

Mercer County Park Commission

FALL NATURE PROGRAMS



ADULT PROGRAMS

Registration is not required for nature programs unless noted.

Public nature programs are open to 20 people and are filled in a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants must pay for the program upon arrival. Cash and checks are accepted, however, the naturalist does not carry change so please have the appropriate bills. Contact jrogers@mercercounty.org for more information.

BALDPATE MOUNTAIN HIKE & YOGA

Join Lisa Boveroux of Yoga Life of Pennington and Jenn Rogers, County Naturalist for an invigorating hike on forested trails to the summit of Baldpate Mountain, for a session of nature-inspired yoga. Participants must be in good physical health. Please bring a yoga mat and a water bottle.

These hikes are for teens and adults and cost \$12 each.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Email jrogers@mercercounty.org to sign up.

Sunday, October 17 from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Meet at Fiddlers Creek Parking Lot

Sunday, November 7 from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Meet in Parking Lot at top of Driveway

EARLY BIRD WALKS—IN THE AFTERNOON

Join us for a casual hike -- with your binoculars of course! These walks are dedicated to spotting our fine-feathered friends. Never picked up a pair of binoculars before? No problem. All abilities of birders are welcome. *Hikes are free and for teens and adults.*

Monday, September 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.

At Pole Farm section of MCPNW; Cold Soil Rd parking lot (by the kiosk)

Monday, October 18 from 1 to 3 p.m.

At Baldpate Mountain; parking lot at top of driveway

Monday, November 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.

At Hollystone Preserve; meet at Fiddler's Creek Parking Lot

TRAIL TREKS

Take in fresh air, energize your body and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature with Mercer County's Naturalist. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring a water bottle. *Hikes are free and for adults.*

Tuesday, October 5 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at Pole Farm section of MCPNW; Federal City Road entrance

Tuesday, October 26 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at Rosedale Park, Picnic area

Tuesday, November 16 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Meet at Roebling Park, Spring Lake parking lot

FOR FAMILIES AND ADULTS

PONTOON BOAT NATURE TOURS

Spend a relaxing afternoon kicked back on the County's pontoon boat while watching for Lake Mercer's flora and fauna, and listening to the natural history of the lake. Feel free to bring binoculars to do some off-shore birding!

Tickets for boat tours will be sold on a first come, first serve basis the day of the tour at the Marina Ticket Window. Ticket prices are \$6 for 12 and older and \$4 for seniors and children 11 and under. All boat tours are weather-permitting.

Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 1 to 2:30

At Mercer County Park Marina

For families and adults



FAMILY PROGRAMS

KIDS AND PARENTS LEARNING ABOUT TREES; First in a series of 'No Child Left Inside' Programs

Please join in the national campaign to encourage our children to enjoy nature. This walk has been specifically designed for both kids and parents / grandparents. Your children may ramble with the County Naturalist for an exploration of trees in the park. Parents may participate with Philo Elmer, educator and life long tree lover, on a different route to share ideas and activities that you can use to encourage your child to enjoy, experience safely and learn about the natural world. On the way home, both you and your kids can share your different experiences with trees and nature. This is to be the first of a series of such 'No Child Left Inside' walks in parks throughout the area.

Sunday, October 3 from 1:30 to 3:30p.m.

At Spring Lake—Roebbling Park; Free

HOWELL FARM'S NATURAL HARVEST

Practice "nutting", a common past-time of children years ago while searching for nature's harvest.

Sunday, October 24 from 1 to 4 p.m.

At Howell Farm (the Visitor's Center will have info on where to meet); Free

SUNDAY SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, November 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

At Mercer County Park, meet in Tennis Center Parking Lot; \$3 per person

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

FALL PRE-K NATURE PROGRAMS AT MERCER COUNTY PARK

Mercer County Park isn't just for sports events and festivals. Explore nature with your little one at Mercer County Park! With over 2,500 acres, there are a number of natural areas to investigate and enjoy. Each session, we will be exploring a specific theme at a different area of the park. There will be a story and a short guided hike. Bring your walking shoes and please be attentive to the session's designated meeting place.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Email jrogers@mercercounty.org to sign up. Upon registration parents will receive an email with a map of all the program locations. This *program is free* and limited to a small group for the fall season.

Squirrels and Chipmunks

"Go nuts" watching the antics of squirrels and chipmunks during this busy time of year! Listen to a story about these cute little critters and then take a walk in the woods to look for evidence of squirrels, flying squirrels, and chipmunks.

Thursday, September 30 from 10 to 11 am

Meet at the West Picnic area by the large picnic pavilion

Shadows and Skulls

Get in the mood for Halloween as we read a story about shadows and notice how the shadows are lengthening at this time of the year. We'll take a look at a couple of animal skulls and learn how to identify certain features. Join me for a walk and we'll look for signs of fall/signs that remind us of Halloween.

Thursday, October 14 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Meet at the Lakeside Pavilion by the Marina

Animal Homes

As the days grow colder, we prepare our homes for winter and animals do too. Join me for a talk about the different kinds of homes that animals live in and meet a couple of animal friends. Walk on a trail and search for different kinds of animal homes at Mercer County Park.

Thursday, November 11 from 10 to 11a.m.

Meet at the Tennis courts parking lot.

December – Conifers

Besides offering us a sight of green among the brown, what are conifers and what role do they play? Join us as we talk about different kinds of evergreen trees at the park, how to identify them, and on our walk, visit some of these "green" residents of Mercer County Park.

Thursday, December 9 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Meet at the East Picnic area under the picnic pavilion.

STEWARDSHIP

BALDPATE REFORESTATION PROJECT

This spring, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space and Mercer County Park Commission were awarded a grant that will cover half of the costs to reforest 8.3 acres of Baldpate Mountain. Trees will be planted in the abandoned agricultural fields to restore the contiguous forest canopy at the mountain. Both FoHVOS and the Park Commission are seeking volunteers to plant 1,660 trees.

Volunteer planting days are listed below:

Saturday, September 18 from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

Sunday, September 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet at the Fiddler's Creek Parking lot; then carpool to summit

To Join Us: Email Jenn Rogers, jrogers@mercercounty.org or call 609-883-6606 x 112. I will need your name, phone number and email address. If under 18, please provide your age.

Volunteers will need to bring snacks and water as well as their own work gloves and tools if available.

MARSH INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

The Marsh, an ecologically important habitat with over 1,200 species of plants and wildlife including threatened and endangered species, is threatened by invasive plants. Some dedicated volunteers have made progress in eradicating Japanese Knotweed from the island at Spring Lake in Roebling Park. This fall, our goal is to remove some "woody" species from the island. There are two work days this fall. Please wear long sleeves and pants; bring water and work gloves.

Sunday, September 12 from 12:45 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 14 from 12:45 to 4 p.m.

Meet at Spring Lake Parking Lot in Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton).

Co-sponsored by Central Sierra Group, Trenton Central H.S., and Friends for the Marsh.

For additional information, contact Bob Sokol at 609-918-1149 or robert.sokol435@gmail.com.

GRIP: Group for Removing Invasive Plants

Baldpate Mountain is recognized as an Important Bird and Birding Area (IBBA) by the National Audubon Society; it is also part of the 90 square mile Sourland Mountains. Baldpate's high-quality forest is home to many rare plants and wildlife, but is threatened by invasive plant species. Please join us for a day to two; your hard work will help restore the native habitat at this park.

Thursday, October 21 from 9:30 to 1 pm

Meet at Fiddler's Creek Parking Lot, then carpool to summit

Thursday, October 28 from 9:30 to 1 pm

Meet at Pleasant Valley Parking Lot

Thursday, November 4 from 9:30 to 1pm

Meet at Fiddler's Creek Parking Lot, then carpool to summit

To Join Us: Email Jenn Rogers, jrogers@mercercounty.org or call 609-883-6606 x 112. I will need your name, phone number and email address. If under 18, please provide your age.

Volunteers will need to bring snacks and water as well as their own work gloves.