

Fall Scavenger Hunt

Can you find all of the benchmarks of fall on our scavenger hunt? Bring with you a bag for scavenging and wear some comfortable hiking shoes! Instructor: Shelbie Porter

Sa 11/6 • 11 a.m.–noon • Register by 11/2 • 340009-A

\$3/in-city, \$4/non-city • For all ages.

RCA Community Park, 1400 W RCA Park Dr.

—Meet at the Small Shelter.



Griffy Night Hike

Learn about local nocturnal animals and what helps them thrive in the dark on this naturalist-led night hike. Bring along a flashlight to find your car after the hike. Instructor: Kate Seader

Sa 11/13 • 6–7:30 p.m. • Register by 11/9 • 340010-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

3400 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at the boathouse.

Natural Rope and Plant Cordage

Explore one of the most useful features of plants: cordage. This ancient skill was used to make durable rope long before paracord. During this hands-on program, you will learn how to find, identify, and process plants that can be used for making cordage. We will demonstrate how humans have used—and still use—cordage to make fire, jewelry, clothes, and even traps. Bring a pendant to hang from your new cordage necklace! Instructor: Andrew Naugle

Sa 11/20 • 12:30–2:30 p.m. • Register by 11/16 • 340011-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 8 yrs. and up w/parent.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

3400 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at the boathouse.

Nature Sounds

FREE

Bring your own seating.

Nature topic: Earth and Sky of Myaamia Homelands

Storyteller guest: Kara Strass,

Myaamia Center of the Miami University of Ohio

Friday, September 3 • 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Highland Village Park, 950 S. Harvey Dr.

Meet in the field east of the basketball courts.

Nature topic: The Poetry of Leaves

Storyteller guest: TBD

Friday, October 8 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Crestmont Park, 600 W. 16th St., shelter

For more information, visit bloomington.in.gov/parks/events/nature.

Women in Nature Gaining Skills (W.I.N.G.S.)

Women in Nature Gaining Skills (W.I.N.G.S.) encourages and empowers women through teaching skills needed to partake in outdoor recreation activities in south central Indiana. Each W.I.N.G.S. event features woman-led, hands-on training, with the goal of building a community of women interested in the outdoors. W.I.N.G.S. events take place the third Sunday of each month and are open to ages 16 yrs. and up. For more information on how to join, visit SCINWINGS on Facebook.



Discover new places, navigate scenic trails and make the most of your time by finding City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation on the OuterSpatial mobile app.

Ready to begin your adventure?



OuterSpatial

Find the app on the App Store or Google Play, or go to outerspatial.com/asp.



City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation

Roving Naturalist

Roving Naturalists are available for private natural resource programs. To schedule a visit with one of our Roving Naturalists, email rebecca.swift@bloomington.in.gov.

Nature and the Outdoors



Fall–Winter 2021

Price is per person. Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult. Activities may be both inside and outside, so please dress for the weather.

For more information, contact Rebecca Swift at rebecca.swift@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3759 or. Register online at bloomington.in.gov/parks.



Volunteer Opportunity

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve

Boathouse, 3400 N. Headley Rd.

Scenic woodlands teeming with wild flora and fauna surround the 109-acre Griffy Lake at this 1,200-acre nature preserve. Swimming is prohibited. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has stocked the lake with bluegill, redear sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish, and crappie. Rowboat, kayak, canoe, and stand up paddleboard rentals are available seasonally at Griffy Lake boathouse.

To protect wildlife and visitors, all dogs must remain leashed while in the preserve. Nearby Ferguson Dog Park (4300 N. Stone Mill Rd.) accommodates dogs off-leash. For more information, email the boathouse at griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov.

The surface of the lake often freezes in winter with varying ice conditions that can be hazardous. The City of Bloomington assumes no responsibility for accidents resulting from individuals venturing onto the ice.

Griffy Lake Rental Fees

Canoe/Kayak/SUP Rental

(Two-hour limit on holidays/weekends)\$8/hour

10-Rental Pass\$70

Available for purchase at the boathouse during regular business hours.

*Reservations are required for all watercraft rentals; walk-up rentals are not available. To make an individual watercraft rental reservation, email griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov or call the boathouse at 349-3732 during normal operating hours. Groups of 10 or more people wishing to make watercraft rental reservations Monday through Friday may do so by calling Rebecca Swift at 812-349-3759 or by emailing griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov. **Rented watercraft returned to the boathouse after closing are subject to a minimum \$20 late fee. A minimum \$50 replacement fee is charged for lost, stolen, or damaged rental items.***

Privately owned boat launch fees: \$80/season, \$8/day

Boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only.

Boathouse hours: **April and October:** Saturday and Sunday only, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
May–August: Daily, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
September: Daily, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
November–March: Closed

Boathouse phone: 812-349-3732

Griffy Lake Trails: Trail guides are available at the Bloomington Parks and Recreation office and the Griffy Lake boathouse. Please respect this fragile environment by remaining on the marked trails. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicles are strictly prohibited.

AMENITIES: Seasonal restrooms and picnic tables next to boathouse

PARKING: Available by the boathouse

TRAILS: 10+ miles total, wood chip and natural:

Wetlands Trail .2 miles, **Nature Trail** .5 miles (loop), **Griffy Creek Trail** 1.5 miles, **Hiking Trail** 1.7 miles (loop) **Lanam Trail** .6 miles, **West North Shore Loop** 1 mile, **East North Shore Loop** .5 miles

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessible canoe and kayak launch

Eco Outpost: Looking for a fun way to interact with the great outdoors? Borrow an Explorer Backpack and take a fun-filled trek through the woods or your own backyard. Backpacks are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Eco Outpost is open during boathouse hours.

bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

Volunteer to Maintain our Natural Spaces

Many volunteer projects are available for individuals and groups to help maintain and restore some of Bloomington's most scenic natural areas.

Visit bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.



A Nocturnal Night

YOU can be what goes bump in the night! Take a naturalist-led night hike to learn about nocturnal animals and the adaptations that allow them to thrive in the dark.

Bring a headlamp or flashlight. Instructor: Kate Seader

Sa 8/28 • 9–10:30 p.m. • Register by 8/24 • 240006-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

**Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet at parking lot.**

Navigation: The Art of Finding Yourself

Learn tools of navigation, from basic to advanced.

We will use the sun, moon, stars, trees, plants, erosion, and animals to determine direction, time, and to find resources like food and water. Instructor: Andrew Naugle

Sa 9/11 • 3:30–5 p.m. • Register by 9/7 • 340001-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 12 yrs. and up w/parent.

**Wapehani Mountain Bike Park,
3401 W. Wapehani Rd.—Meet near parking lot.**

Bird Fest

Bloomington Bird Fest is an interactive educational celebration of bird biology, ecology, and conservation, and includes hands-on activities, bird walks, speakers, live birds, nature crafts, and more! The event is co-hosted by Sassafras Audubon Society and Bloomington Parks and Recreation, with representation by many local conservation organizations.

Sa 9/18 • 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

FREE • For all ages.

**Switchyard Park, 1601 S. Rogers St.—
Pavilion, Shelter, and Bosque**



Night Paddle

Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Griffy Lake during the full moon. Navigate the lake, take deep breaths of fresh air, and watch the night sky light up the water.

Each participant must register. Watercraft, paddles and life jackets are provided. Children age 14 yrs. and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Bring a flashlight to help you navigate back to your vehicle once you return to dry land.

M 9/20 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/14 • 240002-E

W 10/20 • 7–8:30 p.m. • Register by 10/13 • 240002-F

\$8/in-city, \$9/non-city • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

3400 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at the boathouse.

Tree ID for Beginners

Ever wonder what trees are growing on your street?

Whether it's a maple tree big enough to tap or an invasive Bradford pear, knowing is half the battle. Participants

will learn about local tree species while looking up close at branching, bark, leaves and more. Instructor: Kate Seader

F 9/24 • 5:30–6:30 p.m. • Register by 9/17 • 340002-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.—Meet in shelter.

Colors of Fall

As fall approaches, the telltale turning of the leaves begins!

Embark with us on an exploration into the changing colors of leaves. With the help of a few tools, we can extract the different colors that reside in a single leaf! This fun, nature-oriented science experiment can also be done at home every fall, so we provide take-home instructions to replicate the experience.

Sa 9/25 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Register by 9/21 • 340004-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

**Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37—
Meet at the Waterfall Shelter.**

Wild Edible, Medicinal, Poisonous, and Useful Plants

Enter the world of plants and learn more than just identification. Discuss local plants and how they

may be used for food, medicine, or tools. Enjoy a

naturalist-led hike around the park to discover the

edible bounty of the forest. Wear comfortable walking

shoes and bring a water bottle. Instructor: Andrew Naugle

Su 9/26 • 12:30–3 p.m. • Register by 9/21 • 340003-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 10 yrs. and up w/parent.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

3400 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at the boathouse.

Bug Fest



Learn all about amazing insects at Bloomington's ninth annual Bug Fest! Check out cool insects, make a craft, participate in bug-themed activities, and much more.

Exhibitors will share and display their knowledge on a variety of buggy topics. This event is a collaboration of Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, The WonderLab Museum, Purdue Extension-Monroe County, and Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University.

For more information and to pre-register, visit hilltop.indiana.edu/events-programs-classes/bugfest/index.html.

Sa 10/2 • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

FREE • For all ages.

Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University, 2367 E. 10th St



Rekindle the Ancient Fire

Learn the life-changing skill of making a fire by friction. This program will go into thorough detail of finding, processing, and using the parts of a bow-drill kit. This includes knife safety, tree identification, history, and techniques. Every participant will leave with a kit and a working knowledge of how to use it, and how to make other kits in the future. Everyone will be given detailed instruction and will have time to practice. Bring a fixed-blade knife if you have one. Instructor: Andrew Naugle

Sa 10/9 • 12:30–4 p.m. • Register by 10/5 • 340006-A

\$8/in-city, \$10/non-city • For ages 12 yrs. and up w/parent.

Lower Cascades Park—Meet at the Sycamore Shelter.

Feeling Batty?

It's the beginning of the "spooky season" and bats are the perfect complement to fall festivities. Learn about Indiana's winged mammals and build a bat house by yourself or in a small group. Bat house kits and tools are provided. Instructor: Kate Seader

Sa 10/9 • 1–2:30 p.m. • Register by 10/5 • 340005-A

\$15/in-city, \$20/non-city • For all ages.

Lower Cascades Park—Meet at the Sycamore Shelter.

S'mores and Stories

Join us around a crackling fire as we eat s'mores and share stories about the origins of fall traditions. When did s'mores become a fall favorite campfire food? Why do we carve pumpkins? How do other cultures celebrate the fall season?

Share with us and enjoy time spent in nature as the season settles in. Instructor: Shelbie Porter

Su 10/10 • 6–7 p.m. • Register by 10/6 • 340007-A

\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.

Lower Cascades Park—Meet at the Sycamore Shelter.

Fall Foliage Float

Paddle on Griffy Lake and see fall foliage from a different perspective as you float along. Learn why trees lose their leaves and change color. Boats, paddles, life vests, and binoculars are provided. Children under age 14 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult. Instructor: Kate Seader

F 10/22 • 5–6:30 p.m. • Register by 10/18 • 340008-A

\$8/in-city, \$10/non-city • For all ages.

Griffy Lake Nature Preserve,

3400 N. Headley Rd.—Meet at the boathouse.

