to providing assistance and reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities to access all services and programs offered by the District. If accommodations are needed due to disability, please tell us at least two weeks before the event. Every reasonable effort will be made to provide adaptations and accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities.

ACTIVITY/PROGRAM WAIVER

I, the undersigned, hereby assume all risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of activities and transportation to and from NTPRD and CCPD while participating in this program. I do further hereby resolve, absolve, indemnify and hold harmless the NTPRD and CCPD, its Boards, organizers, sponsors and instructors appointed by them. I grant NTPRD and CCPD permission to publish in print, electronic or video format the likeness or image of my child or myself. I release all claims against NTPRD and CCPD with the respect of copyright ownership and publication, including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials.

INFORMATION ACCURACY

Occasionally there may be an error in dates, times, fees or other pertinent information in our activity guide. When such errors occur, our staff will do everything possible to correct the situation promptly. We thank you for your patience and understanding when those situations arise. For updated information on any program, please consult the National Trail at website: ntprd.org.

WAYS TO REGISTER

NLINE

Visit ntprd.org and select the programs and events tab to find available upcoming programs, events or leagues and click the registration button. If you are a prior customer, your email address is your username.

IN PERSON

Stop by our administrative office located at 1301 Mitchell Blvd. in Springfield during business hours.

BY PHONE

(937)328-7275 only if paying by credit card.

RY MAII

Send registration form along with check to:

National Trail Parks & Recreation District, 1301 Mitchell Blvd. Springfield, OH 45503

Registration forms available online at https://ntprd.org/forms/







The Clark County Park District & The National Trail Parks & Recreation District, are local governmental agencies that are dedicated to forging meaningful connections between the community and the wonders of nature and our shared history. Through immersive educational programs, activities and recreational opportunites, we aim to conserve and champion our region's natural beauty and historical significance. We proudly oversee an expansive network of parks and recreational facilities, offering a diverse range of programs tailored for the residents of Clark County.

Spanning over 2,000 acres, our district boasts beautiful parks, recreational facilities, and nearly 30 miles of multi-use trails. Our passionate team is committed to upholding the highest standards in park maintenance, services, and program offerings. We are united in our vision of community through people, parks, and diverse programs. Our aim is to enhance Clark County by motivating individuals to embrace both history, nature and recreation by actively engaging in our park spaces, experiences and programs.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1301 Mitchell Boulevard • Springfield, Ohio 45503 • **Phone:** (937)328-PARK (7275) **Website:** ntprd.org | clarkcountyparks.org • **Email:** nationaltrail@springfieldohio.gov

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am- 5 pm • Closed Holidays

PARKS

Administration Building
Battle of Peckuwe Site
Buck Creek Nature Park
Davey Moore Park
Estel Wenrick Wetlands
George Rogers Clark Park
Jack Hemry Park
Layne Addition Park
Leadingham Prairie
Kirby Preserve
Mad River Gorge &
Nature Preserve

Municipal Stadium Wetlands New Reid Park Northern Estates Park Old Reid Park Perrin Woods Park Rebert Pike Nature Park Selma Road Park Sherman Avenue Park Skate Park Off Mitchell Snider Valley Snyder Park Spangler Nature Preserve

Warder Fit Stop
FACILITIES

Standpipe Park

Virgil A. Mabra Park

Veterans Park

Annex Baseball Field
Carleton Davidson Stadium
Davidson Interpretive Center
Eagle City Soccer Complex
Hertzler House
Lagonda Fields
Leadingham Farm
NTPRD Chiller
Snyder Park Clubhouse
Splash Zone
Veterans Park Amphitheater

1301 Mitchell Boulevard
5638 Lower Valley Pike
1101 Mitchell Boulevard
600 South Western Avenue
2855 Union Rd., Medway
930 S. Tecumseh Rd.
400 Elk Avenue
Cortland Drive & Leland Drive
Intersection Union & Spangler Rd.
Entrance in Old Reid Park
2710 Dayton-Springfield Rd.

Buck Creek Trail 3144 East Leffel Lane Northern Estates Neighborhood **Entrance on Croft Road** Parkwood & Southern Parkway 1696 Rebert Pike 724 York Street 760 Sherman Avenue 1425 Mitchell Boulevard 1801 Snider Road, Medway Plum St., Bechtle Ave., SR 40 3656 Spangler Rd., Medway 32 North Greenmount Avenue Cliff Park Road 1413 Oakleaf Avenue 226 Warder St, Buck Creek Trail

1425 Mitchell Boulevard 1101 Mitchell Boulevard 5638 Lower Valley Pike 500 Eagle City Road 930 S. Tecumseh Rd. 1975 Mitchell Boulevard 3656 Spangler Rd., Medway 301 W. Main Street 1900 Snyder Park Drive 300 Eagle City Road 107 Cliff Park Road

TRAILS

Buck Creek Trail Little Miami Scenic Trail Prairie Grass Trail

Simon Kenton Trail

Plum Street East to the Reservoir Jefferson St. to Greene County Line Madison County Line to Greene County Line

Jefferson Street, North to Urbana

CCPD BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

President - Pam Bennett, Vice-President - Tim DeVore, Secretary - Andy Elder, Kim Fish & Hal Goodrich

NTPRD BOARD MEMBERS

Chair - Sabrina Tackett, Vice-Chair - Lea Elliott, Secretary - Derek Alvarado, Debbie DeWitt, Jim Gay, Randy Yontz and Jack Simonton

SHELTER RENTAL

April 1-Sept. 30 (Prices Vary)

Shelter rentals are available at the following locations:

Davey Moore Park 1 shelter Eagle City Soccer Complex 1 shelter George Rogers Clark Park 4 shelters Lagonda Fields Park 1 shelter New Reid Park 2 shelters Old Reid Park 2 shelters Snyder Park 7 shelters Virgil A. Mabra Park 2 shelters

FACILITY & FIELD RENTAL

Rentals for private or public events are available at Splash Zone, Veterans Park Amphitheater, Carleton Davidson Stadium, and other National Trail facilities, including sports fields for baseball, softball, soccer, and football. For details, please contact us at (937) 328-7275.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community members looking to contribute to our parks and recreation system can volunteer, benefiting from flexible schedules, service hours, skill-building, and job experience. Training is required for all volunteers.

Call 24 Hours a Day for Program Cancellation Information • 937-324-7645









PIZZA?
YOU DECIDE!



FEBRUARY 8, 2024 EVENT DETAILS PAGE 16



Clark County Park District

National Trail Parks & Recreation District

BACKGROUND



For years, community members have been studying and exploring the possibility of combining the two existing Parks and Recreation agencies in Clark County. Each of the current agencies serves the residents of Clark County. Clark County is an anomaly in the State of Ohio by having two countywide park agencies serving the population. A smooth transition to one county-wide agency will protect the values and missions of the two separate organizations. The District will continue to promote a commitment to be socially, culturally, historically, and economically responsible to the residents of Clark County. Realigning better positions us for a stronger future, allowing a single agency to ensure our community is a trendsetter, offering unique services, programs, and opportunities in our parks and facilities.

Together we're BETTER!

COMBINED PARK SYSTEM COMPOSITION



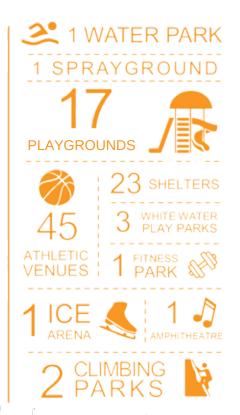
MILES OF MULTI-USE TRAIL & ROADS



3 GREENHOUSES







MANAGING AUTHORITY

The newly combined organization would operate as the Clark County Park District under the ORC 1545, Park District structure. Through the code, a Park District is empowered to levy taxes within specified limits, acquire and develop parks, build and operate recreation facilities and trails, and conduct programs. The park district will be governed by a five-member Board of Park Commissioners, appointed by the Clark County Probate Judge. National Trail Parks & Recreation District would be dissolved following the district combination.

FUNDING

The primary source of funding for the two agencies is a 0.6 mill, 10-year parks, trails and greenspace levy approved by voters in 2015. National Trail also receives significant funding through contracts with the City of Springfield, Springfield Conservancy District and Clark County which would be maintained. Each agency also receives income from facility rental, program fees, donations, and grants. The State of Ohio contributes annually to CCPD through the Local Government Fund.

PARTNERSHIPS

CCPD and NTPRD have very strong reputations as good community partners with each other and outside groups on a local, statewide and regional level. We have a history of tackling projects and developing programs that would not have been possible without the partnerships that were developed. The combined District would continue maintaining our many current relationships while developing new and innovative ones.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The Law Enforcement Division is responsible for providing a safe environment for park guests and employees. Park Rangers are customer service focused, enhancing the park experience and educating park users while maintaining a safe park environment. They will also assist with maintenance and operations as needed.

Additional questions or concerns regarding the district consolidation? Feel free to reach out to our Executive Director Leann Castillo at 937-328-7275 and lcastillo@springfieldohio.gov.

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Strategic, regular maintenance ensures the on-going quality and longevity of the parks, facilities and trails within the District. Professional maintenance practices are a key factor in the long-term success of district-wide goals for maintaining high quality parks for resident satisfaction in programs and events as well as general drop-in use of parks and trails. Maintenance not only determines the outward appearance of our parks, it supports the daily use of parks and contributes to consistent user experiences. Park and Facility Operations employs full-time staff trained and educated in natural resources, recreation, land management, construction methods, cultural resources, and ecology, who, along with seasonal staff members, complete maintenance activities to support park use.

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

The two agencies provide over 400 programs and special events each year. In 2018, all residents combined spent over 275,000 hours of recreational/programming fun in the parks. This includes recreation programs, outdoor education, historical re-enactment, and athletics for preschool through adults. Top priorities will be to combine efforts and identify gaps in program services.



<u>ADULT</u>

ATHLETICS

Register for NTPRD Chiller programs in person at the NTPRD Chiller or online at NTPRDChiller.com. Skate and helmet rental are included with Chiller classes.

HOCKEY

HOCKEY PREP 1 - 4

Ages: 6 & Older

Saturdays, January 13 - March 2

10:15 - 11:00am NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink

Deadline: January 6 Fee: \$125

Learning to Skate is the foundation for building a successful hockey player. This class will focus on proper technique at the most fundamental level working on balance, skating forward, stopping, turning and more while skate in hockey skates.

HOCKEY CLASSES 1 - 4

Ages: 6 & Older January 13 - March 2 10:15 - 11:00am NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

Learning to Skate is the foundation for building a successful hockey player. This class progression will start with proper technique at the most fundamental level working on balance, skating forward, stopping, turning and more while skate in hockey skates. As students progress through the series, additional skating elements will be added, eventually moving into full hockey drills and skills including sticks and pucks with full gear required.



ICE SKATING

LEARN TO ICE SKATE -ADULT & TEENS

Ages: 13 & Older Mondays, 6:15 - 7:00pm January 8 - February 26 OR Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:45am January 13 - March 2 NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

This class is the foundation of all skating disciplines. Upon completion, skaters will have the basic skills necessary to advance to more specialized areas of skating. Skaters will be grouped by skating experience. Skate and helmet rental included.

FITNESS

TRAIL HIKERS

Ages: 18 & Older
Wednesdays
10:00 - 11:00am
Rebert Pike Nature Park • December 6,

January 3 & February 7
Kirby Preserve • December 13,
January 10 & February 14
New Reid Park • December 20,
January 17 & February 21
Davidson Interpretive Center •
December 27 & January 24
Leadingham Prairie •

.eadingham Prairie ∙ January 31 & February 28

FREE

These guided, self-paced hikes allow you to explore our local natural environment. Wear hiking boots, all trails are natural. Hikers must complete a yearly registration form before their first hike.

GENTLE YOGA

Ages: 18 & Older

Wednesdays, January 17 - February 21

2:00 - 3:00pm

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: January 10

Fee: \$50

This gentle yoga class will focus on slow, deep breathing, gentle stretches, and relaxation techniques as well as poses to enhance strength and balance. The class will be accessible to older students, and those with limited mobility, arthritis or osteoporosis. Please check with your health care practitioner about movements you should avoid. Chairs will be available as needed. Students should bring a yoga mat, a water bottle, and a firm blanket.

YOGA FLOW

Ages: 18 & Older

Tuesday, February 27 - April 2

12:00 - 1:00 pm

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: February 23

Fee: \$50

This Vinyasa class begins with mindful breathing and warm-ups before moving through seated, standing, and balancing poses. Vinyasa is a movement-based form of yoga, which focuses on flowing with the breath while reducing stress and increasing flexibility. Most postures can be modified for those with physical limitations. Participants will need to bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and any yoga props if you have them.

CLARK PARK HIKERS

Ages: 18 & Older Thursdays 9:00 - 10:00am

George Rogers Clark Park

FREE

Join Park District volunteers each Thursday morning to enjoy a walk through the woods. Meet at the lower parking lot below the dam and experience the beauty and camaraderie found in the outdoors. Hikers must complete a yearly registration before their first hike.



PROGRAMS

YARN CLUB

Ages: 18 & Older

Friday, December 1 & 15 Friday, Janauary 12 & 26 Friday, February 9 & 23

9:00 - 11:00am

NTPRD Administration Building

FREE

Work on your latest yarn project while enjoying company and coffee. This is a social group for people of all skill levels. No instruction will be provided, but friends can certianly share their crafting secrets.

CRAFTY CARDS

Ages: 16 & Older Monday, December 4 Monday, February 5 6:00 - 8:00pm

NTPRD Administration Building Deadline: Thursday before program

Fee: \$15 per class

Crafty Cards is a fun filled time out with friends or if you just need some 'me' time. Supplies and instructions are provided for 4 - 5 projects. Participants work at their own pace and skill level.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTATION

Ages: 18 & Older Thursday, December 7 6:00 - 7:30pm

Davidson Interpretive Center Deadline: December 5

Fee: \$15

Fee: \$15

Before mass produced ornaments were available, what was used? Learn a brief history of how, what and why European families crafted their baubles from what they had available to them. A chat on ornaments, how they evolved, and an opportunity to craft an ornament from wood shavings, will fill the evening.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Ages: 18 & Older Friday, December 15

FREE

This annual event is a fun way to learn your winter birds. The idea is to count as many birds as possible within our circle, which is centered in Springfield. You can spend the day or part of the day searching for birds. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. For more information and instructions, please contact Doug Overacker at cdoveracker@woh.rr.com.

BASIC BIKE CLINIC

Ages: 18 & Older Thursday, January 11 6:00 - 7:00pm

Cyclotherapy, Springfield Deadline: January 8

Fee: \$8

Learn basic bike maintenance during this winter indoor clinic. Receive instruction to increase your bike maintenance

awareness and skills.
Participants may bring
their own bike. This
clinic is held in
partnership with
Cyclotherapy. Cyclotherapy
located at 40 W High Street

in Springfield.

STAINED GLASS CARDINAL

Ages: 18 & Older Saturday, January 13 10:00am - 1:00pm

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: January 5

Fee: \$70

Create a vibrant cardinal sun-catcher to display in your home. One-day events are projects that can be completed in one class. The glass pieces are pre-cut. These classes are for people that want to dip their toes into the world of stained glass to see if they enjoy it. Learn the basic techniques of working with stained glass, or build on skills you've already acquired, and create this glass suncatcher to display in your home. Price includes personal instruction and all supplies to make one stained glass piece.

HISTORY CHAT - ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE

Ages 16 & Older Wednesday, January 17

6:00 - 7:00pm

Davidson Interpretive Center

Deadline: January 16

FREE

Learn all about the Advance One Room School. Originally built in 1878, the Advance One Room School was one of over a hundred one-room schools in Clark County.



NATURE DISCOVERY HIKE

Ages: 18 & older Friday, January 19 10:00 - 11:00am

George Rogers Clark Park Deadline: January 16

FREE

Have a relaxing hike as we explore the wooded trails. Take time to listen to the sounds found in the winter. This hike is a great time to get outside in nature and learn together. Hike is not fast paced.

SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

Ages: 18 & Older Saturday, January 20 10:30 am - 12:00pm

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: January 16

CDCC

Many native plants require a little different seed starting technique to successfully germinate into healthy plants. In this hands-on workshop, learn about best practices for collecting seeds, seed storage, and providing optimum seed starting conditions. Bring an empty, clean one-gallon opaque milk jug and take home a mini-greenhouse to start some native plants! This program is held in partnership with the Dayton Area Wild Ones.



ADULT

PROGRAMS

HISTORY CHAT Survivors: Personal Stories of St. Clair's Defeat

Ages: 16 & Older Wednesday, February 21 7:00 - 8:00pm

Davidson Interpretive Center Deadline: February 20

Fee: \$10

a unique view of this

significant battle in Ohio's history.

In 1791, General Arthur St. Clair led a diverse US Army, including seasoned veterans like Sergeant William Wharton and inexperienced recruits like Private Ralph Collins, to confront Native American tribes in the Northwest Territory. This mission ended in tragedy on the Wabash River, with few survivors. Historian Leslie Arendt recounts the distinct experiences of Wharton and Collins, offering



What adults need to know



KNOW THAT YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE IS NOT INEVITABLE

Most teens do not use substances

BE BRAIN DEVELOPMENT SAVVY

The young brain is vulnerable to dependence, 9 out 10 adults with a disorder started drinking, smoking or using other drugs before age 18

BE SUBSTANCE SAVVY

For teens, all substance use is related: using any one substance dramatically increases the likelihood of using other substances

Your opinion counts, please complete our 2023 parent survey



ATHLETICS

HOCKEY

HOCKEY PREP 1 - 4

Ages: 6 & Older

Saturdays, January 13 - March 2

10:15 - 11:00am

NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

Learning to Skate is the foundation for building a successful hockey player. This class will focus on proper technique at the most fundamental level working on balance, skating forward, stopping, turning and more while skate in hockey skates.

HOCKEY CLASSES 1-4

Ages: 6 & Older January 13 - March 2 10:15 - 11:00am

NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

Learning to Skate is the foundation for building a successful hockey player. This class progression will start with proper technique at the most fundamental level working on balance, skating forward, stopping, turning and more while skate in hockey skates. As students progress through the series, additional skating elements will be added, eventually moving into full hockey drills and skills including sticks and pucks with full gear required.

ICE SKATING

LEARN TO ICE SKATE – STINGER 1

Ages: 4 - 5

Mondays, 5:45 - 6:30pm January 8 - February 26 OR Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:45am January 13 - March 2 NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

Designed for kids to build confidence while learning to skate incorporating fun

and games.

LEARN TO ICE SKATE - BASIC 1

Ages: 6 - 12

Mondays, 6:15 - 7:00pm January 8 - February 26 OR Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:45am January 13 - March 2 NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

This class is the foundation of all skating disciplines. Upon completion, skaters will have the basic skills necessary to advance to more specialized areas of skating. Skills taught: First steps, balance, gliding, stopping and introductory edges. Skaters will be grouped by age and skating experience. Skate and helmet rental included.

LEARN TO ICE SKATE - TEENS & ADULTS

Ages: 13 & Older Mondays, 6:15 - 7:00pm January 8 - February 26 OR Saturdays, 9:00 - 9:45am January 13 - March 2 NTPRD Chiller Ice Rink Deadline: January 6

Fee: \$125

This class is the foundation of all skating disciplines. Upon completion, skaters will have the basic skills necessary to advance to more specialized areas of skating. Skaters will be grouped by skating experience. Skate and helmet rental included.

VOLLEYBALL

SETTERS VOLLEYBALL

Grades: 3 & 4

Locations To Be Announced Deadline: January 29

Fee: \$45

This 7-week, fun, instructional, co-ed league will have modified rules to introduce players to the game. Adjusted net heights and age appropriate volleyballs will be used with traditional rally scoring. Practices and games will be weeknights at area gyms starting in early March. Teams will be organized geographically by school districts when possible. Uniform shirts will be provided. All players must have knee pads.

SLAMMERS VOLLEYBALL

Grades: 5 & 6

Locations To Be Announced

Deadline: January 29

Fee: \$45

This 7-week volleyball league is designed to introduce new players to the game and improve the skill development of returning players. Adjusted net heights and age appropriate volleyballs will be used with traditional rally scoring. Practices and games will be weeknights at area gyms starting in early March. Teams are organized geographically by school districts when possible. Uniform shirts will be provided. All players must have knee pads.

SOCCER

WITTENBERG SOCCER CLINIC

Ages: 8 - 15

Thursday, December 7

6:00 - 8:00pm

Wittenberg Steemer Deadline: December 4

Fee: \$40

Join the Wittenberg Men's Soccer Team for a winter soccer clinic. Participants will learn soccer skills while participating in exciting drills and games. Participants will receive a t-shirt.

START SMART SOCCER 1

Ages: 3 - 4 (As of April 1)
Saturdays, April 6th - May 11th

9:00am OR 10:00am
Eagle City Soccer Complex

Deadline: March 4

Fee: \$45

This 6-week, fun, instructional program is designed to teach basic beginner skills of soccer through drills and stations. Practice will be held once a week for 40 minutes. The parent will practice drills with their child to learn basic soccer skills. The first five weeks of the program will be practice and the last week will be a game. Parents and participants must bring their own size 3 soccer ball and water bottle to practice. A parent is required to attend and participate with their child.



YOUTH

ATHLETICS CONT.

SOCCER CONT.

START SMART SOCCER 2

Ages: 4 - 5 (As of April 1) Saturdays, April 6th - May 11th 11:00am OR 12:00pm Eagle City Soccer Complex Deadline: March 4

Fee: \$45

Start Smart 2 is a 6-week program that is fun and instructional, focusing on basic soccer skills for beginners through drills and stations. Each session includes a 30-minute practice and a brief game, promoting teamwork and skill development. New rules are introduced weekly to aid player growth. Parent involvement may be needed. Participants must bring their own shin guards and a size 3 soccer ball.

SPRING SOCCER

Grades: K - 8 (Current School Year)
Deadline: February 16

Fee: \$45

Participants must commit to a league scheduled on two predetermined days listed below, with no option to switch leagues post-registration. The league will feature co-ed teams, organized primarily by school district affiliations and, when possible, through a blind draft process. Practices are set to start county-wide the week of March 18, weather conditions permitting. All games will take place at the Eagle City Soccer Complex beginning in April. The duration of the league will be six to seven weeks. Please note, there is a limited capacity for each league.

SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE DAYS

K-1ST GRADE

Mondays & Wednesdays OR Tuesdays & Saturdays OR Thursdays & Saturdays

2ND - 3RD GRADE

Tuesdays & Thursdays OR Monday & Saturdays OR Wednesdays & Saturdays

4TH - 5TH GRADE

Mondays & Wednesdays **OR** Tuesdays & Saturdays **OR** Thursdays & Saturdays

6TH - 8TH GRADEMondays & Saturdays **OR**Tuesday & Saturdays

PROGRAMS



The CROW series, Children
Respecting Our Wildlife, is a
collaboration with the New Carlisle
Library. Delve into the lives of the
wildlife that live right in our own
"backyard." Each month, hear a story,
learn some cool facts, and do a craft or
other interactive activity.

WILDLIFE HOLIDAY

Deadline: November 29

Ages: 6 - 12 (with a caregiver) Wednesday, December 6 1:00 - 2:00pm New Carlisle Library

FRFF

Celebrate the season with a holiday story and create natural ornaments to decorate



WILDLIFE IN WINTER

Ages: 6 - 12 (with a caregiver) Wednesday, February 7 1:00 - 2:00pm

New Carlisle Public Library Deadline: February 2

FRFF

Investigate cool animal adaptations and winter survival strategies of local wildlife species with a story and craft.



WETLAND WARRIORS - DECEMBER

Ages: 7-12

Tuesday, December 12

3:30 - 5:00pm

Davidson Interpretive Center

Deadline: December 8

FREE

This outdoor experience offers youth the opportunity to explore nature, forge friendships, and build leadership skills. This drop-off program includes holiday crafts using natural materials and fun games. Participants should wear weather appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes.

TRAIL TOTS - DECEMBER

Ages 3 - 5 (with a caregiver) Thursday, December 14 10:00 - 11:00am

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: December 11

Fee: \$8

Discover the great outdoors through storytelling, sensory experiences, music, and interactive activities in this naturefocused program. Say farewell to autumn and welcome winter with festive crafts and enjoyable games.

ANIME CLUB

Ages: 8 - 13 • 5:30 - 6:30pm Ages: 13 - 17 • 6:45 - 7:45pm Tuesday, January 16

Tuesday, February 20

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: Friday prior Fee: \$5 per session

Join fellow anime and manga enthusiasts for club meetings where we'll dive into our favorite anime discussions, explore Japanese culture, enjoy anime screenings, engage in drawing sessions, and more.

INSECTS IN WINTER

Ages: 7 - 12 (with a caregiver)
Thursday, December 21

10:30 - 11:30am

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: December 15

Fee: \$8

In this winter-themed class, participants will explore the intriguing world of insects in the colder months, learning about their hiding spots and survival strategies. Attendees will also have the opportunity to craft their own insect-inspired creation to take home.



PROGRAMS CONT.

WETLAND WARRIORS - JANUARY

Ages: 7 - 12 Tuesday, January 16 3:30 - 5:00pm

Davidson Interpretive Center

Deadline: January 12

FREE

Wetland Warriors is a program where youth explore outdoors, make new discoveries, foster new friendships, and develop leadership skills while learning about nature. Birds can bring delight and awe to those who take the time to observe them. Learn common bird species that stay in our area during the winter. This is a drop off program. Please dress in weather-appropriate gear and closed-toed shoes.

TRAIL TOTS - JANUARY

Ages: 3 - 5 (with a caregiver)
Thursday, January 18
10:00 - 11:00am

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: January 16

Fee: \$8

Explore and learn outdoors in winter with literature, sensory play, music and hands-on-activities at this nature-based program. Fuzzy, wuzzy winter. Who is sleeping, who is not. Learn how animals stay warm and survive Ohio's winter.

LEGO CHALLENGERS

Ages: 8 - 12 Friday, January 19 Friday, February 23 5:30 - 6:30pm

NTPRD Administration Building Deadline: Monday prior

Fee: \$5 per session

Each meeting will feature Lego challenges like recreating scenes from memory, building mystery items, solving STEM problems, and more. Lego fanatics will use bricks to be creative, solve problems, and have fun.



HISTORY ROCKS - JANUARY

Ages: 6 - 12

Thursday, January 25 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Enon Branch • Clark County Public Library

Deadline: January 22

FREE

Journey back into the past with a revealing look at how early Ohio settlers survived the long dark winter. Listen to stories and make a craft.

WETLAND WARRIORS - FEBRUARY

Ages: 7 - 12

Tuesday, February 13 3:30 - 5:00pm

Davidson Interpretive Center

Deadline: February 9

FREE

Wetland Warriors is a drop-off program that engages youth in outdoor exploration, discovery, and the building of friendships and leadership abilities, all centered around nature. Participants will also learn about recycling and experience the real papermaking process with the Paper-Making Factory.

TRAIL TOTS - FEBRUARY

Ages: 3 - 5 (with a caregiver) Thursday, February 15 10:00 - 11:00am

NTPRD Administration Building

Deadline: February 12

Fee: \$8

Explore and learn outdoors in winter with literature, sensory play, music and hands-on-activities at this nature-based program.



HISTORY ROCKS - FEBRUARY

Ages: 6 - 12

Thursday, February 29

1:00 - 2:00pm

Enon Branch • Clark County

Public Library

Deadline: February 26

FREE

In honor of Presidents Day, we delve into the contributions of First Ladies in environmental protection. Discover who was known as the "First Lady of the Environment," enjoy storytelling, engage in trivia, and create a craft.



FUND



Join us in supporting the vital work of the National Trail Endowment Fund, dedicated to making parks and recreation programs accessible, safe, and enjoyable for everyone in our community. Your generous donations are not just contributions; they are investments in the health, well-being, and happiness of our community, especially its younger members.

Your support plays a crucial role in providing scholarships to underprivileged youth, offering them opportunities to participate in various enriching programs and activities. These experiences can significantly impact their development, fostering a sense of belonging,

encouraging physical activity, and nurturing their potential.

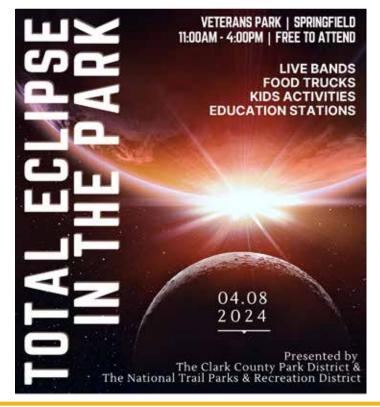
To make a meaningful difference, please consider donating to this cause. Your contribution will directly support these essential programs and the youth who benefit from them. To donate, kindly write a check payable to the Springfield Foundation. Please ensure that "National Trail Endowment" is clearly written in the memo line or mentioned in a letter accompanying your gift. This helps direct your donation effectively to the cause. Mail your donation to: Springfield Foundation 333 N. Limestone St. Springfield, Ohio 45503

Every donation, large or small, has the power to transform lives. It's an opportunity to show your commitment to our community's growth and the future of our children. Together, we can ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have access to the enriching experiences that our parks and recreation programs offer. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a lasting impact in our community.





Bumps, bruises, and broken bones will, hopefully. be avoided thanks to a generous grant of \$8,500 from the Springfield Foundation to purchase new fall protection for all National Trail playgrounds. Playground fall protection is a special material consisting of shredded wood into specified sizes, which is triple-processed and tested to ensure foreign materials are not present. The wood chips are springy enough for impact and firm enough for wheelchair access. With National Trail's limited funding, grants like this allow us to maintain safe playgrounds for area users. Fall protection is standard in most communities. National Trail has staff certified in playground safety and fall protection, which helps the district meet safety standards. In most cases, installation takes less than a few hours. Please thank the Springfield Foundation for the financial support of this muchneeded improvement.





nature FOCUS

WINTER SURVIVAL

OHIO MAMMALS: ADAPTING & SURVIVING THE WINTER

Ohio, with its diverse landscapes ranging from rural countryside to dense forests and urban areas, is home to a rich variety of mammalian wildlife. As winter descends upon this Midwestern state, bringing with it the challenges of cold temperatures and scarce food resources, the mammals of Ohio exhibit fascinating adaptations to survive this harsh season.

One of the most iconic mammals native to Ohio is the white-tailed deer. In preparation for winter, these deer undergo both physiological and behavioral changes. Their summer coats are replaced by thicker, darker fur that traps more body heat. Additionally, they accumulate fat reserves in the fall by consuming more food, providing insulation and energy during the leaner winter months. White-tailed deer may also alter their behavior, forming larger groups to help locate food and reduce the impact of predators.

Another interesting mammal is the Eastern chipmunk. Unlike some of their counterparts, chipmunks do not hibernate in the traditional sense. Instead, they enter a state of torpor, a deep sleep-like condition where their body temperature drops, and metabolism slows down. Before this period, chipmunks spend much of the fall gathering and storing food in their burrows, ensuring a supply of nuts and seeds to eat during brief periods of wakefulness throughout the winter.

The red fox, with its striking red fur, is another mammal that adapts remarkably to our winters. Its fur becomes denser and more insulating, and it grows a thicker bushy tail, which it uses as a blanket to cover its body during rest. Red foxes have keen hunting skills that are crucial during winter. They can detect prey under the snow and will pounce to catch small rodents, their primary food source. Red foxes also scavenge for food, demonstrating adaptability in their diet to survive the winter months.

Bats, such as the Big Brown Bat, face a unique challenge as insects, their main food source, become scarce in winter. To survive, these bats either migrate to warmer regions or hibernate in caves and tree hollows. During hibernation, their body temperature drops significantly to conserve energy, and their metabolic rate decreases, allowing them to survive on stored fat reserves for several months.

Raccoons, known for their adaptability, have a varied diet that helps them through the winter. They bulk up in the fall, gaining extra weight to see them through the season. While they do not hibernate, raccoons enter a state of torpor during extreme cold. Their ability to eat a wide range of foods, including fruits, nuts, insects, and small mammals, allows them to adapt to the changing availability of food sources.



Beavers, famous for their dam-building skills, prepare for winter by storing food and reinforcing their lodges. They stockpile branches and logs underwater near their lodges, providing them a food source when the water surface freezes. The lodges themselves are insulated with mud, which hardens and helps keep the inside warm and protected from predators.

Lastly, the North American river otter, well adapted to both land and water, thrives in Ohio's river systems. During winter, their dense, water-repellent fur provides excellent insulation. Otters remain active, hunting fish and crayfish in unfrozen waters. Their playful behavior, often seen as sliding on snow or ice, is not just recreational but also a practical means of locomotion in winter.

Mammals of Ohio demonstrate a range of adaptive strategies to endure the winter. From behavioral changes like altering diet and social patterns to physiological adaptations such as growing thicker fur and accumulating fat, these mammals showcase the resilience and versatility of nature. Understanding and appreciating these survival tactics not only increases our knowledge of these fascinating creatures but also highlights the importance of conserving their habitats to ensure their survival for generations to come.



FOR EVERYONE

FURRY FAMILY PHOTOS

All Ages Thursday, November 30 4:00 - 7:00pm Snyder Park Clubhouse

Fee: \$15

"Yappy Holidays" greetings to loved ones with a family photo that includes your furry four-legged members! The fee covers three unique photos (chosen by the photographer) emailed to you for unlimited printing. Perfect for gifts, greeting cards, or home display. Pre-register to guarantee your spot. This event is organized in collaboration with the Clark County SPCA.

YULETIDE CELEBRATION

All Ages Friday, December 1 5:00 - 8:00pm Snyder Park Clubhouse

FREE

Kick off your festive weekend at the Snyder Park Clubhouse for a dose of holiday cheer. All ages are welcome to enjoy holiday music, indulge in hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows, shop for gifts, marvel at beautiful holiday displays, and meet Santa. Don't forget to capture the moments with family photo opportunities around the area.

YULETIDE CARD COMPETITION

All Ages
December 1 - 17
Snyder Park Clubhouse Courtyard
FREE

Celebrate the season with Favorite Holiday Traditions card display. Admire and vote for holiday cards crafted by local agencies. The winning design will be revealed on Dec. 19. Interested in participating?



HERTZLER HOUSE 12 days of Christmas

All Ages Sunday, December 3 1:00 - 3:00pm Hertzler House Donation Appreciated

Enjoy Lafferty Pike's delightful music and tour the beautifully decorated Hertzler House for the Christmas season. Don't miss out on the Christmas Shoppe, open for your visit too.

TALKIN' BASEBALL

All Ages
Wednesday, December 6 •
2023 Baseball Season Experiences
Wednesday, January 3 •
The Hot Stove Discussion
Wednesday, February 7 •
Spring Training Preview
7:00 - 8:00pm
NTPRD Administration Building

FRFF

"Talkin Baseball" is the Hot Stove Baseball discussion program, a monthly trivia contest will be held, and attendees are encouraged to bring a baseball book or video for free exchange. This program is free of charge and presented by the Springfield/ Clark County Baseball Hall of Fame and Dayton SABR Chapter.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

All Ages Wednesday, December 13 7:00 - 8:00pm Davidson Interpretive Center Deadline: December 11

Experience the festive fusion of classical and folk music with the Lafferty Pike Band's unique Christmas concert. Enjoy global traditional carols played on instruments like the harp, guitar, mandolin, accordion, and fiddle, showcasing diverse cultural rhythms and sounds. The event also features insights into customs and folk costumes from around the world.



All Ages

Friday, December 29 10:00am - 12:00pm

Wittenberg University Natatorium

Deadline: December 28

Pre-Registration Fee: \$3 per swimmer \$5 per swimmer at the door

Join us at Wittenberg University this holiday season for a festive and fun escape from the chilly weather. Dive into the welcoming Wittenberg waters for a refreshing break. It's a great opportunity for all ages to splash and play. Please note that kids aged 7 and under should be accompanied by an adult in the water. The Wittenberg Natatorium is located at 250 Bill Edwards Dr. in Springfield. Let's make a splash this holiday!

PUZZLE PALOOZA

Ages: 5 & Older Friday, January 12 6:00 - 8:00pm

NTPRD Administration Building Deadline: January 5

Fee: \$20 per team

Puzzle Palooza is a race to finish a 500 piece puzzle. Teams of up to 4 people will all begin working at the same time and the first team to finish will be crowned the winners.

GROUNDHOG ROUNDUP

All Ages
January 30 - February 2
Snyder Park &
Davidson Interpretive Center
FREE

Celebrate Groundhogs Day by searching for groundhogs representing different states in our local parks. Download the information sheet from the National Trail Parks and Recreation District and the Clark County Park District webpage. Search for the groundhogs and check them off the list when you find them. Submit your form or answers and picture to nationaltrail@springfieldohio.gov.



FOR EVERYONE

SLICE OF SPRINGFIELD

All Ages Thursday, February 8 4:30 - 7:00pm Mother Stewart's Brewery Tickets Available at NTPRD.org Fee: Adults \$35/ Youth \$15

Discover Clark County's best pizza at The Slice of Springfield! This exciting event offers a chance to taste and vote for your favorite pizza from up to 10 local pizzerias. It's an evening filled with delicious pizza, music, and family-friendly fun. Plus, you're contributing to a great cause. Organized by the Partners for the Parks and presented by Park National Bank, this fundraiser directs 100% of ticket sales towards supporting National Trail parks and recreation programs in Clark County. Early birds purchasing tickets before January 20 receive an extra drink ticket (choices include soft drinks, beer, cider, or wine). Each ticket also comes with a complimentary beer glass, available while supplies last. Remember, spaces are limited, so join in on this community celebration and help us decide who makes the best pizza in town!

ORIENTEERING VALENTINE EVENT

All Ages Saturday, February 10 11:00 am - 1:00pm

Old Reid Park & Kirby Preserve

Deadline: February 8 Fee: \$6 per participant

Orienteering is an outdoor navigation sport suitable for all weather conditions. Participants can embrace the beauty of nature during winter while engaging in this mentally challenging activity. The sport involves following a mapped course and utilizing navigation skills to navigate between marked locations. The courses are designed to accommodate individuals of all skill levels and abilities. An introductory orienteering training will be provided during the event. It is recommended to begin your course between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Please note that there is a time limit of two hours to complete the course. This event is held in partnership with the Miami Valley Orienteering Club.

WINTER NATURE MANDALA HIKE

Ages: 7 & Older Saturday, February 24 1:00 - 2:00pm

George Rogers Clark Park. Deadline: February 20

FREE

Celebrate winter on this family friendly hike to explore and learn about winter plant identification. Use items from nature to create a wintry nature mandala. This beautiful work of art can be made with items from nature found on the ground or brought with you from your own backyard.

CARDBOARD CLASSIC

All Ages Saturday, March 9 11:30am NTPRD Chiller

Fee: \$5

Bring your pre-constructed bobsled and race for the Gold. Teams of 1 or 2 will push the sled while the pilot guides it towards the finish line. All participants must wear clean, athletic shoes. Helmets are available and recommended. Prizes will be awarded for race winners and most creative sled.







natural HISTORY

A JOURNEY INTO OUR PAST

OHIO'S ICE AGE GIANTS

Ohio, a state known for its rich natural history, was once home to an array of colossal creatures during the Ice Age, a period that spanned from about 2.6 million to 11,700 years ago. This era, characterized by massive glaciations and climatic shifts, hosted a diverse and fascinating array of megafauna. Let's embark on a journey through time to explore some of the remarkable Ice Age animals that once roamed our landscapes.

MAMMOTH PRESENCE

Perhaps the most iconic of all Ice Age animals in Ohio were the mammoths, particularly the Woolly Mammoth. These behemoths were well-adapted to the cold climate of the Ice Age, with their thick, shaggy coats, and layers of fat for insulation. Standing at around 11 feet tall and weighing up to 6 tons, they were truly a sight to behold. Evidence of their existence in Ohio is found in the form of fossils, including teeth and tusks, which reveal much about their diet and lifestyle. Mammoths were primarily grazers, feeding on the grasses and shrubs that blanketed the Ice Age landscape.

MIGHTY MASTODONS

Another remarkable inhabitant of Ice Age Ohio was the American Mastodon. Similar in size to the mammoths, mastodons were more adapted to forested environments. Their conical, ridged teeth were suitable for chewing the leaves, branches, and twigs of trees. Mastodon fossils discovered in Ohio suggest they were prevalent in the region, with several well-preserved skeletons providing insights into their anatomy and ecology. Discovered in a swamp in Catawba, Clark County, in 1887, the Conway Mastodon is a notable archaeological find from our area. This impressive mastodon stands 10 feet tall at the shoulder, and each of its majestic ivory tusks weighs over 100 pounds. It is on display at the Ohio History Center in Columbus.

FIERCE PREDATORS

Ohio was not just a land of giant herbivores; it also hosted formidable predators. One such predator was the Smilodon, commonly known as the Saber-toothed Tiger. This fearsome carnivore is known for its long, curved canine teeth, which could grow up to 7 inches. While no complete Smilodon fossils have been found in Ohio, teeth and bone fragments have been discovered, indicating their presence in the region.

Another predator was the Dire Wolf, larger and more robust than today's gray wolf. Dire Wolves were formidable hunters, preying on large herbivores, and their remains have been found in various parts of Ohio, often in areas that were once bogs and marshes.

Another fierce giant once roamed the ground known as the giant short-faced bear, a remarkable species that stood out for its size and unique features. This bear, significantly larger than any bear species today, was characterized by its short snout and powerful limbs. It was one of the most imposing predators of its time in North America, and its presence in Ohio highlights the region's rich prehistoric biodiversity and the dynamic ecological history of the area during the Ice Age.

GROUND SLOTHS AND BEAVERS

Not all giants of the Ice Age were fearsome predators or massive grazers. The Ground Sloths, for instance, were large, slow-moving herbivores, with some species reaching up to 10 feet in length. Their fossils have been found in parts of Ohio, suggesting they were a common sight during the Ice Age.

Giant Beavers were another unusual species that called Ice Age Ohio home. Weighing up to 220 pounds and measuring over 8 feet long, these beavers were significantly larger than their modern-day relatives. They likely played a crucial role in shaping the aquatic landscapes of Ohio, much as beavers do today.



The Ice Age was a time of dramatic climatic changes and remarkable biodiversity. The megafauna of Ohio from this period provide a fascinating glimpse into a world vastly different from our own. As we unearth more fossils and piece together the history of these magnificent creatures, we gain a deeper understanding of how life on Earth has evolved and adapted over millennia. The legacy of Ohio's Ice Age animals continues to captivate scientists and enthusiasts alike, reminding us of the ever-changing nature of life on our planet.



Springfield, join us at YOUR rink!

For program details, schedules & pricing, visit us online at NtprdChiller.com

Stay Cool, Stay Active, Have Fun at NTPRD Chiller!

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