

Nature Sounds

Acoustic musical performances and educational nature presentations.

Nature topic: Wind

Musical guest: Joseph Trahan

The wind holds a powerful influence over our senses. Come enjoy an evening of melodic woodwind music to compliment the gentle breeze of the spring air.

Friday, April 8 • 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Lower Cascades Park,

2851 N. Old State Rd. 37, Sycamore Shelter

FREE • Bring your own seating.

For more information, contact Crystal Ritter at 349-3962 or ritterc@bloomington.in.gov.

For weather-related updates, call the Community Events Hotline at 349-3754.

Nature and the Outdoors

Winter–Spring 2022



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.



btownparks



BloomingtonParks



Find us on OuterSpatial.



City of Bloomington, IN - Parks and Recreation



Volunteer Opportunity

Leonard Springs Nature Day

If you have an interest in the outdoors and enjoy working with children, sign up for Leonard Springs Nature Day. Station facilitators and group leaders are needed.



To register, visit bloomington.in.gov/parksvol.



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

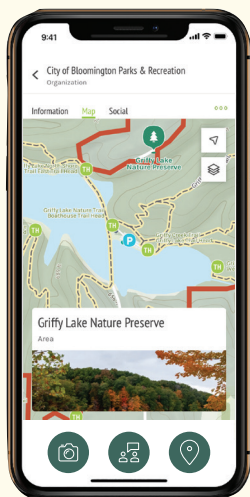
Women in Nature Gaining Skills (W.I.N.G.S.) encourages and empowers women through teaching skills needed to partake in outdoor recreation activities in south central Indiana. Each W.I.N.G.S. event features woman-led, hands-on training, with the goal of building a community of women interested in the 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.



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.

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



City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation

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 1,220-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. 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, call 349-3700.

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.

Groups (10+) wishing to make boat rental reservations Monday through Friday may do so by emailing Rebecca Swift at rebecca.swift@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: 349-3732

Boathouse email: griffy.boathouse@bloomington.in.gov

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? Visit the Eco Outpost to check out our display of natural objects like fossils, pine cones, seashells, and more. Borrow an Explorer Backpack and take a fun-filled trek through the woods or your own backyard. The Eco Outpost is open during boathouse hours.

bloomington.in.gov/griffylake

Maple Syrup Made Easy

It's that time of year when the sap starts to flow to make maple syrup. During this hands-on workshop, discuss tree identification, equipment, collection, and sugaring techniques. Take-home instructions are supplied, along with a taste of the final product. This program is held outdoors, so please dress appropriately. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 2/26 • noon–1:30 p.m. • Register by 2/22 • 140001-A
\$8/in-city, \$10/non-city • For all ages.
RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.
—Meet at the Small Shelter.

Winter Tree and Plant Hike

Enter the world of plants and learn more than just identification. This program gives you the tools to understand life cycles of plants in the winter, and how plants may be used for food, medicine, or tools. We will provide pencils, paper, and clipboards for note taking. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 3/5 • 12:30–3 p.m. • Register by 3/1 • 140002-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 12 yrs. and up w/parent.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3400 N. Headley Rd.
—Meet at the boathouse.

Animal Tracking Basics and Beyond

Learn who might be visiting your backyard and how to read the signs animals leave behind. Understand basics of animal behavior and how it relates to survival strategies. There are instructions and exercises that will deepen your understanding of our interconnected environment. Participants will be provided a pencil, paper, and clipboard for note taking. Please bring drinking water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 3/26 • 12:30–2 p.m. • Register by 3/22 • 140004-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 10 yrs. and up w/parent.
Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, 3401 W. Wapehani Rd.
—Meet in the parking lot.

Know the Night

YOU can be what goes bump in the night! Explore the trails under the cover of darkness on this naturalist-led night hike. As we move between observation points throughout the park, we will listen carefully for signs of nocturnal wildlife. Flashlights are not necessary; guides will have headlamps for traversing steep portions. However, participants are encouraged to wear hiking boots. Instructor: Maggie Vaitkus
Sa 3/26 • 9–10:30 p.m. • Register by 3/22 • 140003-A
\$4/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet at parking lot.

Birdhouse Weaving

It's time to welcome our songbirds back home! Learn how to use willow branches to make birdhouses for songbirds migrating back to southern Indiana, and discuss how to make your backyard a great habitat for them. Instructor: Maggie Vaitkus
Sa 4/2 • noon–1:30 p.m. • Register by 3/29 • 140005-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 10 yrs and up w/parent.
Upper Cascades Park, 514 W. Clubhouse Dr.
—Meet at the Lions Den Shelter.

Unlocking Nature Awareness

Have you always wanted to see more wildlife, or to understand there is more to see than a green wall of forest? During this special day, we will introduce understanding of your surroundings on a different level. Topics include sense meditations, research, journaling, animal tracking and bird language, as well as how to move silently through a forest. We will provide pencils, paper, and clipboards for note taking. Please bring drinking water and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 4/9 • 1–3 p.m. • Register by 4/5 • 140006-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.



Spring Ephemeral Hike

Spring offers something compelling: A special crop of flowers that we see only for a limited time. This program offers the perfect chance to find some of Bloomington's most elusive woodland wildflowers. Learn how to identify these spring ephemerals on a one-mile, naturalist-led hike around the park. Wear comfortable footwear and bring a camera. Don't miss your chance to see spring ephemerals in bloom!
Su 4/10 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 4/5 • 140007-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 8 yrs. and up w/parent.
Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet at parking lot.

DIY Seed Bombs

Experience a fun way to plant native seeds with slingshots in your backyard! Learn about the importance of planting native seeds for wildlife, and how native plants contribute to ecological succession. Be prepared for a short hike around a native prairie. Instructor: Maggie Vaitkus
Sa 4/16 • 1–2 p.m. • Register by 4/12 • 140008-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Sherwood Oaks Park, 1600 E. Elliston Dr.
—Meet at the shelter.

Spring Equinox Fire Celebration and Craft

Celebrate the arrival of spring and shake off winter with a fire and craft! Learn how to use tree identification to safely build your best campfire. There will be several examples of fire-starting techniques, including char cloth and a friction fire explanation and demonstration. Though this event is for all ages, participants age 8 yrs. and up will be able to make a spoon (with parent supervision) using a process called coal-burning. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 4/23 • 12:30–2:30 p.m. • Register by 4/19 • 140009-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37
—Meet at the Sycamore Shelter.

Earth Week Creek Cleanup



This Earth Week, spend time giving back by helping clear debris along riparian corridors at Jackson Creek along the Jackson Creek Trail and in Sherwood Oaks Park. We'll provide trash bags and gloves; you bring your enthusiasm and love of nature, and together we'll help keep our waterways litter free! To be part of the cleanup, sign up online at bloomington.in.gov/parksvol. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Su 4/24 • 2–4 p.m. • FREE • For all ages.
Sherwood Oaks Park, 1600 E. Elliston Dr.
—Meet at the shelter.

Griffy Lake Accessible Fishing Pier and Loop Trail

The first phase of a 6+ mile loop trail around Griffy Lake began in November 2021 with the Griffy Lake Loop Trail and Accessible Fishing Pier project. Funded by Parks General Obligation Bonds and Bicentennial Bonds, the first phase of the trail project includes a paved, accessible walkway on the west side of the causeway (Headley Road). The walkway will allow hikers to access the trails on both the north and south sides of the lake from the boathouse parking lot, without having to walk in vehicle traffic on Headley Road. This walkway is a key connection for the Loop Trail, and includes a new stairway on the steep slope on the south side of the lake. The walkway will also provide access to the fishing and observation pier, which will be located west of Headley Road, directly across from the boathouse parking lot. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022.

