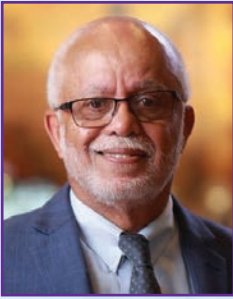


SCAN QR CODE for info on park permits and Wayne County Parks nature programs!

Wayne County parks EXPLORE EVEN MORE

2026

WWW.WAYNECOUNTYMI.GOV/PARKS



Residents and Visitors,

Thank you for choosing to explore and enjoy Wayne County Parks.

For those seeking family-friendly activities, peaceful nature escapes, or thrilling outdoor adventures, Wayne County has something for everyone. I hope this guide gives you the information you need to enjoy our facilities and experience the many ways to connect with the outdoors.

Wayne County Parks welcomed more than nine million visitors last year while delivering new amenities, expanded programming, and systemwide improvements. Warrendale Park is now home to the County's first official pickleball courts, and we have added new kayak/fishing docks as well as a Parkland Park Playscape and Shelter. Additionally, there have been major capital and environmental enhancements across multiple parks, and expanded programming supported by new partnerships. Collectively these updates improve accessibility and community engagement that will benefit future visitors.

From the fun of the Marshmallow Drop at Hines Park to the lively Jazz on the River in Trenton and the cherished Wayne County Lightfest in Westland, our events create opportunities for connection and family memories that bring Wayne County communities together.

Sincerely,

Warren C. Evans

2026 WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1

Timothy Killeen

District 2

Jonathan C. Kinloch

District 3

Martha G. Scott

District 4

Cara Clemente

District 5

Angelique Peterson-Mayberry

District 6

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District 11

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District 13

Sam Baydoun

District 14

Alex Garza

District 15

Joseph Palamara

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Wayne County Parks is a division of the Wayne County Department of Public Services with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for families and citizens of the 43 communities of Wayne County. We maintain 5,600 acres of parkland and operate 40 locations, which include 37 parks, a golf course, a marina and the Wayne County Family Aquatic Center. Wayne County

Parks holds hundreds of educational and recreational events all year long including field trips, nature walks, and hosts classic annual events such as the Marshmallow Drops at Nankin Mills and Elizabeth Park, Jazz on the River and Wayne County Lightfest. Wayne County is committed to offering the best park experiences for families to enjoy. For more information about Wayne County Parks, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecountymi.gov/parks.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED

- ✓ Parkland Park Play Structure and Shelter Replacement
- ✓ Inkster Valley Golf Course Bunker Improvements
- ✓ Elizabeth Park Restroom Renovations
- ✓ Wilcox Lake Habitat Improvements, Fishing Dock, and Boat Launch
- ✓ Newburgh Lake Fishing Dock and Boat Launch
- ✓ Pickleball Courts at Warrendale Park
- ✓ Pedestrian Bridge across from Nankin Mills
- ✓ Venoy Dorsey Park Canoe/Kayak Launches and Trailhead
- ✓ Levan Knoll Habitat Improvements, Parking Lot, and new Athletic Field





CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS **COMING SOON**

- Holliday Nature Preserve Improvements
- Nankin Mills Museum Renovations and Campus Improvements
- Venoy Dorsey Park Outdoor Gym
- Venoy Dorsey Park Greenway and Trailhead
- Levan Knoll Comfort Station Renovations
- Perrin Park Basketball Court Renovations
- Heritage Trail Signage





PARK LOCATIONS

PARK HOURS ARE DAWN TO DUSK

BELL CREEK PARK

27200 Five Mile Road, Redford

Location: Inkster Road and Five Mile Road

CASS BENTON PARK AND DISC GOLF COURSE

18005 Northville Road, Northville

Location: Edward Hines Drive between Six Mile Road and Seven Mile Road

CROSSWINDS MARSH WETLAND INTERPRETIVE PRESERVE

27600 Haggerty Rd, New Boston (734) 261-9124

Location: Corner of Haggerty Road and Will Carlton Road

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

5437 West Jefferson Avenue, Trenton

Location: West Jefferson Avenue, south of Van Horn Road

ELIZABETH PARK

4651 Elizabeth Drive, Trenton

Location: East of I-75, south of West Road, off of Jefferson Avenue

HAGGERTY PARK

41181 Edward Hines Drive, Plymouth

Location: Corner of Edward Hines Drive and Haggerty Road



HAWTHORNE RIDGE PARK

31844 Edward Hines Drive, Westland

Location: Edward Hines Drive, west of Merriman Road

HINES PARK – DEARBORN TO NORTHVILLE

Location: Hines Park runs for 17 miles through six communities with beautiful parks, shelters, ball diamonds, soccer fields and more!

INKSTER VALLEY GOLF COURSE

2150 Middlebelt Road, Inkster (734) 722-8020

Location: Middlebelt Road between Cherry Hill Road and Michigan Avenue

NANKIN MILLS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland (734) 261-1990

Location: Ann Arbor Trail, east of Farmington Road

NANKIN MILLS PARK

33275 Edward Hines Drive, Westland

Location: Edward Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail

WATERFORD BEND PARK

17387 Northville Road, Northville

Location: Corner of Six Mile Road and Northville Road

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

12600 Chandler Park Drive, Detroit (313) 822-POOL (7665)

Location: Chandler Park Drive, east of Connor Road

www.waynecountyaquatic.com

Visit our website at www.waynecountymi.gov/parks or call the Wayne County Parks office at (734) 261-1990 for more information.



FACILITIES

CHATEAU ON THE RIVER

Located along the Detroit River within the grounds of Elizabeth Park in Trenton, the Chateau is a beautiful facility that hosts events such as weddings, showers, graduation, birthday, and retirement parties. It features granite bathrooms, a river view terrace, and cocktail/reception space adjacent to the Main Hall. The Main Hall has a capacity for 190 guests and features a state-of-the-art AV system including twin projectors and sound system. For more information about holding an event in this beautiful building, please call JGK Hospitality at **(248) 303-5143** or visit www.koschcatering.com.

CHILDREN'S PONY RANCH

Open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, the Children's Pony Ranch offers pony rides at Elizabeth Park from Noon – 7:00 PM Tuesday through Sunday. After Labor Day, they are open Saturdays and Sundays through October. You can also visit and feed the animals at the petting farm after taking a ride. For more information, call **(734) 301-7100**.

DISC GOLF COURSE

The Cass Benton Disc Golf Course is located on Hines Drive between Six Mile and Seven Mile Roads in Northville. You must provide your own equipment to play on this 18-hole course and it is free to play year-round.

ELIZABETH PARK MARINA

The Elizabeth Park Marina, located in Trenton, provides a full range of seasonal offshore fishing along the Detroit River. Elizabeth Park Marina and Boat Launch provides four launching and loading wells and a 52-boat mooring facility with utility hook-up, pump station and shower facility. For more information about the Elizabeth Park Marina, please call **(734) 341-8706** or visit www.trentonmi.org/533/Parks-Recreation.

FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL

Built in 2013, the First Responders Memorial in Plymouth Township contains the names of the police, fire and EMS personnel from Wayne County communities who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial includes monuments, seat walls, concrete walkways, a paver plaza, site furnishings, and special lighting.

HAWTHORNE RIDGE BIKE PARK

Located in Westland, the Hawthorne Ridge Bike Park includes a paved pump track and adjoining bicycle skills Park. The Bike Park is located on Hines Drive, just west of Merriman Road.

INKSTER VALLEY GOLF COURSE

Opened in May of 1998 in Inkster, the Harry Bowers design is an 18-hole, par –72 Championship Course, with water coming into play at 14 of its holes. The facility features a grille with a pro-shop and professional golf instruction. For golf outings and special events at Inkster Valley, contact the Pro Shop at (734) 722-8020 or visit www.inkstervalleygolf.com.



MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

Did you know that Hines Park has 14 miles of mountain biking trails for use year-round? Wayne County Parks partners with the Motor City Mountain Biking Association to develop trails including Lakeview Trail, Riverview Trail, Levan Knoll Trail, Oak Grove Trail, Three Fires Trail, and Trail 47. For more information on exact trail locations, call (734) 261-1990.



NANKIN MILLS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

This historic gristmill in Westland houses three floors of interpretive displays highlighting Native American history, water-powered settlements and Underground Railroad history along the Rouge River, Henry Ford's project to convert mills in Southeast Michigan, and live animals. Programs are offered for schools, scouts and families throughout the year. Nankin Mills will be undergoing exciting renovations in 2026 so call (734) 261-1990 for open hours.



WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Children can cool down under our spray fountains and wade in their own water playland. Teens and adults can “tube ride” or “body slide” down our two super-sized water slides. The entire family will enjoy wading in our exciting wave pool. The Wayne County Family Aquatic Center, which is in Detroit, is open Wednesday – Sunday from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM during the summer, with the pool closing at 6:30 PM. For more information, please call (313) 822-POOL (7665) or visit www.waynecountyaquatic.com.



WAYNE COUNTY PARKS DOG PARK

Located at Hawthorne Ridge Park in Westland, the dog park has a small and large dog park area with agility equipment for the dogs and two small shelters. The dog park is open June through April (closed the month of May for reseeding) from dawn until dusk. All dogs must be registered by providing a copy of dog license, rabies, and distemper vaccinations at the Nankin Mills building in Westland. The cost is \$20.00 for Wayne County residents and \$25.00 for non-residents.





2026 SPECIAL EVENTS



MARSHMALLOW DROP

Friday, April 3

9:00 AM at Elizabeth Park, Trenton

11:00 AM at Nankin Mills Park, Westland

A blizzard of marshmallows will fill the sky as they tumble from the Easter Bunny's helicopter. Each child only needs one marshmallow to get a prize at this holiday classic!

SENSORY MARSHMALLOW DROP

Friday, April 3

*9:00 AM at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center,
Westland*

Pre-registration is required.

The Sensory Marshmallow Drop offers a quieter version of the Marshmallow Drop with less participants, softer music and the marshmallows being dropped from a City of Westland fire truck.

SATURDAY IN THE PARK

May 2 – September 26

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Six miles of Hines Drive (from Outer Drive to Ann Arbor Trail) will be closed to traffic every Saturday for the public of all ages to run, walk, skate, or cycle safely. Parking is available at the Helms Haven and Nankin Mills areas.

ECO FAIR

Saturday, May 2

*1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Nankin Mills Park,
Westland*

Learn about conservation from Wayne County Parks staff as well as some partner organizations. Live animals, crafts, games, and inflatables will help to deliver the fun as well as lessons you can take home!

NATURE FEST

Saturday, May 16

*1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Crosswinds Marsh,
New Boston*

This free event will feature live animals, nature activities, fishing, and more. Bait and a limited number of fishing poles are provided.

FISHING DERBY

Saturday, June 13

*8:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Waterford Bend
Park, Northville*

All kids ages 12 and younger are welcome to have some fishing fun with a casting contest and free fishing! All anglers need to bring their own equipment and bait.





FISHING FUN DAY

Saturday, June 13

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Trenton

Join us for this collaborative event with the Wildlife Refuge. Bait and fishing poles available for use. Fishing from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and kayaking from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Contact the Refuge at (734) 365-0219 or www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit-river for more information.

SENIOR FUNFEST

Saturday, June 13

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Nankin Mills Park, Westland

Join Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans for an afternoon of food, bingo, entertainment, and demonstrations for seniors 60 and older. Free tickets are available by calling Senior Services at (734) 326-5282 or (313) 224-5924.

TRUCKS & TUNES **NEW!**

Wednesday, June 24

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Elizabeth Park, Trenton

Come out to Elizabeth Park to enjoy the music of a live band and purchase your dinner from one of our various food trucks!

PARTY IN THE PARK

Wednesday, July 15

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Nankin Mills Park, Westland

Bring the kids to get outside and have fun with a variety of outdoor activities, including inflatables, a foam party, putt-putt golf, hikes, and music.



SENIOR FUN FEST DOWNRIVER

Saturday, July 18

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Elizabeth Park, Trenton
Seniors 60 years and older, join Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans for an afternoon of food, bingo, entertainment, and demonstrations at this new downriver event. Free tickets are available by calling Senior Services at (734) 326-5282 or (313) 224-5924.

BUGTOPIA

Saturday, July 25

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, Westland

A celebration of our tiny but important six-legged friends. Inflatables, live insects, catching insects, crafts and more at this free event!

JAZZ ON THE RIVER

Saturday and Sunday, August 1-2

1:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Elizabeth Park, Trenton
Bring your blankets and chairs and get ready to tap your feet to the beat of cool jazz for this annual summer tradition.

SENSORY SWIM

Saturday, August 8

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Wayne County Family Aquatic Center, Detroit

The Sensory Swim allows individuals with special needs the chance to enjoy early access to the waterpark in a less crowded environment. Pre-registration is not needed but the daily per person park admission is required.





SOMEWHERE IN TIME

Sunday, September 20

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Elizabeth Park, Trenton

Antique auto displays, musical entertainment, craft show and a children's games and entertainment area are among the activities as Elizabeth Park is turned back to the 1920's.

HEROES ON HINES 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, September 26

9:00 AM at Haggerty Park, Plymouth

Help us honor first responders with the Heroes on Hines 5k timed event with a traffic-free run along Hines Drive! For registration information, please visit www.waynecountymi.gov/parks.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 10

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Nankin Mills Park, Westland.

Games, entertainment, hayrides, candy and fun await the children at this free special event. Costumes are encouraged!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 17

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at Crosswinds Marsh

This free event includes a hayride, bonfire with kid-friendly entertainment, and harvest-themed games and crafts.

BIKE THROUGH THE LIGHTS

Tuesday, November 17

7:00 PM at Merriman Hollow Park, Westland

Wayne County Parks is offering bike riders a chance to bike through the lights before it opens to the public. Visit www.waynecountymi.gov/parks for registration information.

LIGHTFEST 8K FUN RUN/WALK

Wednesday, November 18

7:00 PM at Merriman Hollow Park, Westland

Enjoy a breathtaking run/walk through Midwest's longest drive through holiday light display. Visit www.waynecountymi.gov/parks for registration information.





LIGHTFEST GRAND OPENING

Thursday, November 19

6:00 PM at Merriman Hollow Park, Westland
Help us kick off the Wayne County Lightfest by attending a sneak preview with music, refreshments, and fireworks display.

WAYNE COUNTY LIGHTFEST

November 19 – December 24

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM Wednesday – Sunday
Visit the Midwest's longest drive-through holiday light display for five miles of colorful lights. The entrance is on Merriman Road between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Avenue.



SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENTS

Wayne County Parks is excited to offer sensory programs for individuals with cognitive disabilities or sensory sensitivity.

Pre-registration is required for these programs by calling (734) 261-1990. The fee is \$5.00 per person unless otherwise noted.

SENSORY MARSHMALLOW DROP at Nankin Mills Interp. Center

Friday, April 3 at 9:00 AM

(Free event but pre-registration is required).

SENSORY REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN ENCOUNTER at Nankin Mills Interp. Center

Friday, April 17 from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Up-close live animals, learn about Michigan frogs, turtles, snakes, salamanders, and their habitat adaptations.

SENSORY CREATING WITH NATURE at Crosswinds Marsh

Tuesday, June 9 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Let your creative juices flow with activities inspired by nature!

SENSORY SCAVENGER HUNT at Crosswinds Marsh

Tuesday, July 14 from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Search for objects in nature that satisfy the senses.

SENSORY SWIM at the Wayne County Family Aquatic Center

Saturday, August 8 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The sensory swims will allow individuals with special needs the chance to enjoy early access to the waterpark in a less crowded environment.

Pre-registration is not required but daily park admission is required per person.

SENSORY MEET THE MARSH at Crosswinds Marsh

Tuesday, August 11 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Skulls, skins and skeletons of marsh inhabitants. Meet a few live reptiles up close.

Wayne County Parks is also happy to offer a sensory tent at the free events below:

ECO FAIR at Nankin Mills Park

NATURE FEST at Crosswinds Marsh

FISHING DERBY at Waterford Bend Park

PARTY IN THE PARK at Nankin Mills Park

BUGTOPIA at Nankin Mills Interp. Center

SOMEWHERE IN TIME at Elizabeth Park

HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL at Nankin Mills Park

HARVEST FESTIVAL at Crosswinds Marsh



PARK SHELTER AND ATHLETIC FIELD RENTALS

Looking for a unique place to have your special gathering? There are 22 park shelters available for rental from May through September.

In addition, baseball diamonds, volleyball courts and soccer fields are available for rental by individuals or leagues.

For more information about pricing and reservations, please call **(734) 261-1990** or visit www.waynecountymi.gov/parks.



EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Wayne County Parks is looking for sponsors for many of our major special events, including Marshmallow Drop, Jazz on the River, Heroes on Hines, and the Wayne County Lightfest.

All sponsorship donations go directly to assist Wayne County Parks events and projects.

If your company is looking to partner for one of our dynamic special events, please call **(734) 261-1990** to receive a sponsorship package.



VOLUNTEERS

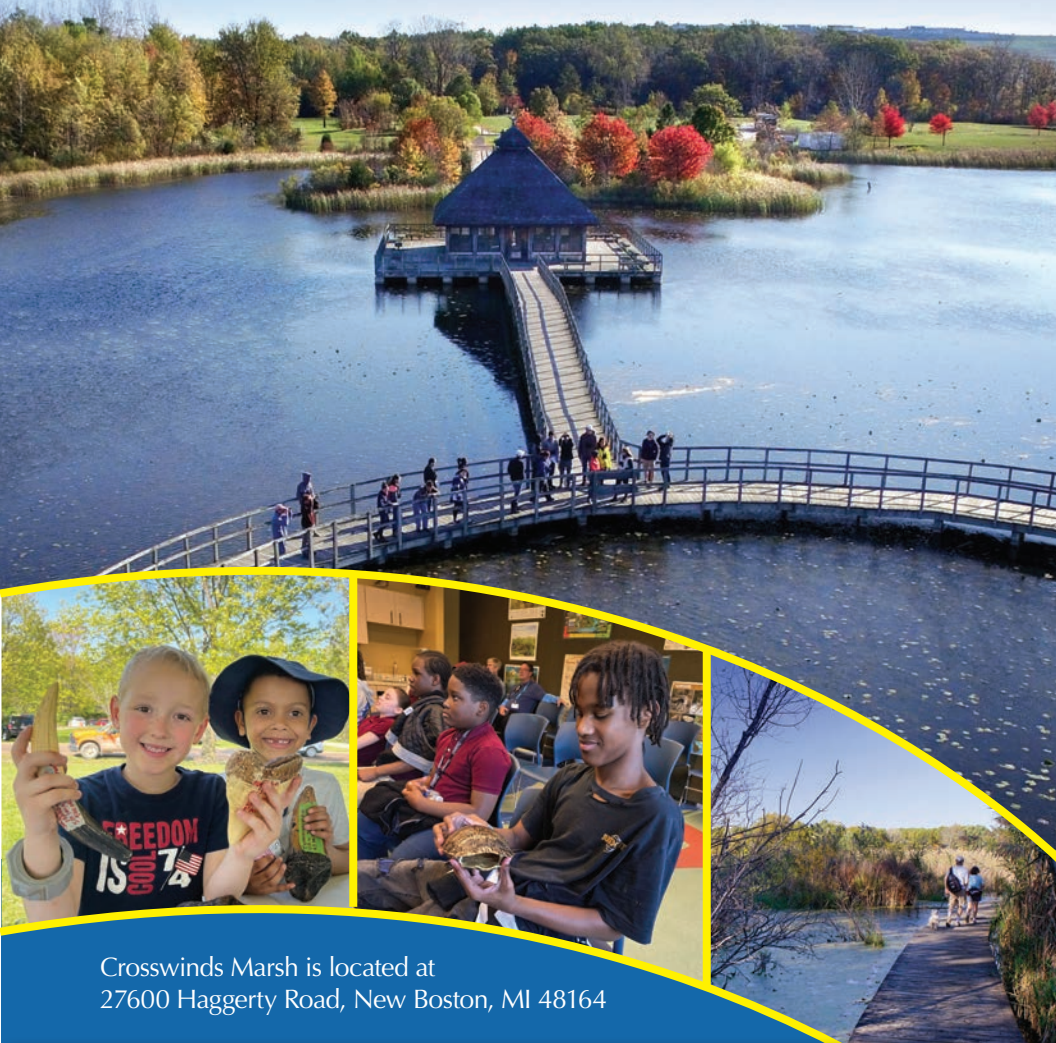
We truly appreciate everything you do!

Wayne County Parks is grateful to have volunteers who assist us in the parks in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Volunteers remove invasive species, clean up trash, create trails and beautify the parks. In addition, volunteers help at special events, such as Marshmallow Drop, Heroes on Hines, Fishing Derby and the Lightfest. **In 2025, 451 volunteers logged 1,436 hours at Wayne County Parks.**

If you are interested in volunteering at Wayne County Parks, please call **(734) 261-1990**.





Crosswinds Marsh is located at
27600 Haggerty Road, New Boston, MI 48164

CROSSWINDS MARSH WETLAND INTERPRETIVE PRESERVE

Crosswinds Marsh is a 1,050-acre Wetland/Wildlife Interpretive Preserve featuring nine miles of trails, and a unique opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife species in their natural wetland environments. Crosswinds Marsh offers a blend of wetlands, wildflower meadows and upland forests, attracting over 200 species of birds, 30 species of mammals and a variety of reptiles, amphibians and insects. With more than a quarter-mile of shoreline, two fishing piers, and a variety of species, fishing enthusiasts find a peaceful yet exciting outdoor experience. Crosswinds Marsh offers interpretive programs that feature hands-on activities, hikes, and games to foster fun and informative learning experiences.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Advanced registration is required, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**
Call (734) 261-1990 to schedule.

PROGRAM FEES:

- School, home school and scout programs are **\$6.00 per child. No fee for teachers and leaders.** One free adult ticket included in purchase of one child ticket.
- Public programs are **\$5.00 per person.**
- Hiking programs are **\$4.00 per person.**
- Outreach at libraries, senior centers and recreation centers is a **\$125.00 flat fee.**
- **Minimum of 10 students/people required** to schedule a program.
- **Cash, credit card or checks are accepted** for school field trips.
- **No refunds. Credits** will be given only if Wayne County cancels the program.
- **Programs are conducted outdoors** or under an open-air pavilion, so please dress appropriately. Availability is dependent on the weather.



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

All programs listed below are available as a two-hour field trip to Crosswinds Marsh. Topics marked with an asterisk (*) indicate programs available as Outreach, where a naturalist will come to your location. Outreach programs last one hour and are offered year-round.

BIODIVERSITY SCIENCE

April – October / 4th – 12th Grade

Students will participate in a real-world experiment to gain an understanding of biodiversity.

* **BREAK IT DOWN! DECOMPOSERS AND DETRITIVORES**

April – October / 3rd – 12th Grade

A mighty tree becomes soil beneath our feet. Learn how nature breaks things down.

CANOE TRIPS – SELF GUIDED

April – October / 5th – 12th Grade

Self-guided canoe trip.

Children must be at least 10 years old to paddle. Children younger than 12 must have an adult in canoe.

* **EWWW!**

April – October / 3rd – 8th Grade

Discover the fascinating reasons frogs eat their own skin and turkey vultures regurgitate food.



* FEATHERED FRIENDS

April – October / 1st – 8th Grade

Learn how to read the signs that reveal what a bird eats and where it lives. Dissect an owl pellet.

INSECTS INCOGNITO

May – September / 1st – 12th Grade

Venture into the enchanting world of insects! Grab a net and explore their aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

* MARSH WILDLIFE

April – October / Preschool – 12th Grade

Experience the rich diversity of wildlife through discussion, live animals and a hike.

* NATURE'S SUPERHEROES

April – October / 1st – 12th Grade

Discover the guardians of Michigan's ecosystems, the plants and animals with powers to help them shape and nurture their environments.

POLLEN PALS

May – September / 3rd – 12th Grade

Uncover the magic of insect, bird and bat pollinators through activities, observations, and a hike.

SEASONAL HIKE

January – November / 1st – 12th Grade

Wander through a variety of habitats and experience the seasonal wonders of Crosswinds Marsh.

SENSATIONAL SEED DISPERSAL

September – October / 1st – 12th Grade

Hike along wetland paths in search of seeds with unique approaches to planting their roots.

* SCALES AND SLIME

May – September / Preschool – 12th Grade

Slimy amphibians and scaly reptiles aren't the only ones in the animal world with these characteristics. Meet live animals.

* TURTLES, SNAKES & FROGS, OH MY!

May – September / Preschool – 12th Grade

Immerse yourself in the world of Michigan's amphibians and reptiles. Meet live reptiles.

WETLAND FIELD INVESTIGATION

April – October / 4th – 12th Grade

Assess the marsh through observations, water quality tests, and macroinvertebrate surveys.

* WHAT'S LIVING IN YOUR BACKYARD?

April – October / 1st – 12th Grade

Lots of creatures live among us in our neighborhoods! Discover what you may encounter right outside your door.

* WHAT'S THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION?

April – October / 4th – 12th Grade

Follow the journey of water as it moves through a watershed and sustains life. Meet live reptiles.

WONDERS OF WATER AND WETLANDS

April – October / Preschool – 12th Grade

Sift through the muck to discover wetland creatures. Hike and meet live reptiles.

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Home School Program Series is designed for children 6 – 12 years old. Programs are designed to include discussion, hike, games, crafts and/or other hands-on activities. **Pre-registration is required.**



WOOD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT BEAVERS? **NEW!**

Tuesday, April 14 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Discover what makes the beaver a keystone species. Plan to build a miniature beaver dam and go for a hike.

WETLAND CITIZEN SCIENTIST **NEW!**

Tuesday, April 28 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Investigate a marsh and a vernal pool to discover who lives in these habitats. You will be collecting citizen scientist data as part of an ongoing survey of Crosswinds Marsh!

IDENTIFICATION STATION: FLORA **NEW!**

Tuesday, May 12 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Learn to identify plants by their bark, leaves, and more! Use a field guide and take home a nature journal.

IDENTIFICATION STATION: FAUNA **NEW!**

Tuesday, May 26 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Discover tips on how to identify birds in flight, mammals by their footprints, and more! Learn to use a field guide and take home a nature journal.



NATURE'S NIGHT LIFE

Tuesday, June 9 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Explore how Crosswinds Marsh is just as alive with animal activity after sunset as it is during the day.

HIKE 'N BINGO

Tuesday, September 8 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Play bingo and learn about some of the amazing creatures of Crosswinds, then search for them during a hike.

EDIBLE PLANTS

Tuesday, September 22 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Hike and learn which plants are edible and which ones to avoid. We will not be collecting or tasting food during this program.



BREAK IT DOWN: DECOMPOSERS & DETRITIVORES

Tuesday, October 13 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

A mighty tree becomes soil beneath our feet. Learn how nature breaks things down.

SPOOKY GEOCACHING

Tuesday, October 27 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Join us on a geocaching adventure where we will learn about some of our spooky residents while finding treasure.





PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

These programs are intended for individuals and families, with adults and children participating together. Programs are suitable for all ages unless otherwise noted.

Pre-registration is required.

WORLD AQUATIC ANIMAL DAY HIKE **NEW!**

Friday, April 3 from 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

What's your favorite aquatic animal? Fish, frogs, fairy shrimp.... there are so many to choose from. Celebrate World Aquatic Animal Day with a hike to search for our aquatic neighbors.

EARTH DAY CANOEING **NEW!**

Wednesday, April 22 from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Celebrate Earth Day with a guided paddle past the bald eagle nest and beaver lodges.

Program fee is \$20.00 per canoe

Children must be at least 10 years old to paddle.

Children younger than 12 must have an adult in canoe.

NATURE FEST

Saturday, May 16 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Pre-registration not required

This free event will feature live animals, nature activities, fishing, and more. Bait and a limited number of fishing poles are provided.





ADVENTURES WITH TURTLES **NEW!**

Thursday, June 18 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Turtles are nesting this time of year! Join us as we hike in search of new nests to cover and protect. We will also meet a few live turtles!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 17 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

This free event includes a hayride, bonfire with kid-friendly entertainment, and harvest-themed games and crafts.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Crosswinds Marsh is offering volunteer opportunities for families and individuals. There is no fee. **Pre-registration is required.**

WEED WACKERS

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Learn some tips and tricks for native gardening and help us pull weeds from our gardens to keep them beautiful and thriving.

Tuesday, April 28

How to garden, specifically winter sowing.

Tuesday, May 26

Native plants and sustainable gardening.

MARSH CLEAN-UP

Wednesday, October 14 from

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Paddle through the marsh while removing the litter that pollutes our waterway and puts wildlife in danger. Prizes will be awarded!

Children must be at least 10 years old to paddle.

Children younger than 12 must have an adult in canoe.



SCOUT BADGE PROGRAMS

Badge requirements will be met for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Girl Scout workshops listed below. Badges are not provided by Wayne County Parks.

Scout programs are offered April – October and can be scheduled upon request. Group size is limited to a minimum of 10 scouts and a maximum of 30 scouts per badge. If your group size does not meet the minimum number of scouts, we will open the date up to other scout groups to join.

GIRL SCOUT BADGE WORKSHOPS

BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

Bugs
Hiker
Senses

CADETTE AND SENIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Trees (Cadette)
Adventurer (Senior)

JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS

Geocacher
Animal Habitats
Flowers
Gardener

MULTI – LEVEL

Outdoor Art Badge



CUB SCOUT BADGE WORKSHOPS

TIGER SCOUTS

Backyard Jungle: Adventure
Tigers in the Wild: Adventure

BEAR SCOUTS

A Bear Goes Fishing: Elective
Fur, Feathers, and Ferns: Adventure

WOLF SCOUTS

Paws on the Path: Adventure
Digging in the Past: Elective
Grow Something: Elective

WEBELOS AND ARROW OF LIGHT

Walkabout: Adventure
Castaway: Elective
Into the Wild: Elective
Into the Woods: Elective
Earth Rocks: Adventure





Please note: If barricades are up at Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail, proceed around the first set of barricades to Nankin Mills parking lot.

NANKIN MILLS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center offers live animals, year-round exhibits and interpretive programs highlighting the natural and cultural history of our area. Programs are specially designed for school, home school, scout, senior, and other organized groups, as well as families. Programs often feature hands-on activities, hikes, games, and crafts to enhance the learning experience. Nankin Mills is located at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Nankin Mills will be undergoing exciting renovations in 2026 so call **(734) 261-1990** for open hours.

To receive additional program descriptions, such as senior and scout badge programs, and information by email, please call **(734) 261-1990** or visit our website at www.waynecountymi.gov/parks

ADVANCE REGISTRATION AND PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED for all programs EXCEPT School or other group Field Trips, Outreach, and Public Programs and Events that list registration not required.

- School Field Trip, Outreach and Home School programs are **\$6.00 per student (chaperones free)**. Note there is a **\$75.00 minimum total fee** for each group program. Additional \$1.00 charge per student for non-Wayne County residents. Call **(734) 261-1990** to schedule.
- Other groups such as libraries may ask about our **\$125.00 speaker fee**. Call **(734) 261-1990** to schedule.
- Pre-registration and pre-payment for Home School and other Public Programs is required by calling (734) 261-1990 or by visiting Nankin Mills Interpretive Center. Nankin Mills will be undergoing exciting renovations in 2026 so call **(734) 261-1990** for open hours.
- Public Programs are **\$5.00 per person** (additional \$1.00 charge per person for non-Wayne County residents) unless otherwise noted.
- **No refunds**. Credits will be given only if Wayne County cancels the program.

FIELD TRIP AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

For Schools, Camps, Seniors, and other Organized Groups

The topics listed below are available as one- to two-hour field trip programs (depending on age and topic) at Nankin Mills. Programs marked with an asterisk (*) are available for presentation at your site as an Outreach Program, where a naturalist will come to your location. Programs are offered year-round unless otherwise noted.

Please note grade level recommendations listed as program content is adapted to the age of the students. Payment is due the day of the program. **Call (734) 261-1990 to schedule a field trip.**

*REPTILE ~ AMPHIBIAN ENCOUNTERS

Preschool – Adult

OUTREACH: LATE MAY – EARLY OCTOBER ONLY

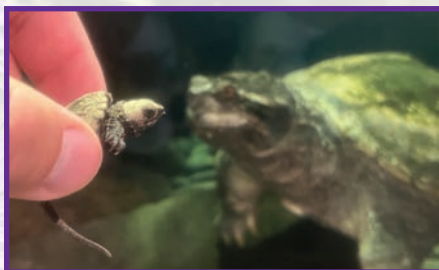
Up-close live animals, learn about Michigan frogs, turtles, snakes, salamanders, and their habitat adaptations. Outdoor hike option.

*OWLS OF MICHIGAN

2nd Grade – Adult

POPULAR OCTOBER OUTREACH

Education with owl mounts focusing on birds of prey adaptations, hands-on owl pellet dissection.





***MICHIGAN GEOLOGY**

3rd – 8th Grade

Learn about Michigan’s geological past: mountains, volcanoes, oceans, and glaciers. Hands-on mineral testing and rock identification.

***NATIVE AMERICANS OF THE GREAT LAKES: A CULTURAL HISTORY**

2nd Grade – Adult

Hands-on learning, games, and other activities help teach Anishinaabe culture past and present. If visiting Nankin, option for a hike focusing on Native American historic plant uses.

***UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HISTORY**

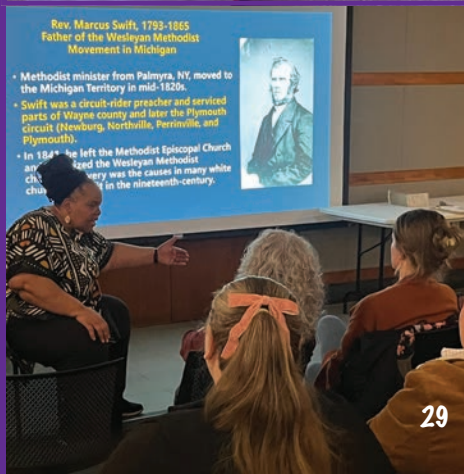
2nd Grade – Adult

Learn about Michigan’s Underground Railroad history, the role of the Rouge River, local abolitionists, and songs used in secret communication. If visiting Nankin, includes a hike to the Rouge River.

ALL THINGS MICHIGAN

3rd – 6th Grade

Michigan History, from glaciers to manufacturing. Learn state symbols and discover what products and “firsts” our state is known for. Includes a hike focusing on past tree uses in Michigan.



Rev. Marcus Swift, 1792-1865
 Father of the Wesleyan Methodist
 Movement in Michigan

- Methodist minister from Palmyra, NY, moved to the Michigan Territory in mid-1820s.
- Swift was a circuit-riding preacher and serviced parts of Wayne county and later the Plymouth Circuit (Newburg, Northville, Perrinville, and Plymouth).
- In 1840, he left the Methodist Episcopal Church and helped found the Wesleyan Methodist Church. His preaching was the cause in many white churches in the nineteenth-century.





***THE ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED**

2nd – 8th Grade

*OUTREACH: LATE MAY THROUGH
EARLY OCTOBER ONLY*

Meet live animals that live in the floodplain and learn how your choices affect the Rouge. If visiting Nankin, includes a hike along the river.

HABITAT HIKE

1st Grade – Adult

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, AND OCTOBER ONLY

Hike in and near different habitats: field, pond, floodplain, upland forest, and swamp. Observe plant and animal adaptations. Games focus on food webs and balance of nature.

***BIRD ADAPTATIONS**

2nd – 6th Grade

Education with bird mounts, beak adaptation activity, hike with binoculars. Depending on time of year, look for hatchlings in our nest boxes.

***INSECT ADVENTURES**

Preschool – 6th Grade

LATE MAY THROUGH EARLY OCTOBER ONLY

Learn insect anatomy as we change a student into an insect! Puppets, games, and chasing bugs with nets.

***FALL FROLIC**

Preschool – Adult

SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER ONLY

Learn how leaves change color and the different leaf shapes of Michigan trees. Make either leaf collections or leaf print T-shirts, outdoor hike to identify trees.

***ANIMALS IN WINTER: TRICKY TRACKS**

Preschool – Adult

NOVEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER ONLY

Discover how animals survive Michigan winter. Create a “tracked up” T-shirt, hike to look for tracks and other signs of animals.



HOME SCHOOL THURSDAYS

Nankin Mills offers educational programs designed for home school students and an adult chaperone to attend together. Programs take place at Nankin Mills unless otherwise noted. Program fee is **\$6.00 per child** (additional \$1.00 charge per student for non-Wayne County residents), **adults are free.**

All programs for students ages five to 14. Siblings of students ages five and younger may attend for free but please do not disrupt the class.

Pre-registration and pre-payment for Home School and other Public Programs is required by calling (734) 261-1990 or by visiting Nankin Mills Interpretive Center. Nankin Mills will be undergoing exciting renovations in 2026 so call **(734) 261-1990** for open hours.

All programs are from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

APRIL 9: ALL ABOARD, TRAINS NEW!

As rail transit became available in the area, some of the old towns once near Hines Park grew or became ghost towns. Listen to train horns, see some model trains, and learn about the history of railroads in Wayne County.

MAY 28: NATURE JOURNALING NEW!

Sketch some nature objects in the classroom and then take our learning out into the field. Here we will be teaching scientific and artistic observation skills.

SEPTEMBER 10: FOREST FAIRIES NEW!

Look for forest fairy figures in the woods and fields and learn about the nature behind where they are hiding and what they are protecting.

OCTOBER 1: IT'S A TRAP! NEW!

French fur trappers in costume will share their very limited French language skills along with the history of fur trapping in the Great Lakes.

NOVEMBER 12: AMAIZING CORN NEW!

Celebrate the gristmill history of Nankin Mills during corn harvest season. Expect lots of corny activities and crafts.

DECEMBER 10: GEOLOGY 101 NEW!

We will start with the big picture of our giant rock home, the earth, then move to rock types and geology in Michigan. Mineral testing and make and take rock collection.





PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

\$5.00 per person (additional \$1.00 charge per person for non-Wayne County residents) and start at the Nankin Mills classroom unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration and pre-payment for Public Programs is required by calling (734) 261-1990 or by visiting Nankin Mills Interpretive Center. Nankin Mills will be undergoing exciting renovations in 2026 so call **(734) 261-1990** for open hours.

ECO FAIR **NEW!**

Saturday, May 2 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Nankin Mills Park, Westland
FREE Event – No Registration Required
All ages welcome

Learn about conservation from Wayne County Parks staff as well as some partner organizations. Live animals, crafts, games, and inflatables will help to deliver the fun as well as lessons you can take home! You'll be green with envy if you miss this one!

FISH LADDER HIKE

Friday, May 8 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Rouge Gateway Trailhead, Dearborn
Ages 10 and older

A beautiful view of both the new Wayne County Fish Ladder as well as the Ford Estate, don't miss this two-mile hike! Trailhead Parking is on Michigan Avenue next to Paris Baguette (Dearborn).



FISHING FUN DAY

Saturday, June 13 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Trenton
FREE Event – No Registration Required
All ages welcome

Join us for this collaborative event with the Wildlife Refuge. Bait and fishing poles available for use. Fishing from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and kayaking from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Contact the Refuge at (734) 365-0219 or www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit-river for more information.

ANYTHING BUT PLAIN **NEW!**

Saturday, June 27 from 11:00 AM – Noon
Ages five and older

Hines Drive closes when there seems to be just a drop of rain, we are in the floodplain. Learn what this means to nature and you in this interactive program. Afterwards, ask the naturalist where to hike nearby.

BUGTOPIA

Saturday, July 25 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, Westland
FREE Event – No Registration Required
All ages welcome

A celebration of our tiny but important six-legged friends. Inflatables, live insects, catching insects, crafts, and more!

WILCOX LAKE BINOCULAR HIKE **NEW!**

Thursday, August 13 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Wilcox Lake Recreation Area, Plymouth
Ages five and older

Check out new plantings and see what wildlife is about. Focus on plants and birds, one mile hike. Wilcox Lake Recreation Area is located at 14157 Edward Hines Drive, just east of Northville Road.

ROBIN HOOD'S SHERWOOD **NEW!** FOREST HIKE

Friday, August 21 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Sherwood Recreation Area, Westland
Ages five and older

Robin Hood and his "Merriman" will lead a tour of Hines near Merriman Road, an area more natural than the rest of its 17-mile length. What may look like weeds from your windshield is a diverse world of wildflowers and insects. We'll have our bug nets to see what you can catch and learn about. Expect a one-mile hike. Sherwood Recreation Area is located at 29600 Edward Hines Drive, just west of Middlebelt Road.





FRIGHTFUL FRIDAYS, **NEW!** SPIDER FLASHLIGHT HIKE

Friday, September 18 from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Ages five and older

Ever shined a light to see spider eyes, it's pretty cool! And you might be surprised how many you see. We will dive into the world of these often-misunderstood animals. Expect a one-mile hike.

GLOW HIKE

Saturday, October 3 from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM,

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM, or 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Trenton

FREE Event – **Registration is Required**

Ages five and older

A chance to explore the Wildlife Refuge at night. We will provide lanterns to borrow, glow bracelets and other giveaways. Register for this event on Eventbrite. Contact the Refuge at (734) 365-0219 or www.fws.gov/refuge/detroit-river for more information.

FRIGHTFUL FRIDAYS, ROCKTOBER **NEW!**

Friday, October 9 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Ages five and older

We will explore both the science of geology as well as the mysterious, pseudoscience of crystal healing. Expect to see rocks and test some minerals.

NANKIN MILLS PLAYERS **NEW!** PUPPET SHOW

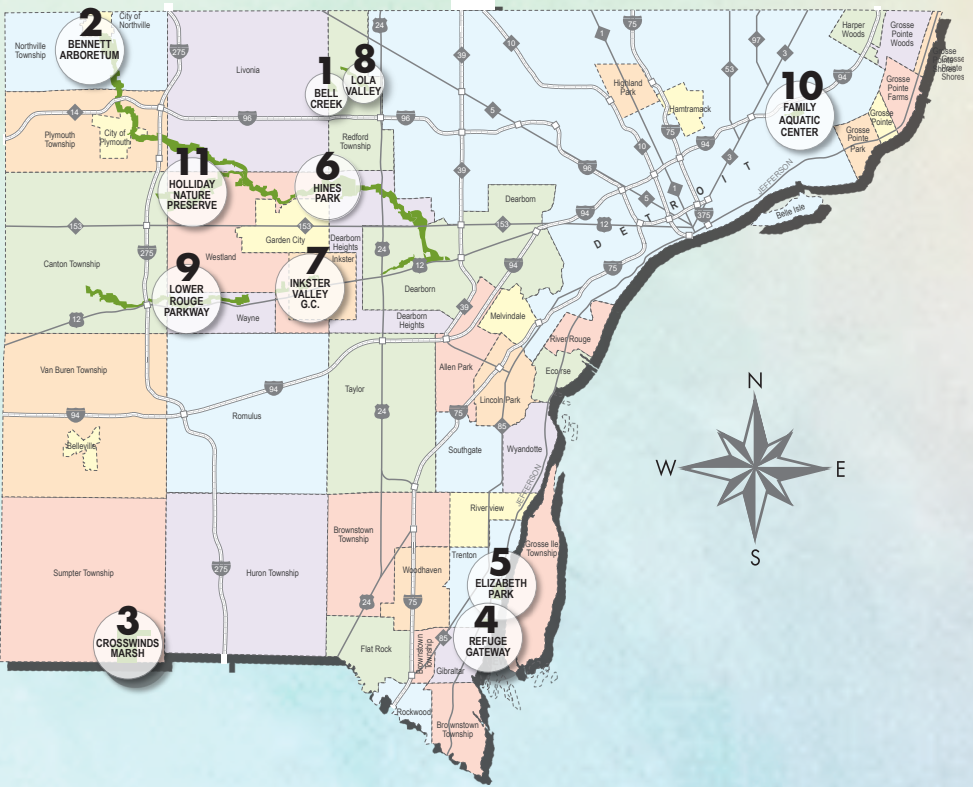
Friday, November 6 from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

All ages welcome

Learn what animals are doing this time of year to prepare for winter and make and take puppet craft.



WAYNE COUNTY PARKS LOCATION MAP



- 1 BELL CREEK
- 2 BENNETT ARBORETUM
- 3 CROSSWINDS MARSH WETLAND INTERPRETIVE PRESERVE
- 4 DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GATEWAY
- 5 ELIZABETH PARK & MARINA
- 6 HINES PARK
- 7 INKSTER VALLEY GOLF COURSE
- 8 LOLA VALLEY
- 9 LOWER ROUGE PARKWAY
- 10 WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER
- 11 WILLIAM P. HOLLIDAY FOREST & NATURE PRESERVE

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

3	Marshmallow Drop	9:00 AM	Elizabeth Park
3	Sensory Marshmallow Drop	9:00 AM	Nankin Mills Interp. Center
3	Marshmallow Drop	11:00 AM	Nankin Mills Park

MAY

2	Eco Fair	1:00 PM	Nankin Mills Park
2	Saturday in the Park	9:00 AM	Hines Park
<i>Each Saturday from May 2 – September 26</i>			
16	Nature Fest	1:00 PM	Crosswinds Marsh

JUNE

13	Fishing Derby	8:00 AM	Waterford Bend Park
13	Fishing Fun Day	9:00 AM	Detroit Wildlife Refuge
13	Senior Fun Fest	11:00 AM	Nankin Mills Park
24	Trucks & Tunes	6:00 PM	Elizabeth Park

JULY

15	Party in the Park	10:00 AM	Nankin Mills Park
18	Senior Fun Fest Downriver	11:00 AM	Elizabeth Park
25	Bugtopia	9:00 AM	Nankin Mills Interp. Center

AUGUST

1-2	Jazz on the River	1:00 PM	Elizabeth Park
8	Sensory Swim	9:00 AM	WC Family Aquatic Center

SEPTEMBER

20	Somewhere in Time	11:00 AM	Elizabeth Park
26	Heroes on Hines	9:00 AM	Haggerty Park

OCTOBER

10	Halloween Festival	1:00 PM	Nankin Mills Park
17	Harvest Festival	1:00 PM	Crosswinds Marsh

NOVEMBER

17	Bike Through the Lights	7:00 PM	Merriman Hollow Park
18	Lightfest Fun Run/Walk	7:00 PM	Merriman Hollow Park
19	Lightfest Grand Opening	6:00 PM	Merriman Hollow Park
<i>Open Wednesday – Sunday from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM through Dec. 24</i>			

Photo Policy: The staff of Wayne County Parks often take photos of participants taking part in sponsored programs or enjoying the parks. Please be aware that these photos are for promotional purposes to be used on the Wayne County website, in Wayne County Parks brochures and flyers, on social media and in newspapers without compensation. Participants consent to being photographed for such purposes, unless Wayne County Parks staff is notified otherwise.

