

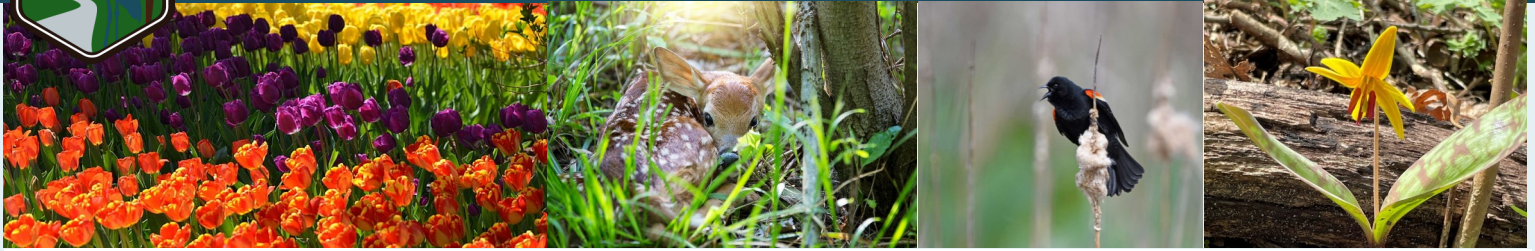


# Licking Park District

Newsletter & Program Guide



July  
2024



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## NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

July is National Parks & Recreation Month, but in Licking County we celebrate and appreciate our Licking Park District team year round. Special thanks to our eight full-time staff and over 150+ volunteers for providing outstanding service, creative & educational programs, family-fun special events and well-maintained parks and trails. Over 17,000 persons participated in our programs and special events in 2023.

During Parks & Recreation Month, I encourage all Licking County residents to reflect on the many values that parks & recreation professionals and volunteers bring to our fine community. We all live very busy lives, but please take time to enjoy the outdoors at one of our parks or your local park system.

Thank you for your continued support of your Licking Park District,  
Jim Kiracofe, *Chair*  
Licking Park District Board of Park Commissioners

## THANK YOU GOODWILL

The Licking Park District is fortunate to be a beneficiary of the Goodwill Summer Youth Work Experience Program. This is our third year having Goodwill youth workers assisting in our parks. The purpose of the Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries Summer Youth Work Experience is to give the participants the opportunity to gain actual work experience and experience interacting with co-workers. The participants work closely with LPD employees and their Goodwill job coach. There are two sessions during the summer, with each session lasting 4 weeks. There are up to four young adults with one coach in each of the two sessions, working four hours per day, Monday through Friday. The youth workers assist with park maintenance, program preparation, and cleaning. They have watered trees, hauled trash, washed park vehicles, cleared invasive plants, painted restrooms, helped maintain our Fairy Trail, weeded playgrounds, cleaned our workshop, assembled shelving, and so many other tasks. Their assistance allows staff to allocate more time to other ongoing projects. The current youth crew will be with us through July 5. It is very rewarding to work with and help mentor these young adults.



## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Since 2022, unless prohibited by local laws, Ohioans have been able to legally discharge 1.4G consumer grade fireworks in Ohio on certain days throughout the year when the use follows the Ohio Fire Code's discharge rules. If you plan to discharge fireworks, please follow the below safety tips brought to you by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Keep a bucket of water or garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time and then move back quickly.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never use fireworks when impaired by alcohol or drugs. For more safety tips, visit [www.cpsc.gov/fireworks](http://www.cpsc.gov/fireworks)

## FIREWORKS AND ANIMALS

Fireworks can be stressful for pets and wildlife. Even indoor-only pets can become so frightened during fireworks displays that they may take desperate measures to escape the noise. It is a good idea to secure pets indoors and make sure they have identification (microchip/collar & tags).

Likewise, wildlife view the light and noise as a threat. The shock of fireworks can cause wildlife to flee, abandon young, get disoriented and end up in strange places. As you celebrate, keep wildlife in mind and use caution, stay away from wildlife habitat, avoid dry areas, and make sure you pick up any resulting debris, as litter from firecrackers, bottle rockets, and other explosives can be choking hazards for wildlife and pets and may be toxic if ingested.





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## Tai Chi at the Park

**When: Tuesdays @ 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. Free. All ages.

## Yoga at the Park

**When: Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM**

**Where: Shelter 3 - IMP**

This yoga class is 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. Please bring your own yoga mat or a towel for class. Free. All ages.

## Wild Storytime

**When: Thursday, July 11 @ 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.

## Backyard Conservation and Hike: Fireflies

**When: Friday, July 12 @ 8:30 PM**

**Where: Shelter 4 - IMP**

Meet at Shelter 4 for a fun presentation on all things fireflies and how you can help these declining insects at home, as well as a fun firefly craft. Then explore the night on a hike through Infirmiry Mound Park while we search for these wondrous beetles! The hike will end at a campfire at the Arena Area. Free.

### Location Key:

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

**LCCHMP** - L.C. Children's Home Memorial Park  
745 East Main St, Newark, OH

**TS** - Taft South, 10383 Fairview Rd, Heath, OH

## July Featured Programs and Events!

### Pace at the Park

**When: Saturday, July 13**

**Where: IMP - Arena**

A hunter pace is a competitive equestrian trail ride designed to closely match the excitement of a fox hunt. Registration runs from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Visit our website for information.



### Foraging Hike and Dinner

**When: Wednesday, July 24 @ 5:30 PM**

**Where: IMP - James Bradley Center**

Fee: \$20. In this program with James Mann of Spicebush Woodcraft, you will take a 2 hour foraging hike where you will identify plants and mushrooms and talk about ecology and what our human role on the landscape looks like in the modern world. After class, we will sit down together and have a wild food based, chef inspired meal, including a special drink. Register by July 15.

### Intro to Falconry

**When: Sunday, July 28 @ 10 AM - 12 PM**

**Where: TS**

Fee: \$125. Minimum age: 9. Learn about this most ancient of sports, as you handle and fly one of the Ohio School of Falconry's trained hawks to your glove! Learn about the history of falconry, the important role that raptors play in the ecosystem, and the Five Skills of the Falconer. Register by July 23.



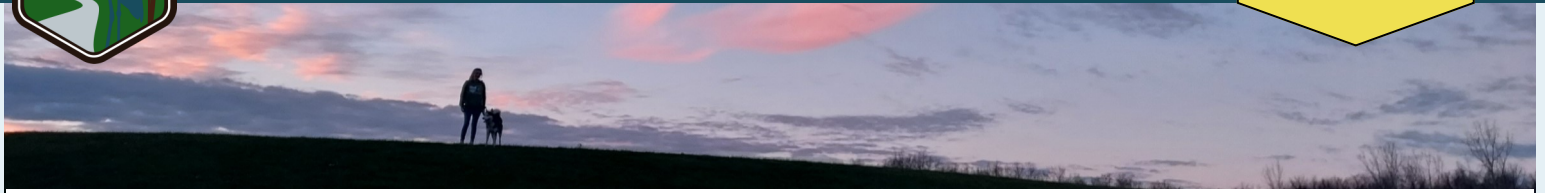


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## Home Food Preservation: Fresh Jam

**When: Saturday, July 13 @ 10 AM - 12 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Fee: \$10. Enjoy this morning workshop as we hike into the woods and pick native berries and then return to the classroom to make fresh jam. You will learn basic preparation tips and safe processing methods to preserve jams at home. Each participant will leave with a fresh jar of jam to enjoy! Register by July 9.

## Rain Barrel Workshop with LSWCD

**When: Saturday, July 13 @ 2 PM - 4 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Fee: \$50. Join Licking Soil & Water and the Licking Park District for a Rain Barrel Workshop! You'll learn how to build a rain barrel, get hands-on instruction, and walk away with a fully plumbed rain barrel. The regular price for this type of rain barrel is \$65, but the workshop cost is only \$50. Register by July 10.

## Wellness Walk with OSU Extension

**When: Tuesday, July 16 @ 10 AM - 11 AM**

**Where: IMP - Shelter 6**

Join Shari Gallup, Certified Health and Wellness coach and Ohio State University Extension Educator for peaceful wellness walks in nature during the summer months. Register by July 15. Free.

## Music @ the Gazebo

**When: Thursday, July 18 @ 6 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Where: LCCHMP**

Free, live outdoor music! BIG BAD STACHE will be playing, and Tic Tac Taco will be on hand with delicious food. Bring chairs and blankets and enjoy an evening of entertainment with friends and family!

## Paint the Parks

**When: Thursday, July 18 @ 6 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Fee: \$20. Join us at the James Bradley Center at Infirmity Mound Park for a Paint the Parks class. Supplies and snacks provided. BYOB/W. Ages 16+. Minors should be accompanied by an adult. Register by July 10.

## Nature Explorers - Ages 7 - 9

**When: Tuesday, July 2, 16, & 30 @ 10 AM - 12 PM**

**Where: IMP - Shelter 5**

Free. Activities will include STEM activities, habitat exploration, art projects, games, and more. This is a drop off program. Register today!

## Nature Adventurers - Ages 10 - 12

**When: Tuesday, July 9 & 23 @ 10 AM - 12 PM**

**Where: IMP - Shelter 5**

Free. Activities will include STEM activities, habitat exploration, art projects, games, and more. This is a drop off program. Register today!

## Try IT: Kayak, Canoe, and SUP

**When: Saturday, July 20 @ 10AM - 12:30PM**

**Where: IMP - Shelter 6**

Stop by Mirror Lake and test out the water with our canoes, SUP's, and kayaks. Wear close toed shoes that can get wet! Waiver must be completed onsite; all youth must be accompanied by a consenting adult. Must be 12 to be on the water solo. Free.

## Art in the Parks: Nature Journaling

**When: Saturday, July 20 @ 2PM - 4PM**

**Where: IMP - Shelter 4**

Fee: \$10. Nature journaling incorporates art, writing, and scientific observations in a fun and relaxing way. In this program we will explore the park, do some sketching exercises, and start a journal. Supplies included for you to keep. Register by July 15th!

## All Things Prairie with USFWS

**When: Thursday, July 25 @ 6 PM - 8 PM**

**Where: James Bradley Center - IMP**

Have you considered converting a portion of your property to a mini meadow or a larger prairie plot? This program will start with a presentation with a focus on small backyard prairies. The second part will feature the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who will share different strategies for establishing larger prairie plots, followed with an outdoor tour. Register by July 20th. Free.



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## JULY... DID YOU KNOW?

- The month of July is named after the Roman general Julius Caesar who was born in July. The Roman Senate named July in 44 B.C. in his honor.
- July 3 marks the start of the “Dog Days of Summer”.
- July 4 is Independence Day, which celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Independence Day has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.
- The birthstone of July is ruby. It is said to bring good fortune and protect the wearer of evil.
- Persons born in the month of July have two birth flowers, the larkspur and the water lily.
- July marks the start of the second half of the year. It’s a great time to starting working on any of your New Year’s resolutions that you have been putting off.
- July is traditionally the warmest month of the year in the northern hemisphere.
- On July 6, 1885, the rabies vaccine was first successfully given to a patient by Louis Pasteur.
- The first crewed mission to the Moon (Apollo 11 Mission) launched on July 16, 1969. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong made history by taking the first step on the Moon. He declared, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!”

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines brightly on Matthew Montgomery. To say that Matthew is one of our most dedicated volunteers would be an understatement. Matthew’s incredible passion and advocacy for Infirmity Mound Park are immeasurable.

Matthew officially joined the LPD Volunteer Crew in 2021. He started an IMP Trail Adopter Group called “Walk and Talk.” Every week, Matthew walks our trails, monitors conditions, and reports anything that needs our attention. Matthew’s volunteer Trail Monitor service is why our trails are rarely blocked by fallen trees at Infirmity Mound Park. During the recent spring flooding rains, he saved the day for a trail minutes away from being completely washed out by a clogged culvert. Matthew volunteers on our trail daily, rain or shine, and shares his incredible skill set by helping with various maintenance projects.

Matthew has introduced many new people to Infirmity Mound Park through advocacy and community outreach efforts. We are grateful and proud to have Matthew sharing his time and talents with the Licking Park District.

### Why do you volunteer for the Licking Park District?

*“That’s a big question. The easiest answer is that I love it. Being a Trail Monitor is so rewarding. The parks and trails are treasures.”*

### What volunteer activities have been most memorable for you?

*“Being on the trails as a Trail Monitor, the fellowship of all the people at the park.”*

### Do you have a favorite LPD park or trail?

*“Infirmity Mound Park and all of the trails in Infirmity Mound Park. They are all quality, especially the trails Karen has worked on (Karen Jennings, LPD Trail & Volunteer Program Manager).”*

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

*“If your schedule will allow, do it. It’s the most fruitful activity you can engage in. It’s a lot better than sitting on the couch. The returns are huge. Mental health and physical health will surely improve. Just do it.”*

### What is your favorite movie?

*“Star Wars”*

### What’s one thing people don’t know about you that they would be surprised to discover?

*“I am diabetic, as Texas is big. I have three feet of wiring in my spine, complete with a circuit board and battery pack. Six Cleveland Clinic doctors told me that I would never see forty years old. I started walking. Walking at the park has successfully pushed back diabetes. I am now fifty years old and hike on average sixty miles a week at Infirmity Mound Park. I truly believe it is the reason for my good health.”*



*“Because he is on our trails almost daily, I can always count on him to report concerns & issues on the trail promptly! Matthew assists many people that he encounters in the park by answering questions, giving them trail directions, and always being helpful and welcoming to our park visitors.”*

- Tami McAdams,  
Operations Administrator

