

Autumn Tree ID

Join us for an afternoon of exploration as we begin our journey into the world of dendrology and ecology! On this naturalist-led hike around Leonard Springs Nature Park, learn how to identify trees by their bright fall foliage and characteristic growing features. Take a deeper look at the biodiversity these species support in the ecosystem. Dress for the weather and be prepared for moderate hiking.

Su 10/23 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 10/18 • 340010-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet at parking lot.

Animal Tracking Basics and Beyond

Learn about local wildlife on this naturalist-led hike around Wapehani Mountain Bike Park. There are instructions and exercises to teach how to identify the signs wildlife leave behind. Bring drinking water and be prepared for moderate hiking. Instructor: Andrew Naugle

Sa 10/29 • 12:30–2:30 p.m. • Register by 10/25 • 340011-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, 3401 W. Wapehani Rd.
—Meet in parking lot.

Essential Knots

Learn to tie a variety of knots and lashings commonly used for survival in the outdoors. This workshop is intended for novices who have little to no experience with tying knots. Learn up to six different types of knots and lashings, each with its own unique utility and purpose in the outdoors. No prior experience or rope is required for this workshop.

Please bring drinking water. Instructor: Zach Ryan
Sa 11/12 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 11/8 • 340012-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 5 yrs. and up w/parent.
Upper Cascades Park, 514 W. Clubhouse Dr.
—Meet in Lion’s Den Shelter.

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

Nature and the Outdoors
Fall–Winter 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



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 watercraft 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. Accessible fishing pier and walkway. 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



Rekindle the Ancient Fire

This program goes into thorough detail of finding, processing, and using the parts of a bow-drill. The program includes knife safety, tree identification, history, and techniques. Every participant will leave with a bow-drill kit and a working knowledge of how to use it. Everyone receives detailed instruction, has time to practice, and goes home with the materials and knowledge needed for future fire-making. Bring a fixed-blade knife if you have one. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 9/3 • 12:30–4 p.m. • Register by 8/30 • 340001-A
\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city • For ages 12 yrs. and up w/parent.
Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37
—Meet at the Sycamore 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. Take a naturalist-led hike around the park to discover the edible bounty of the forest. Wear comfortable shoes and bring drinking water. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 9/10 • 1–3 p.m. • Register by 9/6 • 340004-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 10 yrs. and up w/parent.
RCA Community Park, 1400 W. RCA Park Dr.
—Meet at Small Shelter.

Harvest Moon Hike

The harvest moon is the full moon that coincides with the fall equinox and marks a number of cultural events. Learn about the cultural and historical significance of this unique lunar phenomenon as we hike through Leonard Springs under the stars. Bring drinking water, sturdy hiking shoes, and a flashlight (though we hopefully won't need it). Instructor: Zach Ryan
Sa 9/10 • time • Register by 9/6 • 340002-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet in parking lot..

Night Paddle

Experience an evening of peace and serenity on Griffy Lake during the full moon. 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.
Sa 9/10 • 7:30–9 p.m. • Register by 9/6 • 240002-E
Su 10/9 • 7–8:30 p.m. • Register by 10/4 • 240002-F
\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3400 N. Headley Rd.
—Meet at boathouse.

Fall Fungal Fun

Come along for a hike to find wild (and potentially edible) mushrooms! Learn how to identify mushrooms, where to find these delights, and how to prepare them for eating. This is a great introduction into the world of foraging for some of the most delicious and versatile foods that grow in Indiana. With some science, some hiking, and some new fungal finds, this afternoon begins our journey as mycologists and foragers! Dress for the weather, and be prepared for moderate hiking.
Su 9/18 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 9/13 • 340003-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For ages 15 yrs. and up.
Leonard Springs Nature Park—Meet in parking lot.

Fall Equinox Fire Celebration and Craft

Celebrate the arrival of fall 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 charcloth and a friction fire explanation and demonstration. Though this event is for all ages, participants ages 8 yrs. and up will have a chance to make a spoon (with parent supervision) using a process called coal-burning. Instructor: Andrew Naugle
Sa 9/24 • 12:30–2:30 p.m. • Register by 9/20 • 340005-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37
—Meet at the Waterfall Shelter.

Mindful Outdoors

Take a break from your busy schedule to unwind a bit on a guided meditative walk. Mindfulness allows us to be present in the moment, and when we are present we are able to soak in more of what nature has to offer. Instructor: Emily Gardner
Su 9/25 • noon–1 p.m. • Register by 9/20 • 340006-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Winslow Woods Park, 2120 S. Highland Ave.
—Meet in Shelter.

Bug Fest

Learn all about amazing insects at Bloomington's tenth annual Bug Fest! Check out cool insects, make a craft, participate in bug-themed activities, and much more. Exhibitors 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 10/1 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
FREE • For all ages.
Hilltop Gardens at Indiana University,
2367 E. 10th St.



Collecting & Sowing Native Wildflower Seeds

Gardening with native plants provides multiple benefits to people and wildlife and also helps support healthy soil, water and air. Join Parks Department staff to collect native wildflower seeds for winter sowing in containers. Enjoy a brief demonstration of successfully starting native plants at home. All participants will learn best practices for seed collection and storage, participate in seed collecting, and take home seeds to sow at home. Instructors: Gillian Field and Sarah Mullin
Th 10/6 • 5:30–7 p.m. • Register by 10/5 • 365202-A
Switchyard Park, 1601 S. Rogers St., Picnic Shelter
Tu 10/11 • 2–3:30 p.m. • Register by 10/10 • 365202-B
Miller-Showers Park, 100 W. 17th St., 17th St. parking lot
\$10/in-city, \$12/non-city • For all ages. Children under age 12 yrs. must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Camping Basics with IU Outdoor Adventures

Our partners at Indiana University Outdoor Adventures present an informative program on how to enjoy a weekend camping in the woods. This program is intended for outdoor and camping novices who are seeking introductory camping knowledge. They will address both car camping and backcountry camping, and will cover the following: a basic checklist of equipment, setting up your preferred shelter, organizing a safe campsite, packing everything back up for the trip home, and leaving the campsite better than you found it. Learn more and register before 10/7 by visiting outdoors.indiana.edu and clicking on "More Events."
Su 10/9 • noon–2 p.m.
FREE • For all ages.
Dunn Meadow, E. Seventh St. and N. Indiana Ave.



Full Moon Night Hike

Magic comes alive in the woods under the moonlight at night! Join us for a night hike where we will rely on the light of the moon to guide us along the trails of scenic Leonard Springs Nature Park. Should the skies be clear, we will also have a beautiful view of a blanket of stars! Be prepared for moderate hiking. Instructor: Emily Gardner
Su 10/9 • 8–9:30 p.m. • Register by 10/4 • 340007-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Leonard Springs Nature Park,
4685 S. Leonard Springs Rd.—Meet at parking lot.

Spooky Nature Crafts

Do you love the time of year when the leaves turn bright colors and the breeze turns brisk? Do you enjoy making interesting objects out of natural materials? Bring your love of these together to create an autumnal or spooky craft to take home! This program is for all ages, so adults come get your craft on, too! Instructor: Emily Gardner
Sa 10/15 • noon–2 p.m. • Register by 10/11 • 340008-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37
—Meet at the Sycamore Shelter.

Autumn Colors Sunset Hike

This guided hike takes place during "golden hour" when the sun approaches the horizon before setting and lights up the world in beautiful shades of yellows, oranges, and reds. Combined with the fall colors of the surrounding trees, the views are straight out of a painting. Please bring drinking water and appropriate hiking shoes. Instructor: Zach Ryan
Sa 10/22 • 4:30–6:30 p.m. • Register by 10/18 • 340009-A
\$5/in-city, \$6/non-city • For all ages.
Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, 3400 N. Headley Rd.
—Meet at boathouse.