



Licking Park District

Newsletter & Program Guide



April
2024

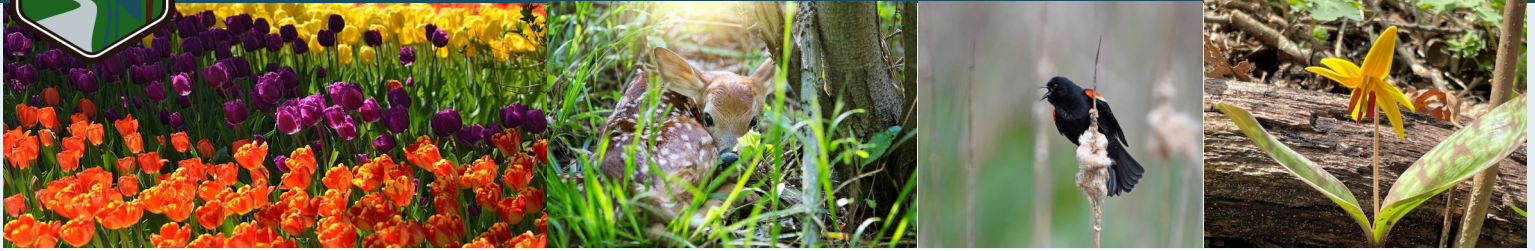


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Kayaks & SUPs Available for Rent Beginning May 1

Infirmity Mound Park visitors will be able to rent a kayak or stand up paddleboard beginning May 1. The Licking Park District has joined forces with Rent.Fun for this new app driven venture. The kayak/SUP station is located between Shelter #6 and Mirror Lake. Users can either paddle on Mirror Lake or transport their unit to their preferred lake or river. Cost of the rental is \$25 for a two-hour minimum rental and \$15/hour for any hour thereafter.

1. Download the App and create an account. (Rent.Fun)
2. Scan the QR Code at the station to unlock your kayak or SUP. Paddles and lifejackets are included.
3. Enjoy your paddle. Wear your lifejacket at all times while on the water.
4. When you are done, return your equipment back to the station. Select "Unlock" in the App to return the equipment.



The Onion Bag Litter Prevention Project

We have all seen it. We go down the river in our kayak or canoe and there it is... litter. Cans, plastic bottles, plastic shopping bags and more hung up on rocks, bushes and trees. Help us to protect our environment by not littering and by picking up litter if you see it in our precious waterway. We have installed green boxes at both Riverview Reserve (375 Ohio Street) and Staddens Landing (11059 Staddens Bridge Rd.). Each container is filled with a number of onion bags which can be used to easily transport small pieces of trash. At the end of your paddle,

please dispose of the trash and return the onion bag to the box. With your help, we can make the Licking River a trash-free recreation destination.



Licking Park District receives Grant for new All-Terrain Wheelchair Program

Licking Park District received word on March 18 that it received a \$2,500 Program Development Grant from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Foundation. Funds received will be used towards the purchase of another GRIT Junior All-Terrain Wheelchair, which cost approximately five thousand dollars.

Persons may start to reserve the All-Terrain Wheelchairs beginning April 15. Reservations are taken on a first come - first served basis and may be made no sooner than 7-days in advance. Rentals must be made at least 24-hours in advance of the use date to allow for staff planning. At the present time, the chairs may only be used at Infirmity Mound Park. Availability is as follows. Weekdays: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Weekend rentals are possible as well. Rentals are not available on holidays. Rentals are free. To make a reservation, please call 740-587-2535.

We are hopeful that the GRIT All-Terrain Wheelchairs will enable those with lower body challenges to better experience nature, hike our trails with family and friends and participate in some of **See page 4 for continuation of the article.**





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Yoga at the Park

When: Wednesdays, Apr 3 & 24 @ 6:00 PM

Where: James Bradley Center - IMP

This yoga class will be accessible to all people, regardless of age or yoga experience. This class is good for beginners and seasoned yoga practitioners alike for an overall body stretch. You will build strength, flexibility, awareness, and confidence. Please bring your own yoga mat or a towel for class. Free. All ages welcome. Please check before class in case of cancellation.



Wild Storytime

When: Thursday, Apr 4 @ 10:00 AM

Where: Shelter 5 - IMP

Join us for a story, snack, and activities! The program lasts about an hour. Dress for the weather as we will take a short walk. For ages 3 - 6. We will meet at the James Bradley Center if there is inclement weather. Free.

Pre-Solar Eclipse 2024

When: Thursday, Apr 4 @ 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Where: Shelter 5 - IMP

Drop by to pick up free eclipse glasses while supplies last. Spend some time at eclipse themed activity stations and then have fun at the Nature Playscape! Please note, in case of bad weather, the location will be moved to the James Bradley Center. We will not be in the path of totality on April 8th, but a number of our parks will provide good viewing areas for those that are looking for open spaces!

Location Key:

- IMP** - Infirmary Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd, Granville
James Bradley Center is first building on left @ IMP
- BP** - Bicentennial Park, 2385 Raccoon Valley Rd, Granville
- JL** - Johnstown Library, 320 N Main St, Johnstown

Bald Eagle Stroll

When: Wednesday, Apr 3 @ 9:30 AM - 11 AM

Saturday, Apr 6 @ 9:30 AM - 11 AM

Thursday, Apr 25 @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Where: BP

Get outside with us as we enjoy a fun and low pressure bird watching stroll on the TJ Evans Trail on the way to the Granville bald eagle nest. We will have our spotting scopes to share. We will hike in together, but participants can head back to the parking area independently. Outdoor clothing, good walking shoes/boots and binoculars recommended. Program is weather dependent.



Empowered Minds: Ornithology

When: Wednesday, Apr 10 & 17 @ 11:00 AM

Wednesday, Apr 24 @ 9:30 AM

Where: JL and IMP, See below

In partnership with The Licking County Library in Newark, the Licking Park District will present a 3-session ornithology (April 10, 17, & 24) class on Ohio birds, including their biology, habits and habitats. The first two sessions are held at the Johnstown Library at 11am. The third session on April 24 takes place at 9:30 AM and is held at Infirmary Mound Park. This in-person program is part of the libraries lifelong learning series, Empowered Minds. The focus of this signature service is healthy aging and enrichment for the retirement-age citizens of Licking County. All adults are welcome and registration is free.

Register at <https://>



**LICKING
COUNTY
LIBRARY**





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Backyard Conservation: Edible Landscapes

When: Thursday, Apr 11 @ 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Where: James Bradley Center - IMP

Fee: \$10. Did you know there are many Ohio native plants that are beneficial and edible for wildlife and people? In this class we will venture out into the park to collect ramps and invasive garlic mustard, and perhaps other early edibles. If you've never had ramps before, they are a cross between a leek, green onion, and garlic. We will return to the James Bradley Center where we will make a pesto and pasta and a couple side dishes to enjoy together. During the meal we will cover other edible native plants, the concept of permaculture, and what you can implement in YOUR yard! Register today, class size is limited! Ages 12+.

Youth Fishing Day

When: Saturday, Apr 13 @ 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: Shelter 6 - IMP

Join the Licking Park District and the Granville Fishing Club for a Special Youth Fishing Day Event at Infirmary Mound Park. This event follows a Rainbow Trout release by the ODNR earlier in the day. We are giving the kids the first go at them. Learn knot tying, rigging, casting, fish identification, proper fish handling & habitat from the Granville Fishing Club. Bring your fishing pole, bait and bucket or cooler filled with ice. Between casts, enjoy a free hot dog lunch and be prepared to have a great time. No experience is necessary. Some poles and bait will be available for use on a first come - first served basis. *We kindly request that adults not fish until after 1:00 PM.

Spring Wildflower Hike

When: Saturday, Apr 13 @ 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Where: MWSNP

Get out on the trail with us at Morris Woods State Nature Preserve as we search for spring wildflowers! This hike will last about an hour. Wear shoes that can handle very muddy conditions! We may also visit a vernal pond and do some birdwatching!



Paint the Parks

When: Thursday, Apr 18 @ 6:00 PM - 8:30PM

Where: James Bradley Center - IMP

Fee: \$20. Join us at the James Bradley Center at Infirmary Mound Park for a Paint the Parks class. The instructor will lead you step by step through the painting while learning actual art techniques. You will be encouraged to make the painting your own! Supplies and snacks provided. BYOB/W. Ages 16+. Minors should be accompanied by an adult. Register by April 14.

Wildflower Fairy Trail Returns!

**May 4th
Infirmary Mound Park**

The Wildflower Fairy Trail opens in May at Infirmary Mound Park. Visit our website for more information and to join the party on May 12th!



Location Key:

IMP - Infirmary Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd, Granville
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MWSNP - Morris Woods State Nature Preserve
7495 Dutch Lane, Johnstown





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All-Terrain Wheelchair article continued...

our guided hikes. The chairs are equipped with push bars so assistance can be provided by a fellow hiker if needed. Simply put, we hope to open up the world beyond the pavement for people with lower body challenges!

If you are interested in making a charitable donation towards this program, please scan the QR code below. Donations are being accepted thru the Licking County Foundation.



New Program Coordinator Hired

Please welcome Emily Fouts to the Licking Park District staff. Emily will be our new Program Coordinator and will be joining forces with Anne Balogh (Program Manager) to provide educational, recreational and nature-based programming across the county. Emily is no stranger to the LPD as she previously worked for us during a two-year stint as a Rural Action AmeriCorp team member. Emily holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science from Bowling Green University. She is also a graduate of Granville High School.



“In our increasingly digital world, it is so important, now more than ever, for people to get out there and connect with others, especially in a park environment where they can experience the beauty of the wildlife that surrounds us while having a great time.” - Emily Fouts, *Program Coord.*

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on Kim Vohs! Kim has contributed her time and talents by volunteering for the LPD since 2016. She spends many hours monthly posting advertisements for our events and programs on multiple community websites. Kim creates beautiful fairy houses for our Wildflower Fairy Trail and regularly volunteers for Pace at the Park and Harvest Moon Festival. Kim is passionate about conservation and assists us with various invasive plant species removals. We are grateful and honored to recognize Kim’s dedicated advocacy and service to the Licking Park District.

Q: What motivated you to become a Licking Park District volunteer?

A: I became involved when they started fundraising for the Dog Park. After that, I was hooked!

Q: What do you like most about volunteering with the Licking Park District?

A: The staff and other volunteers make it fun. I also like making the parks and the events successful. I know it takes a lot of work, and I know the staff can’t do it themselves.

Q: What volunteer activities have been most memorable for you?

A: Well, I’ll never forget pulling bags and bags and bags of garlic mustard; that was hard work. Many events are fun but I guess the Fairy Trail has been the most memorable. I sometimes do Fairy Trail ‘maintenance,’ which includes taking a bucket of water and a rag to the trail and I wipe down the houses and clean them up after it rains. One morning I was there alone. It was cool and a little misty. A woman and child came to the trail. I don’t think they knew I was there. I enjoyed listening to the little girl’s exclamations of awe and wonder at the things she found along the trail. It was the epitome of what the trail is for.”

