



Licking Park District

Newsletter & Program Guide



May
2024



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The Month of May... Did You Know?

- May is likely named after the Roman goddess of Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.
- May 5 is **Cinco de Mayo** ("The Fifth of May). This day celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.
- May 12 is **Mother's Day**. Show your mom, regardless of your or her age, how much she means to you. Planning a hike and then a picnic in one of our parks might be just what she is looking for.
- May 27 is **Memorial Day**. It honors the brave men & women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. This day reminds us of the high cost of freedom.
- May 28 is **Armed Forces Day**. This day is special as it honors all who serve in all branches of the military.

Kayaking/Canoeing Safety Tips

**courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources*

1. Never boat alone.
2. Wear a life jacket at ALL TIMES.
3. Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim, then don't boat on it. Even calm water poses a risk.
4. Prepare yourself and your gear for getting wet. Pack your cell phone in a waterproof bag.
5. File a float plan with a reliable person indicating where you are going and when you will leave and return. Remember to contact the person once you have returned safely.
6. Do not overload your boat or unevenly load your boat. Follow the manufacturer's suggestions for gear and people. Overloading is a leading cause of capsizes of small boats.
7. Always maintain three points of contact (for example, two hands and one foot touching the boat) while moving around in the boat. This includes when you are getting in or out of the boat.
8. Watch for riverbank hazards. Be alert for river characteristics that could cause harm to your boat or persons on board.



A few other reminders...

- Bring water
- Wear sunscreen
- Wear sunglasses
- Take a hat along
- Lock your vehicle and take all valuables with you.

Nothing Kills a Great Day Outside More Than A Sunburn

According to the Skin Care Foundation, anyone over 6 months of age should be applying sun protection every day. That's because you're being exposed to more of the sun's harmful rays than you might think. About 80% of the sun's rays still come through cloud cover right at your skin. Applying sunscreen can not only reduce your risk for a sunburn, it can also reduce your risk to skin cancer and stop premature aging (wrinkles, brown spots and irregular pigmentation).

TJ Evans Trail Closure

The recent severe weather and flooding caused a slip to occur on the TJ Evans Trail. Our staff has closed a section of the trail, located approximately 0.86 of a mile east of the Granville Mill. We have met with contractors and are awaiting their proposals, along with permission from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

In the meantime, please DO NOT walk, jog, bike or rollerblade near the closed area, and please DO NOT move the closure bollards. Those bollards were put in place for everyone's safety.

Thank You Granville Fishing Club

Jim Reding and other members of the Granville Fishing Club were out in force teaching knot typing, rigging, casting, fish identification and more during our April 13th Youth Fishing Day event at Infirmary Mound Park's Mirror Lake. Over 200



participants came out to this FREE event. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources stocked Mirror Lake with hundreds of Rainbow Trout.

There are still many trout to be harvested. Persons 16 years of age and older must have an Ohio Fishing License. Our parks are open dawn to dusk.





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Yoga at the Park

When: Wednesdays, May 1, 22 & 29 @ 6:00 PM

Where: Shelter 3 - 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, May 2 @ 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.

Tai Chi at the Park

When: Tuesdays, May 14, 21 & 28 @ 6:30 PM

Where: Shelter 3, IMP

Drop in for this enjoyable one hour class of simple, easy to learn Tai Chi and Qi Gong practices in the beautiful setting of Infirmiry Mound Park. The exercises in this introductory course are gentle, repetitive, and very easy to follow. Tai Chi and Qi Gong also provide gentle stretching and range of motion to the muscles and joints. Free. All ages welcome.



Wildflower Fairy Trail

The magic will return to Infirmiry Mound Park May 4th! The Wildflower Fairy Trail is OPEN May through September!

To access the trail, park at the Shelter 6 parking area. Visit the sign near the playground and grab a map. Follow the signs and map around Mirror Lake to the start of the Fairy Trail. The start of the Wildflower/Fairy Trail is about 1/4 mile from the parking area at Shelter 6. The actual Fairy Trail is a 1/4 mile loop.

Fairy Directives while visiting:

- 1) Please be kind to all fairy friends!
- 2) Leave No Trace! Please do not leave any glitter, trash, or plastic.
- 3) Please stay on trail!
- 4) Please leave houses as you find them, so the next visitors can experience the magic as well.



Location Key:

IMP - Infirmiry Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd, Granville
James Bradley Center is first building on left @ IMP



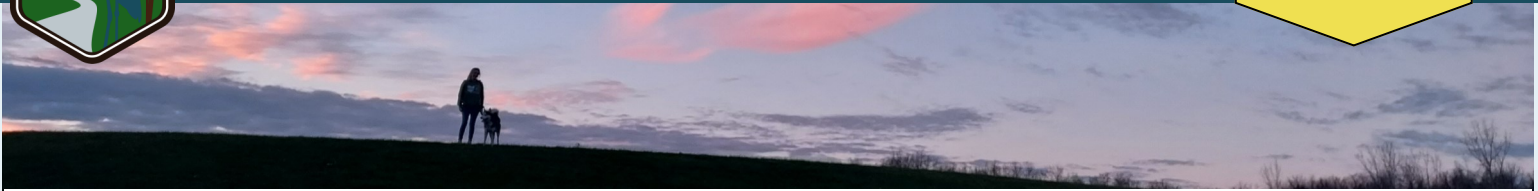


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Fairy Trail Party

When: Sunday, May 12 @ 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Where: Shelter 6- IMP

Come experience a touch of magic on the Wildflower Fairy Trail with Infirmary Mound Parks' fairies and sprites! There will be opportunities to ride a horse drawn carriage, create some fairy crafts, and perhaps meet a unicorn! Register by May 4.

Bald Eagle Stroll

When: Thursday, May 16 @ 9:30 AM

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. Program is weather dependent.

Land of Legend Fly Fishers Casting Clinic

When: Saturday, May 18 @ 9 AM - 10:30 AM

Where: Shelter 6 - IMP

Land of Legend Fly Fishers will be putting on a casting instruction clinic. If you have ever wanted to try fly fishing, or fly casting, please sign up. Instructors are well versed with working with beginning anglers! Meet at Shelter 6. Hope to see you there! Register by May 16.

Wilderness First Aid Training

**When: Saturday, May 18 & Sunday, May 19
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Where: TS

Fee = \$150. This two-day course is being taught by Operation Outdoors, LLC. The class is designed to help non-medical professionals provide assistance in times of crisis. This class is appropriate for youth service organizations as well as adults who participate in outdoor recreational activities or who work in wilderness or remote settings where emergency medical services response is more than one-hour away. The class will be taught both indoors and outdoors. Please dress appropriately. Ages 14+ with adult. To register and learn more visit our website calendar. *Includes American Red Cross certificate.

Upcycled Tiki Torch with LC Recycling

When: Tuesday, May 21 @ 6:00 PM

Where: Shelter 4 - IMP

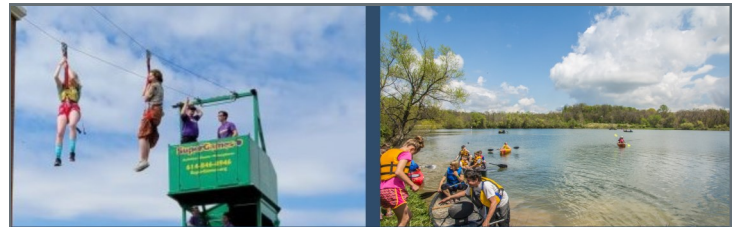
Join Licking County Recycling for a fun, upcycled craft – a table top “tiki” torch made from an old wine bottle! All supplies are included, and FREE, although you will need to get your own torch fluid and fill the bottle once you get home. Participants must be 13 years and older. Register by May 18.

Paint the Parks

When: Thursday, May 23 @ 6 PM - 8:30 PM

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. Supplies and snacks provided. BYOB/W. Ages 16+. Minors should be accompanied by an adult. Register by May 18.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

INFIRMARY MOUND PARK | GRANVILLE

JUNE 1st - NOON to 4PM

Food Trucks, Try It Paddlesports, Zipline, Bounce House, Community Organizations, Crafts, Disc Golf, Petting Farm, Archery, The Bugman, Rock Wall, Fairy Trail, Nature Playscape, and more!



Location Key:

- IMP** - Infirmary Mound Park, 4351 Lancaster Rd, Granville
James Bradley Center is first building on left @ IMP
- TS**- Taft Reserve - South, 10383 Fairview Rd, Heath
- BP** - Bicentennial Park, 2385 Raccoon Valley Rd, Granville





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Arbor/Earth Day Celebration

The 2nd Grade Class from Newark's Carson Elementary School joined us at Infirmary Mound Park for a field day on April 16. As part of their day, the students helped us plant three native trees near the Nature Playscape. The students also rotated through 4 stations throughout the day. They visited the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District at Mirror Lake and observed the animals that live in water and helped determine water quality. Students went on a nature hike on the wildflower trail, learned about bird migration through an interactive game, and spent time on the Nature Playscape for some unstructured, imaginative play. The Licking Park District offers field trips to local schools free of charge during the months of April, May, September, and October.



Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on Craig Washka. Craig has been a Granville resident for over 32 years. When Craig was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2008, he discovered the TJ Evans Bike Trail. Craig became a passionate advocate and volunteer for the LPD trail system. He has his eyes on the trail daily, monitoring conditions and reporting fallen trees and maintenance issues. Craig helps us blow the trail off from post-storm debris and leaf litter in the fall from his power chair with his hand blower to ensure the trail is accessible and safe.



Craig has logged over 17,500 miles on the LPD bike trail system, many of which were with his beloved dog Scout, who sadly recently passed away. We are so grateful and proud to introduce you to our amazing volunteer, Craig Washka!



Q: What motivated you to become a LPD volunteer?

A: Volunteering is a wonderful thing. It gives me a chance to help others. I live on the bike trail and I have put in 16,125 miles on my handcycle in training for "Bike MS", which raises awareness for Multiple Sclerosis. I love the bike trail, and anything I can do to help support it means the world. The bike trail has gone through many interactions and phases over the years. When the Licking Park District took over, it was paved and maintained so everyone could use it. It's a wonderful resource. Before the Licking Park District took over, there were times when the trail was unusable, with cracks and holes, and I would have had to be careful on my handcycle. Now, it's a safe, level, dry trail, and it's beautiful because of the Licking Park District.

Q: What do you like most about volunteering with the LPD?

A: The people. Being with people who care about our resources, all the way up to the staff, allows me to get outside and be on a trail. There's never a day when I'm on the bike trail where I don't hear someone say how much they love the bike trail.

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

A: With MS, I am confined to my power chair. I need to stay strong, so I head to the garage, grab my hand blower, and go to the bike trail to monitor conditions and blow off debris. This helps keep me strong & moving. I also love volunteering with Kiwanis Granville. I am the Kiwanis Membership Chair, and have been building the membership and bringing more people to the bike trail. It's a joy to go out there with a group of people dedicated to the bike trail. I also see the impact volunteers have as Trail Monitors. For example, when I see a tree across the trail and call in my Trail Monitor report, by the time I get back, it's already cleared. After the most recent storm, the LPD was out the next day, cleaning up the trail so people could use it. It's really important to make sure the trail is accessible for all.

Q: Do you have a favorite LPD park or trail?

A: The entire bike trail system and connectors enable me to get to many places, and that means a lot to me, even to my son's soccer and baseball games. I also really enjoy the "Music at the Gazebo" events at the LC Children's Home Memorial Park in Newark. The Licking Park District has diverse resources and is good for our community.

Q: Do you have any advice for anyone considering volunteering with the Licking Park District?

A: Don't think about it, do it!

Park Smart

With the increase in car break-ins in central Ohio, please do yourself a favor... lock your vehicle and take all of your valuables with you. Don't be an easy target for thieves. It only takes a few seconds for a "smash and grab".

