



Headquarters Address

Activity Center Park 221 North Main Street Centerville, Ohio 45459-4617

Email: mail@cwpd.org Website: www.cwpd.org

Winter Office Hours

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Office Closed December 26, January 2, and January 16

Phone Numbers

Park District Headquarters: (937) 433-5155 Fax: (937) 433-6564 Park District Rainout Line: (937) 433-2524 Second Shift and Weekends: (937) 470-9246

Park Addresses

For a complete list of park addresses, visit our website, www.cwpd.org.

Athletic Field Conditions www.cwpd.org/field_status.shtml

Youth League Contacts

Centerville United Soccer Association (CUSA)

www.CUSASoccer.com Hotline: (937) 864-4440

Centerville Noon Optimist Sof-T-Ball Association

www.centervillenoonoptimist.com Mark Sarver: (937) 221-6720 Email: Cvilletball@aol.com

Centerville Wee Elk Football Association www.weeelks.org

Centerville Baseball League

www.cbltoday.org

Email: cblstaff@woh.rr.com

Online Newsletter

he Park District *News*and *Events* is available in
pdf format on the Park
District's website, www.cwpd.org.
By registering for online notification
you will be able to discover the
newest program offerings for
the upcoming season as soon
as the information is published.
You have the option of providing
your mailing address and your
household will no longer receive a
printed copy in the mail.

You can also follow us on:







Staffing Updates



Chris Fife

Chris Fife joined the Park
District staff in September as the
Outdoor Education Coordinator
after the advancement of Kristen
Marks. Chris is a graduate of Ohio
University and a resident of West
Carrollton where he lives with
his wife, Teresa, and their dogs.
Chris was previously employed
at the Washington Township
Recreation Center. Please join us
in welcoming Chris!

Commissioners Corner



The Park District is actively continuing its efforts to promote recycling within our day to day operations as well as provide recycling opportunities for the community. When visiting many of our parks, you may see that we have placed recycle bins next to trash bins to encourage park users to separate trash as appropriate. It is very clear that this has been well received and we appreciate your support! Also, at some locations the "mutt mitt" bags have been replaced with a receptacle for reusable plastic bags. Not only does this encourage people to reuse plastic bags but also means that new bags are not created using valuable resources. Of course, we encourage you to use cloth reusable bags when shopping but where it is not feasible this is a way to recycle them. Ever have an item you would like to recycle but just don't know where or how? Check out www.earth911.com where you can find suggestions for the item you want to recycle. Also, don't forget local organizations such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and local not-for-profit thrift shops.

Thank for your continued support of our recycling programs.

Yours in Open Space,

Maggie Weisman

Ditch the Bottle for the Tap

It is a common misconception for many people that bottled water is safer than tap, plastic bottles get recycled, and no harm is being done to the environment in the bottling process. Unfortunately, that could not be further from the truth! So in case you either needed more reasons to stop drinking bottled water or a few extra talking points when discussing with your friends, here are eight solid reasons to kick the bottled water habit:

- American tap water is among the safest in the world.
- As much as 40% of the bottled water sold in the U.S. is just filtered tap water anyway. Check the label and look for "from a municipal source" or "community water system" which just means it is tap water.
- By drinking tap water, you can avoid the fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, disinfectants, and other chemicals that studies have found in bottled water.
- Tap water costs about \$0.002 per gallon compared to the \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon charge for bottled water. If the water we use at home costs what even cheap bottled water costs, our monthly water bills would run \$9,000.
- 88% of empty plastic water bottles in the United States are not recycled. The Container Recycling Institute says that plastic water bottles are disposed of (not recycled) at the rate of 30 million a day.
- Production of the plastic (PET or polyethylene) bottles to meet our demand for bottled water takes the equivalent of about 17.6 million barrels of oil (not including transportation costs). That equals the amount of oil required to fuel more than one million vehicles in the U.S. each year.
- The EPA sets much more stringent quality standards for tap water than the FDA does for bottled water.
- One out of six people in the world does not have safe drinking water and about 3,000 children a day die from diseases from contaminated water sources...that we know of. This while Americans spend about \$16 billion a year on bottled water.

Have you kicked the bottled water habit? Use your favorite mug, cup, or glass and refill it from the tap throughout the day. You will save water and resources, and end up with a healthy drink in the process!

New Program Manager

Kristen Marks was promoted to Program Manager in August after Leann Castillo accepted the position of Deputy Director of the National Trail Parks & Recreation District in Springfield. Kristen was first hired at the Park District in 2002 as a Summer Naturalist and then as a full-time Naturalist. She was promoted to Outdoor Education Coordinator in 2008. Kristen has a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Applications from Michigan State University and her outdoor education training included an



internship at Glen Helen Outdoor Education Center in Yellow Springs. "I am excited to further support the Park District's mission, whether it is developing new programs for the community, working across departments to achieve strategic plan goals, or setting a budget for the wise use of community resources," said Marks. Kristen and her husband, Chris, live in Waynesville and love spending time outdoors with their one-year old son, Josh.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Each year hundreds of people give back to the Centerville-Washington Park District by volunteering their time in our parks and at our programs. Our special events, monthly and weekly nature and recreation programs, scout hikes and school programs offer opportunities to get involved and give back through teaching and sharing the outdoors with the community. The Park District also offers opportunities for individuals and groups to do service projects in our various parks. If you or your group is interested in volunteer opportunities with the Park District please call (937) 433-5155.



Playdate Cafe

Ages 18 months -2 years Wednesdays

Session A:

Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1

Session B:

Dec. 14, Jan. 11,

Feb. 8

10:00-10:45 a.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program

The Playdate Café allows caregivers to participate in a general nature themed activity with their little one and free time to socialize with a friend! A 30-minute nature themed program is followed by social time with others while playing with their children. A light snack will be provided. We will have puppets, story books, puzzles, and other fun learning stations available! Each month's nature theme will help build sensory awareness, motor skills, and encourage social interaction.

Preschool Series

Ages 3-PreK with adult companion
Thursdays,
9:30-10:30 a.m.
or 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Registration is required for this FREE hour-long program

Hi-Bear-nating

December 15 Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Bring your favorite teddy bear as we explore through games and a craft on how bears survive the winter.

Winter Mysteries

January 19 Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Listen for the call of birds in the crisp air. Search for signs of active and hibernating animals. Dress for the weather as we hike to discover all the mysteries of the season.

The Age of Dinosaurs February 16 Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Take a step back in time as we explore the age of the dinosaur. T-Rex, stegosaurus, and triceratops come to life through engaging activities as we discover these ancient reptiles.



Handmade Holiday

Ages 3-6 with grandparent(s)
Monday, December 5
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road
Registration is required for this FREE program

Handmade Holiday is an intergenerational program for 3-6 year olds and their grandparents. Grandkids will make holiday crafts to take home and give to parents, teachers, or friends – all with help from grandma or grandpa!



Very Special Valentine

Ages 3-6 with grandparent(s)
Monday, February 13
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road
Registration is required for this FREE program

Very Special Valentine is an intergenerational program for 3-6 year olds and their grandparents. Grandparents will help their grandkids make valentine cards to take home and give to nearby loved ones or mail to their loved ones far away. Participants will play valentines games together and enjoy a Valentine's Day snack.



Kiddie Krafts

Ages 3-5 with adult companion Wednesdays, 1:15-2:00 p.m. or Fridays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

December 7 - February 24

No class December 21-30

Grant Nature Nook,
6588 McEwen Road

Registration is required for this FREE program

Join us to make crafts and listen to stories in this popular preschool program. Children can let their creativity flow making crafts and coloring pictures of things such as animals, ornaments, snowmen, and more. Markers, glue, paint, tissue paper, and no mess to clean up at home! Children are encouraged to wear old clothes. Registration is required for this FREE program.

Mini Movers

Ages 4-5

Tuesdays

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. or 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Registration is required for this FREE program

Session A: December 6 - January 24

No class December 20 or 27

Session B: February 14 - March 20

Let's move! Participants will enjoy activities with an alphabet theme, age-appropriate equipment, and fun music. The "mini movers" will learn movements that assist in motor development and rhythmic skills, and will have an opportunity to interact with other children their own age. Both group and individual activities will be included for them to expand their social skills and be creative. All children must wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Parent participation is not required.

Junior Nature Club

Grades K-2

Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Registration is required for this FREE program

Sensory Safari

December 6 or 7

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Explore the outdoors using all five of your senses. Smell, touch, see, hear, and even taste all that is happening in our winter woods.

Snowy Habitats

January 10 or 11

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Learn how snow can help animals survive the winter. Enjoy the winter weather yourself as we hike through the wintery landscape discovering this unique seasonal habitat.

Animal Homes

February 14 or 15

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Underground, in a tree, or on their own backs, animal homes are as unique and varied as the animals that live in them. Go on a hike to search for animal homes, then make a craft to take home with you.

Nature On The Go Bins

Have you been looking for a resource for your school, homeschool or scout group? Look no further! The Centerville-Washington Park District has several Nature On the Go **Bins** that might suit your needs. Box topics include Mammals, Trees, Geology, Bats, Birds, and Insects. Each bin contains books, games, and natural items to assist in teaching about the topic. These resources have been made available through the generosity of the Centerville-Washington Foundation. Call the Park District headquarters at (937) 433-5155 to reserve your bin.

Homeschool Nature Academy

Ages 5-12

Thursdays

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Registration is required for this FREE program

Mammalian Basics

December 1

"In every

walk with

nature one

receives far

more than he

seeks."

John Muir

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Learn about Ohio's mammals while exploring pelts and skulls. Then hike to search for the signs of these mammals in Grant Park.

Log Hotel

January 12

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Look under leaves and logs for signs of hibernating animals. Logs provide nooks and crannies for many animals to hide and take cover through the long winter months. Discover who's holed up in the log hotel.



February 2

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Learn about the fastest, strongest, and most amazing animals. Then test your abilities through games and challenges against nature's world record holders!

Winter Recreation Program

Ages 6 - 10

Tuesdays, December 13, January 17, February 21 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program

Hey Kids! Remember how much fun you have every summer at Summer Recreation Program (SRP)? Come join us for our Winter

activities as well as your favorite summertime games. Come to WRP dressed for the winter weather. Each day we'll spend time outside playing games after we make a craft and eat



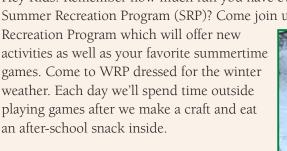


Homeschool Nature Academy II

Ages 13-18 Tuesday, January 31 1:00-3:00 p.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program

Bare Tree ID

Even without all their leaves. trees can be identified by bark, twig, shape, and fruit. After a short indoor introduction, walk through the park learning about forest ecology and tree ID. In addition, students will start their own twig collections for future reference.



Eco-Explorers

Grades 3-5 Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Registration is required for this FREE program

Barking up the Right Tree

December 14

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Do you think just because the leaves are gone you can't learn about trees? Well, take a look at the bark! Bark is a great identifying characteristic of trees! Join us as we play tree ID games and hit the trail to test our tree knowledge!

Fox Tails and Coyote Wails

January 18

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Fox and Coyote are canine cousins to your friendly family dog. Learn similarities and differences between our wild canines and domestic dogs. We will search the park for tracks and other signs these important predators leave behind.

Winter in the Woods

February 22

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Winter wildlife leave many signs behind as they trek through the meadow and forest. Learn about signs, such as tracks and scat, to help identify the animals that are out and about this winter season!

Crafting Club

Ages 9-13
Thursdays
4:00-5:00 p.m.
Holiday Decorations - December 1
Winter Scrapbooking - January 5
Valentine Cards - February 2
Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road
Registration is required for this FREE program

Register for this new craft program for older kids. Each month participants will hand-make keepsakes for themselves or to give away as gifts this winter. We'll provide everything you need with no mess, prep, or fuss at home! Crafters are encouraged to wear old clothes or bring an apron or smock.





A Day at the Beach

Ages 7-9 Monday, February 20 10:00-11:30 a.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program

School's out and brrr... it's cold outside. Come inside for a beach party! Participants will make beach-themed crafts and enjoy summertime games and snacks. Put on your sunscreen, bring your beach towel and flip flops, and dream of warmer days! Registration is required for this FREE program.

Outdoor Adventure Crew

Ages 8-12 Mondays December 5, 12, 19, January 9, 23 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program

Build forts. Make snowmen. Discover tracks. Studies show that children are smarter, more cooperative, happier, and healthier when they have frequent opportunities for free and unstructured play in nature. During this five week, naturalistguided program, your child will have a chance to climb trees, throw snowballs and discover nature at his or her own pace outdoors. This program will be held each Monday rain, snow, or shine. Please come dressed for the weather.



HIKE FOR YOUR HEALTH SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

December 7 – Bill Yeck Park, McGuffey Meadow, 7893 Wilmington Dayton Road

December 14 – Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road

January 4 – Oak Grove Park, 1790 E. Social Row Road

January 11 – Bill Yeck Park, 8798 Rooks Mill Lane

January 18 – Schoolhouse Park, 1875 Nutt Road

January 25 – Iron Horse Park, 6161 Millshire Drive

February 1 – Forest Field Park, 2100 E. Centerville Station Road

February 8 – Bill Yeck Park, McGuffey Meadow, 7893 Wilmington Dayton Road

February 15 – Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road

February 22 – Oak Grove Park, 1790 E. Social Row Road

February 29 – Bill Yeck Park, 8798 Rooks Mill Lane

Hike For Your Health

Adults
Wednesdays
9:30-10:30 a.m.
(See sidebar for locations.)
No hike December 21 or 28
Registration is required for this FREE program

This popular program is designed to get your heart rate up and get you moving during the winter months. Park District staff will lead you on these guided, self-paced hikes. Enjoy the company of others while improving your health!

Adult Softball

The Centerville-Washington Park District offers coed and men's softball leagues every spring. Start talking to your friends now as registration begins in February. Watch for more information in our spring newsletter. For more information or to be placed on our softball mailing list, please call Jen Brandt, Fitness Coordinator, at (937) 433-5155.

Adult Archery Basics

Ages 16 and older Thursdays January 5-February 2 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Oak Grove Park, 111111 Gebhart Road Fee per person: \$30 Residents, \$41 Nonresidents



This 5-week indoor course is designed for individuals with little or no archery experience. Experienced instructors will begin with the basics and progress through a series of skills and techniques to improve your accuracy and ability. All equipment, featuring Mathews Genesis Bows, will be provided. Each week additional aspects of archery will be highlighted including crossbow technique and hunter education. Games and mini-competitions will keep practices new and exciting. You may bring your own bow with permission of the instructor.



Winter Wellness Walks

Adults
Thursdays
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Registration is required for this
FREE program



December 15 Grant Park, 6588 McEwen Road

January 19 Bill Yeck Park, McGuffey Meadow, 7893 Wilmington Dayton Road

February 16 Iron Horse Park, 6161 Millshire Drive

Cramped inside all day? Not a "morning" person? By five o'clock the sun is setting! Take a mid-day break from your routine and enjoy the few hours of daylight this winter by taking a walk in the park. Join us at noon while we take a leisurely paced hike and socialize with each other. The cold fresh air will revitalize you for the rest of the day! Don't forget your warm socks and hiking shoes!

Hound Hike

Adults Fridays December - February 8:30 a.m.

Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road

Enjoy a brisk winter walk with your dog and other enthusiastic dog owners. The group will meet at the kiosk just off of the parking lot.

Winter Woods Day Camp

Ages 3- 12 Saturdays February 4, 11, 18, 25 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road

Fee per person: \$55 Residents/\$85 Nonresidents

Winter is a great season to experience camp! Winter Woods Day Camp includes unique fun that only this season can provide. Campers will go on hikes, participate in games and activities, make crafts, and of course, go sledding each of the four action-packed Saturdays. No snow? No problem! There are many other adventures to experience at Grant Park during the winter.

Children are grouped according to their age and classes will be conducted indoors and outdoors. The program will take place each Saturday in February unless the weather causes roadways to become treacherous. Children are required to wear boots, hats, and gloves each day.

Registration Information: Registration is required for this camp and payment is due at the time of registration. No refund credit will be issued after the registration deadline of **January 27**, **2012**. Complete registration information is available on page 10.

Our Winter Woods Day Camp counselors will be ready for fun each Saturday with all kinds of themed activities!

Classes

Snowshoes Hares, 3-5 year olds

Enjoy sensory activities, winter time stories, a color hike to the chimneys, sledding, making snow angels, and parachute play!

Winter Bears, 5-6 year olds

Time for sledding, making feeders for our winter birds, listening to snowy stories, hiking up the zig-zag trail in search of tracks, and winter relay races!

Snow Otters, 7-8 year olds

Make a plaster cast of a deer track, find signs of wildlife as you hike to the Foundations, have a snowball rolling contest, and race your sled down the Sled Hill!

Fox Scenters, 9-12 year olds

Challenge yourself on a winter scavenger hunt through the park, make optical illusion crafts, sled double or triple down the hill, and play a game of thicket in the forest!





REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration for winter programs begins at 10:00 a.m., November 14 for residents and 10:00 a.m., November 21 for nonresidents.
- Registration is EASY-choose the method most convenient for you:
- A) Register online (email address required) at http://activenet.active.com/cwpd. The first time you visit the site, you will need to set up an account to establish a user name and password. This site can be used for FREE programs or fee-based programs with a debit or credit card. Payee will be shown as Active.com. No convenience fee will be charged!
- B) Phone (937) 433-5155 during scheduled office hours. Please have credit card ready for fee-based programs.
- C) Visit the Park District Headquarters, 221 N. Main Street in Centerville during scheduled office hours if you prefer to pay with cash or check.
- Class space is limited and a minimum enrollment of ten participants is required. Please register early to reserve your spot and help ensure that the class will not be cancelled.
- You may register members of your family and one other family. In order to be eligible for the resident fee, proof of residency for both families must be provided.
- REFUNDS-Credit toward future fees will be issued in lieu of refunds. No refund credit will be issued after the registration deadline or if by doing so it reduces the participation level below the required minimum. A full refund will be issued for programs cancelled by the Park District.
- Make checks payable to CWPD or Centerville-Washington Park District.

Passport To Nature

All ages

Registration is required for these FREE programs

Grant Park History

Sunday, January 22

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road



What are those lone chimneys standing in the park? Who originally owned the land? What is the story behind the long nature buildings or the foundations along the yellow trail? Learn this history and more on a hike through Grant Park.

Near the Full Moon Hike

Friday, February 3

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road



Owls are calling. Coyotes are prowling. The night is still, crisp, and awash with the light of the nearly full moon. Listen and look for these silent stalkers of the night as well as other nocturnal creatures on a special moonlit walk through the park.

Family Nature Night - Night Owls

Ages 5 and up with adult companion

Friday, January 13, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road

Registration is required for this FREE program

Enjoy a winter evening as we hike the meadow to look and listen for owls. Owls are active throughout winter as they find a mate, prepare a nest, and eventually raise young. After our hike we will head inside for a warm fire and enjoy hot chocolate and an owl themed story and craft, while learning more information about Ohio's three most common owl species.

Luminary Hike

All ages

Friday, December 16, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Forest Field Park, 2100 E. Centerville Station Road Registration is requested, walk-ins welcome

Imagine the nocturnal woods aglow with the light from hundreds of luminaries. Celebrate the holiday season with a peaceful illuminated stroll through the conifer grove of Forest Field Park, into the meadows of Bill Yeck Park and up to the historic Smith home. Warm up inside with a cup of hot chocolate as you enjoy music provided by the Hithergreen Strummers and a seasonal craft for the kids.

Pioneer Woman

Silk Ribbon Embroidery

Ladies ages 13 and older Saturday, December 10 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for this FREE program.

Silk-ribbon embroidery is a romantic art form first used by Parisian dressmakers in the 17th century. Using ribbon and embroidery floss, beautiful floral motifs, decorative stitch patterns, butterflies, leaves, and more can be made to accent clothing, accessories, craft projects, or as stand-alone works of art on your wall. Go modern or vintage by changing the color and fabric you are using. Each participant will receive a starter kit containing ribbon, floss, fabric and needles.

Tuesday Trek

Adults 18 & over Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

December 6 & 20 Bill Yeck Park, 8798 Rooks Mill Road

January 10 & 24 Iron Horse Park, 6161 Millshire Drive

February 7 & 21 Grant Park, 501 Normandy Ridge Road

Registration is required for this FREE program



Get outside this season and enjoy an invigorating nature hike with Park District staff. Winter is a time of patient anticipation in the nature parks, as trees store their energy, waiting to burst into spring and our year-round birds, such as woodpeckers, chip and churr in search of hearty food to eat and warm places to roost. We are sure to see signs of wildlife as we look around the forest during this magical season.

Fireside Eco-Chats

Adults

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Grant Nature Nook, 6588 McEwen Road Registration is required for these FREE programs

Join us for this exciting two-month series for adults! Meet at the Nature Nook to discuss various topics dealing with our relationship to the environment.

January 18, *New Year, New You*: Need some inspiration to keep those New Year's resolutions going strong? Have you ever thought about taking a volunteer vacation to give back in a new way? Come

to the Nature Nook to hear Amy Smith, a Centerville resident and Park District program participant, talk about how her new commitment to living a healthy lifestyle has allowed her to have exciting experiences and take on life's challenges with a whole new perspective, including taking a "volunteer vacation" with six other strangers!

February 15, *Rain Gardens for the Homeowner*: Tara Poling, Program Coordinator at the Marianist Environmental Education Center, will examine rain gardens as alternative solutions to storm water control and purification. Rain gardens provide habitat and diversity to the landscape and give homeowners an active role in managing runoff. She will cover siting, design, plant selection, and benefits to the surrounding ecology.



PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID DAYTON, OH PERMIT #638

"Providing quality parks, outdoor education, and recreation while preserving open space."

