

TWENTY THINGS YOU CAN DO



# while social distancing

## 1. Hunt for Wildflowers



Spring is officially here, which means wildflower season! Head out to your favorite park weekly and and you'll see different ones popping up each time! Don't know what you're looking for? Check out <u>this</u> wildflower guide...

## 2. Take a Wetland Walk

Oh Froggy!! Put on your high-water boots and walk the wetlands! Count how many frogs are jumping and bubbling in the water. Black Oak, Bill Yeck, Grant and Donnybrook are great parks for this!



#### 3. Find Fossils



We are fortunate to have such unique geological treasures right along our creeks. See if you can identify 3 or more fossils. Don't know what you're looking for? Check out <u>this</u> fossil guide...

#### 4. Jam with the Woodpeckers

Ohio is home to <u>7 different species</u> of woodpeckers. In spring, you can hear these jammers drumming throughout the forests to proclaim territory and find a mate. As you hike, listen and see if you can count the beats. Tune in <u>here</u> for more woodpecker jams.

#### 5. Become a True Buckeye Fan



Learn to <u>identify</u> the tree that inspired Ohio's favorite football team and yummy dessert by it's unique features: leaf, flower, fruit, bud and bark. Go to your favorite park and search for Buckeye trees. When you get home, treat yourself by making <u>these</u> yummy Buckeye Balls.

#### 7. Play Heads or Tails

Spring showers means worms! When the soil gets saturated worms wiggle out onto our side-walks and driveways. You can also find them under logs and by digging in the dirt. Can you tell their heads from their tails? <u>Here</u> are a few hints to help...

## 6. Hike Through Time

Time travel through the Tri-centennial <u>Time Trail</u> at Bill Yeck Park. Established during the bi-centennial in 1996, the time trail represents 100 years of natural succession. Each year another unmown section is added, creating a trail that shows how a field turns into a forest.



## 8. Look for Mole Mounds

Mole mounds and tunnels are another sign of wildlife that is easy to find when we have had plenty of spring rain. Have you ever been hiking along and sunk in the dirt? You may have walked on a mole tunnel! Go for a hike and see how many mole mounds you can find.

## 9. Find the Fungi



Q: Why did the Fungi leave the party? A: There wasn't mushroom! There are over 2,000 kinds of wild mushrooms in Ohio! See if you find 3 and <u>investigate whether or not</u> they are poisonous or edible. \*For safety, it is best not to consume wild mushrooms.

#### 10. Take the Mustard Challenge

The leaves of garlic mustard have sprouted and it's time to pull! Hit the trails with a bag and pull this pesky plant as you walk. Compete with family or friends to see who can pull the most. <u>Learn more</u> about this invasive species and why we need to stop its spread.



#### 11. Get Your Garden on!



Make your own container garden with herbs or salad greens! You can order seeds online. Check out <u>this kit</u> — it's great for all ages!

# 13. Join in Nature's Song

Music is all around us! Join in with sticks and logs – add some percussion to nature's chorus of birds and frogs! Record your song by taking a video or audio recording on your phone and share with friends and family. Tag us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

# 12. Throw a Robin Roost

Have you noticed all the Robins congregating? That's because they are social birds! Robins are in the thrush family like Eastern Bluebirds and they love to eat bugs, worms and fruit. Throw the Robins a party by making this <u>DIY Bird Garland</u> and hanging it in your yard.



#### 14. Become an Expert Tracker

Animals leave behind many signs, such as tracks, fur, paths, scat (poop) and more. Use <u>this guide</u> to learn how to identify animals by their tracks. Want to collect tracks and keep them forever? You can! Make <u>these</u> molds!



#### 15. Go Pining for Pine Trees



There are 7 different types of common pine trees in Ohio. See how many you can find! To identify trees, measure the needles and count how many needles are bundled together on a twig or branch. Use <u>this guide</u> to help you in your search.

#### 16. Puddle Jump

Grab some towels, put on your rain boots or an old pair of shoes and go puddle jumping. See how high you can make your splash! Document your fun by taking slow motion videos and share them with friends and family. Tag us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

#### 17. Go Fishing



Grab your poles and head out to the ponds at Oak Grove and Rosewood Parks! Upload a photo of your big catch on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. Make sure to release your fish back into the ponds.

# 18. Build a Fort

Use nearby sticks and logs to build a fort in Whammyland or Mushyville. These funny names were coined by nature day camp participants over the years. Whammyland is at the bottom of the paved driveway at <u>Grant Park.</u> Mushyville is located in <u>Bill Yeck Park</u> behind the Smith House off the Purple Trail.

#### 19. Take a History Hike



Try the new Grant Park History Hike! <u>Download a brochure</u>, head to the Normandy Entrance and follow the trail to learn about the park's history!

#### 20. Have Some Wheel Fun!

Enjoy a smooth ride! Grab your bikes, scooters, rollerblades, hoverboards, skateboards- anything with wheels- and explore your parks' <u>paved paths.</u> Need to freshen up on your trail etiquette? We've got you covered! Check out <u>these</u> top tips.



All parks are open for walking, running and biking. Playgrounds, the skatepark, the dog park, outdoor fitness equipment and restrooms (including portable) are CLOSED until Monday, April 6. It is possible this date may be extended. Check <u>www.cwpd.org</u> for the most up to date information and to find a park near you.

Centerville-Washington PARK DISTRICT