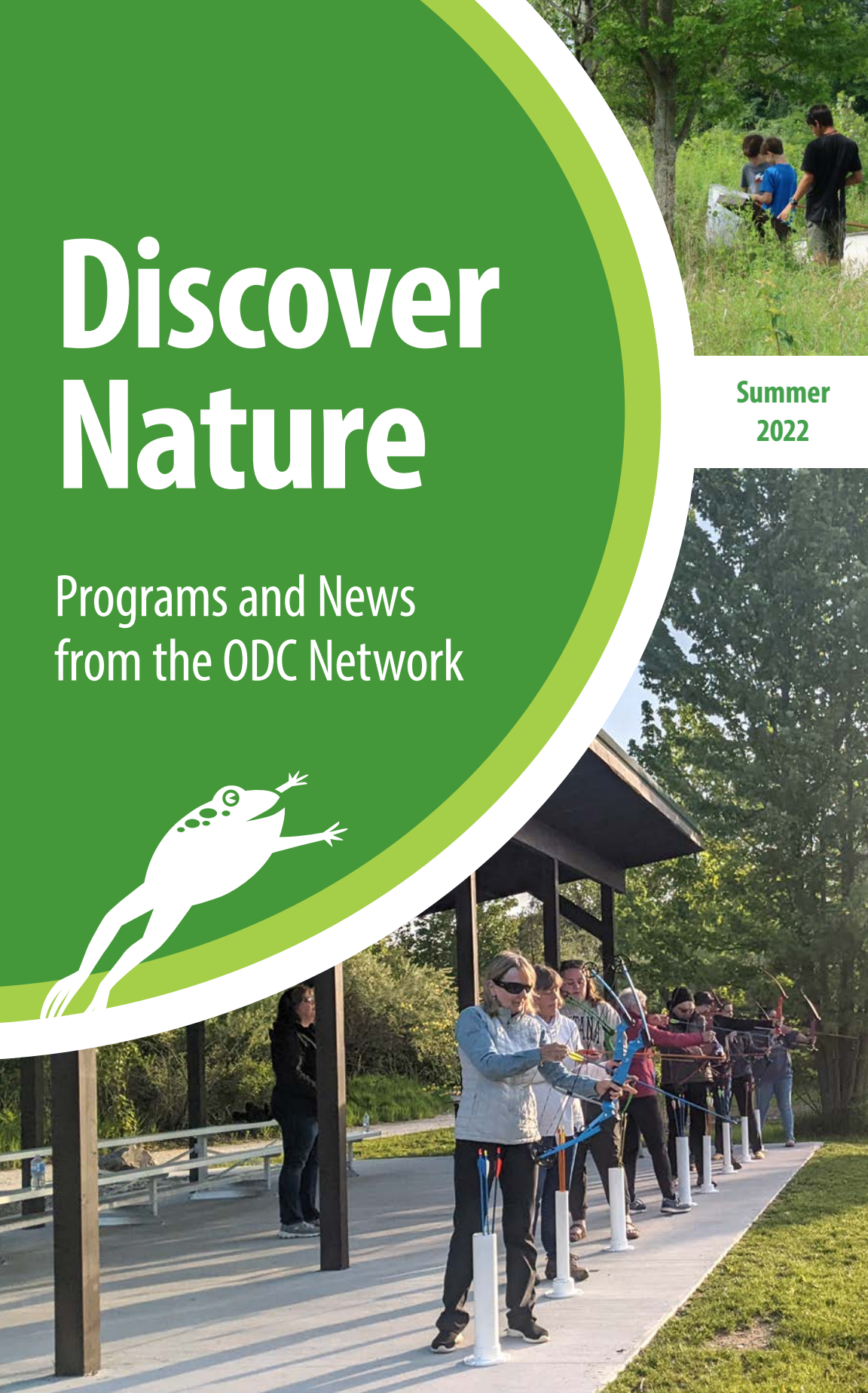


Discover Nature

Programs and News
from the ODC Network



Summer
2022



The **ODC Network** is a collection of business divisions with the mission to advance outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan.



FREE ADMISSION—Two Locations!

4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423

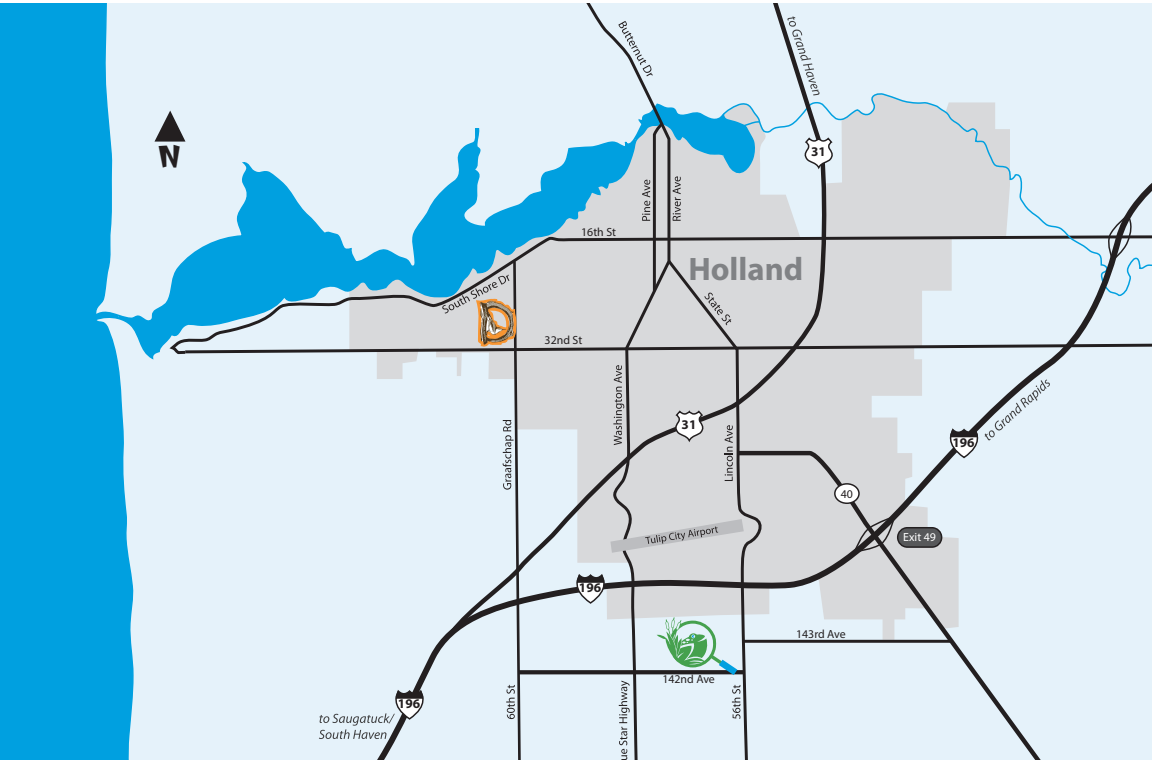


The Outdoor Discovery Center is 155 acres with about 3 miles of trails, located on the south side of Holland, just south of West Michigan Regional Airport. Admission is free! Trails open dawn to dusk—Visitors Center open 10 AM–3 PM, Monday–Saturday.

600 Graafschap Road • Holland, MI • 49423



DeGraaf Nature Center is 18 acres of forest and wetlands located within the City of Holland, just south of Lake Macatawa. Admission is free! Trails open dawn to dusk—Helen O Brower Visitors Center open 10 AM–3 PM, Tuesday–Saturday.



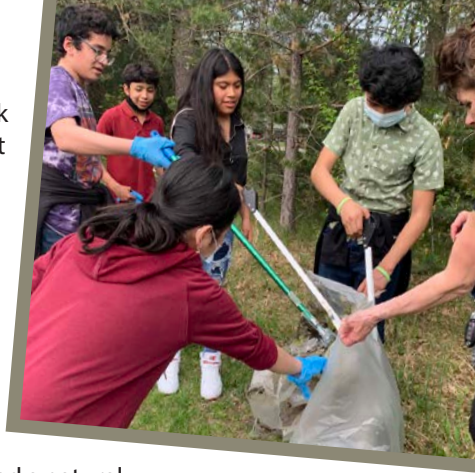
Discover Nature • Descubrir la Naturaleza

During the 2021-2022 school year, our Education Network strengthened a valuable partnership with the West Ottawa Public Schools District. WOPS has over 1,000 multilingual students who speak 30 unique languages!

In an after-school program for English language learners, Bob Wandel and Vanessa Gutierrez provided Macatawa Bay Middle School students with on-site nature-based experiences and cultural conversations during a weekly session. The students identified themselves as coming from families with cultural roots in Latin America and Asia. The students worked on bird boxes, tried snow shoes and atlats, learned about orienteering, and designed a natural wildlife habitat for their school that also represented their own identities. It was motivating to see the students engaged in picking up trash and dipping nets in their school pond to assess the life/water quality.

It's important to recognize that not all youth have the same access or sense of safety/identity in the outdoors. For many of the students, it was their first time using certain gear and equipment or doing these activities. Week after week, we also noticed their discomfort with the cold weather since they didn't have the proper outdoor attire. Bob and class teacher Ms. Rose Starook coordinated so that these students could borrow boots from the ODC. Another intentional effort was to have Vanessa be present as a role model for young Latinas. Providing the class with English/Spanish interpretation proved to be a successful strategy as trust and confidence was built between all teachers and students.

The Education Network looks forward to a continued summer partnership with WOPS.



Join us for a Program!

In the following pages, you will find titles or descriptions of our community programs available in the coming months. Look for more information on our website or social media!

Program Locations

Programs may be held at the **Outdoor Discovery Center**, at **DeGraaf Nature Center**, or at **various other parks** and natural areas in our community. Attend programs closest to you—or discover new places in our community. All locations are listed next to the program title—when necessary, the address and details can be found in *italics* beneath the program description.



Outdoor Discovery Center
4214 56th Street
Holland, MI 49423
outdoordiscovery.org



DeGraaf Nature Center
600 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423
degraaf.org



Other Locations
*Addresses listed beneath
program description*

July 2022

August

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Knee-high Naturalists	2 Celebrate Eagles
3	4	5 Explore a Story	6 Nature for Tykes	7	8 Knee-highs Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks	9
10	11 Wilderness Survival	12 Biomimicry	13	14 Archery Night	15 Creative Flora Knee-high Naturalists	16 Awesome Amphibians
17	18 Nature Puppet Show	19 Check THINGS Out WiN-Dune Hike	20 Up Close & Wild	21	22 Creative Fauna Knee-highs Banquet for Birds Blueberry Fields	23 VoLes
24	25 Critter Catchers	26 Birds of Prey Photo Shoot	27	28	29 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes	30
31	1 Artist Seminar by Jason Wesaw	2	3 Paddle Adventure	4	5 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks	6 Family Kayaking
7	8 Critter Catchers	9	10	11 Adult Archery	12 Creative Outdoors Knee-high Naturalists	13 Macatawa Water Festival
14	15 Nature Puppet Show	16 Explore a Story Up Close & Wild	17 Nature for Tykes	18 Cultivating Resilience WiN-Kayaking	19 Creative Installations Knee-highs Banquet for Birds	20
21	22	23 Frog Catching!	24	25 West Michigan Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar	26 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes	27
28	29	30	31	1	2 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks	3 Live Birds of Prey
4	5	6 Explore with your Senses	7	8 Evening with the ODC	9 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes	10
11	12 Homeschool-Insects	13 Explore a Story WiN-Native Gardening	14 Nature for Tykes WiN-Paddling Adventure	15 Autumn Contemplative Photography	16 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for the Birds	17 Lake Mac Clean-up VoLes
18	19	20 Trail Clean-up	21 Archery Night	22 Bicycle Maintenance	23 Knee-high Naturalists	24
25	26	27	28	29 Macro-invertebrate Monitoring Birds & Brews	30 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for the Birds	

Knee-high Naturalists (ODC) Ages 3-6 Drop-off

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

Parents can drop off their 4-6 year old or stay with the class. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Friday, July 1

Friday, August 12

Friday, September 9

Friday, July 15

Friday, August 26

Friday, September 23

Friday, July 29

10 AM-12 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 for members

Celebrating Eagles (ODC) Ages 7-99

The big party is here, America's birthday party! To celebrate, the whole family is invited to meet our national symbol in the feather. You will be able to see our resident bald eagles and their cousin the golden eagle. Learn about what these awesome animals like to eat, where they live, and how strong they are. Plan on a 10 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center.

Saturday, July 2 • **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration required • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Nature for Tykes (ODC)** Ages 3-7

Bring out your little tykes to learn more about nature. In each program, you and your little tyke will have the opportunity to explore together.

Wednesday, July 6 • Theme: Pond Life

Wednesday, August 17 • Theme: Sunshine and Shadows

Wednesday, September 14 • Theme: Insects

10-11 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$6 per child, \$4 for members

**Banquet for the Birds (ODC)** Ages 0-99

Stop by the De Witt Birds of Prey Center during this open house style program and watch a naturalist feed our resident raptors. You can bring a snack for yourself, too! Plan on a 10 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center.

Friday, July 8

Friday, September 2

Friday, July 22

Friday, September 16

Friday, August 5

Friday, September 30

Friday, August 19

10:30 AM-12 PM • No registration necessary • Fee: FREE

**Snake Snacks (ODC)** Ages 0-99

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Come to the Visitors Center and watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Friday, July 8

Friday, August 5

Friday, September 2

4-5 PM • Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members



Read more program details and register at outdoordiscovery.org

Find the right program for you at a glance with **suggested age ranges** at the top of each description.

These are flexible with ability and attention span.

Archery Night (ODC) Ages 11-99

Have you always wanted to try out archery? Now is your chance! This program is geared for anyone ages 11 and up. We will go over the basics of archery, and you will have time to practice shooting at 3D targets and regular targets. All equipment provided—we require the use of our equipment to participate.

Thursday, July 14

Wednesday, September 21

6–7:30 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$12 per person, \$9 for members

Program Location: Meet at ODC Archery Range, 5675 142nd Ave, Holland



Food Truck Friday Ages 0-99

Bring your friends, family, or co-workers to the ODC for Food Truck Fridays. You can add in a hike or a program and froyo for dessert. ODC will host a different food truck at the trailhead on select Fridays throughout the summer. Check our website for additionally scheduled trucks and dates!

Friday, July 15 - Bigfoot Burger Co.

Friday, July 22 - Mexcellente

11 AM - 1 PM • No registration required • Fee: Purchased food

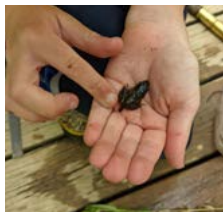


Awesome Amphibians (ODC) Ages 3-99

What are amphibians and why are they important? Well, why don't you join us and find out. We will have live amphibians to see and touch as we learn about these amazing animals, and we will go on a frog hunt! Please dress for the weather.

Saturday, July 16 • **11 AM - 12 PM**

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members



Nature Puppet Show (ODC) Ages 0-7

You're invited to join us for a puppet show! Let's learn about wild animals and their habitat homes. After the show, stick around to meet some live Michigan animals up close. This program is ideal for children 3 to 5 years old. Please dress for the weather.

Monday, July 18

Monday, August 15

10 - 11 AM • Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

VoLes (Various Locations) Ages 12-18 Drop-off

Our Volunteer League (nicknamed "VoLes") is a service club for teens to experience what it takes to maintain a natural area and captive wildlife. This program is designed for 12–18 year olds who will work with staff on a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks at the ODC and DeGraaf. Past projects have included removing invasive species, cleaning up animal enclosures, and adding nature play features. It's a great way to earn community service volunteer hours!

Saturday, July 23 • **10 AM - 12 PM**

Saturday, September 9 • **3:30–5 PM**

Friday, July 29 • **3–5 PM**

Saturday, September 17 • **10 AM - 12PM**

Friday, August 26 • **3:30–5 PM**

at Dunton Park

Registration required • Fee: FREE

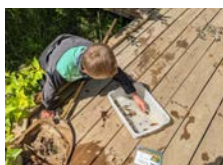
Critter Catchers (ODC) Ages 4-12

Catch a frog, touch a tadpole and have fun exploring a wetland at the Outdoor Discovery Center with a naturalist. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided. No sandals or bare feet please.

Monday, July 25

Monday, August 8

11 AM - 12 PM • Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members



Birds of Prey Photo Shoot (ODC) **Ages 10-99**

For this photography program, we will take four of our birds of prey out of their enclosures and perch them on natural branches, trees, and stumps. Photographers can go wild as they take up close pictures of these amazing creatures. All of the birds will remain leashed throughout the program. This is a great chance to get those close-up shots of owls that seem impossible to get in nature. Registration limited.

Tuesday, July 26 • 6 - 7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$30 per person, \$22.50 for members

Program Location: Meet at DeWitt Birds of Prey Center, 4274 56th Street, Holland, MI

Adult Archery Night (ODC) **Ages 17-99**

Hey grown-ups, don't you want to shoot an arrow at a dinosaur? What about a giant mosquito? If so, come out to the ODC for your chance to learn or hone your archery skills. All equipment provided—we require the use of our equipment to participate.

Thursday, August 11 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$12 per person, \$9 for members

Program Location: Meet at ODC Archery Range, 5675 142nd Ave, Holland

Live Birds of Prey (ODC) **Ages 7-99**

What makes a bird of prey different from other birds? Using our collection of live birds, you will learn the life history of several species including hawks, owls, and falcons. There will be a chance to get an up-close look at the birds and explore artifacts including skulls, wings, talons, and feathers.

Plan on a 10 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center for this program.

Saturday, September 3 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members

**Homeschool–Insects (ODC)** **Ages 6-10** **Drop-off**

Wetlands are some of our most interesting, diverse, and important habitats. In this class, we will dig in to a wetland with sampling nets and catch a large variety of animals that call wetlands their home. We will be learning about amphibians, insects, and other macroinvertebrates. Dress to get messy and with shoes that can get wet.

Monday, September 12 • 10 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child

**Fit & Healthy Families** **Ages 11-99**

This series is taught by a registered dietitian from Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital and covers a variety of nutrition topics in a hands-on-interactive way. Classes will take place at the ODC's Discovery Pavilion where you can join in gardening, exploring the trails, seeing the birds of prey up close, fishing, trying new foods, and more!

Mondays, September 12 to October 24

Tuesday, November 1

6 - 7:30 PM

Registration required: spectrumhealth.org/locations/zeeland-community-hospital/classes-and-events/nutrition • Fee \$25

Autumn Contemplative Photography (ODC) **Ages 18-99**

Photography provides the opportunity to take a mindful approach to life...to stop, look, and see things anew. Take this time to slow down, reflect, and heal from our daily challenges. Join two local photographers, Kathy Odiorne and Heidi Quellet, for an evening photo shoot as they share a contemplative approach to nature photography with tips on composition, light, and creativity. Bring your camera or smartphone and capture the beauty of autumn with us!

Thursday, September 15 • 6 - 8 PM

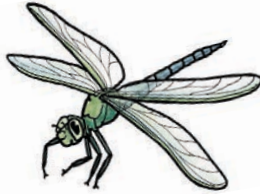
Registration required • Fee: \$25 per person, \$20 for members



Evening with the ODC at Dragonflies Discovery Preschool

Join us for Evening with the ODC on Thursday, September 8th, 2022 at Dragonflies Discovery Preschool. Guests will celebrate the grand opening of Dragonflies Discovery Preschool by exploring the NEW campus, enjoying social time with ODC family and friends, and indulging in delicious food and drink.

Your attendance will help us deliver high



quality nature-based programs, experiences, and services that connect people, land, and nature through habitat and wildlife conservation, outdoor education, and greenway development.

Thank you to our lead sponsor, CL Construction!

For more information, go to:

bit.ly/ODCevening22

or email Ashley VanZee at

ashley@outdoordiscovery.org.



Support ODC Network with Food and Beverages

Community Pizza at Hops in July

ODC Network's Seedlings Discovery Preschool is the recipient of Hops at 84 East's Community Pizza for the ENTIRE month of July! Check their website for Community Pizza Toppings.

\$5 of every community pizza ordered will be donated to the ODC Network, we encourage you to take your family and friends to Hops at 84 East to enjoy a pizza. You can even order it for takeout and enjoy it at a park.

Month of July • Program Location: 84 E 8th Street, Holland



Grab a Community Tap from New Holland in August

ODC Network is the recipient of New Holland Brewing Company's Community Tap for the ENTIRE month of August!

Month of August • Program Location: 66 E 8th St, Holland



Explore a Story (DeGraaf) Ages 1-7

It's time to round up the little ones and come to DeGraaf Nature Center for Explore a Story! We'll be introducing kids to the outdoors through books and outdoor adventures. We'll read stories, take hikes, meet animals, and have lots of fun. Dress for the weather because we'll be heading outside to experience the nature around us.

Tuesday, July 5

Tuesday, August 16

Tuesday, September 13

10–11 AM • *Registration is not required, but appreciated* • Fee: \$6 per child, \$4 for members**Knee-high Naturalists (DeGraaf)** Ages 3-6 Drop-off

Knee-high Naturalists introduces the wonders of the natural world to young children. Crafts, activities, books, snacks, live animals, and outside exploration will be incorporated into their nature-based learning experience.

Parents can drop off their 4–6 year old or stay with the class. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Friday, July 8

Friday, August 5

Friday, September 2

Friday, July 22

Friday, August 19

Friday, September 16

Friday, September 30

10 AM–12 PM • *Registration required* • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 for members**Check THINGS Out (DeGraaf)** Ages 7-99

Did you know that Herrick District Library has a Library of Things?! While they won't be available for official checkout at the event (we want everyone to get a chance to try them!), you can always go to the library to pick one up next time you visit, or place a hold through their catalog. Items include a Wildlife Observation Kit, Digital Handheld Microscope, GoalZero Solar Kit, Identiflyer Lyric Bird Song Identifier, and an Air Quality Monitor

Tuesday July 19 • 6:30 - 8 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE**Sustainability Series**Ages 15-99

We embrace Richard Louv's vision of a nature-rich community, pursuing beauty, health, biodiversity, creativity, and social justice. Join this pursuit as we explore a different sustainable topic every month.

Biomimicry (Herrick District Library)

Biomimicry is a lens through which we can study the earth and observe how nature has solved even the most difficult problems. Join us as Biomimicry Institute graduate and Biophilia Ventures founder, Dana Lowell, talks about this concept and how he applies it to his personal business.

Tuesday, July 12 • 6:30 - 8 PM

Registration is required but walk-ins are welcome • Fee: FREE*Program location: Herrick District Library, 300 South River, Holland Michigan 49423***Rainbarrel Building Workshop at Macatawa Water Festival**Visit outdoordiscovery.org/macatawa-water-festival/ for more details

Saturday, August 13

Bicycle Maintenance and Repair (DeGraaf)

Thursday, September 22 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$15 per person, \$10 for members**Macroinvertebrate Monitoring (DeGraaf)** Ages 14-99

Come help us investigate the health of our area streams by collecting the aquatic macroinvertebrates that live there. No experience required and all equipment will be provided. Dress appropriately for getting wet and/or muddy.

Thursday, September 29 • 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE*Program location: Start and end at DeGraaf Nature Center, will drive to other locations during the program*

Macatawa Water Festival (Windmill Island Gardens)

Located on Windmill Island, the Macatawa Water Festival will take place on Saturday August 13 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Local businesses and organizations are joining together to provide activities suitable for all ages to learn about restoring and preserving our lake and watershed. We are excited to celebrate the Macatawa Watershed and encourage you to continue to visit, explore, and care for it.

Kayak or bike around the island, fish for trout (youth under 17yrs old), learn about native and invasive plants, make an upcycled craft, and perform water quality experiments.

Thank you to our Watershed Sponsors:



Volunteers are welcome. Register online or contact Ashley Van Zee (616) 368-9289 or ashley@outdoordiscovery.org for more information.

Saturday, August 13
9 AM-1 PM

Program Location: Windmill Island Gardens, 1 Lincoln Avenue, Holland
No registration necessary • Fee: FREE



Everyone Lives in a Watershed

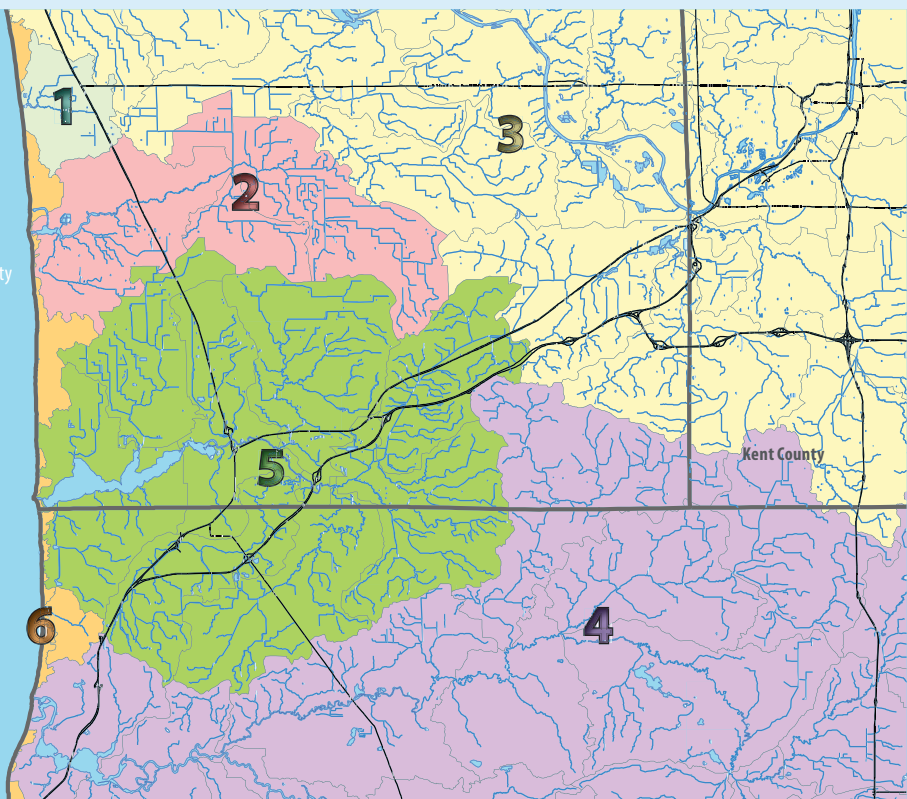
Learn all about watersheds with games and activities at the Macatawa Water Festival! Here are the watersheds closest to us. Do you know which watershed you're standing in right now?

1. Little Pigeon Watershed
2. Pigeon Watershed
3. Grand River Watershed

4. Kalamazoo Watershed
5. Macatawa Watershed
6. Direct to Lake Michigan



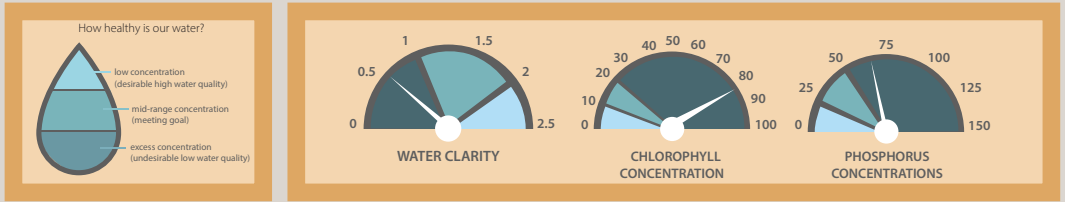
SCAN HERE to use an interactive map or visit outdoordiscovery.org/project-clarity



Improving Water Quality in Lake Macatawa

2021 saw promising improvements to water quality in Lake Macatawa. Since regular monitoring began in 1972, sampling over the course of the year by GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute showed **the lowest average phosphorus levels (64 parts per billion) in Lake Mac**. Water clarity also saw a big improvement, averaging nearly a meter, just meeting the goal initially set out by Project Clarity a decade ago. While these figures are certainly reason for optimism, work

remains to meet our goals laid out by the state. The projects that continue to go in around the watershed will help us further reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients making it to the lake. There will likely be year-to-year variation in water clarity and phosphorus levels, but the data from 2021 is certainly encouraging and hopefully points towards long-term improvements in the lake at the heart of our community.



Cultivating Resilience Farm Field Day

Hosted by the Ottawa & Allegan Conservation Districts, in partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center and the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council to showcase new and emerging practices that promote soil health, give producers practical conservation knowledge that they can use to evaluate their operations, and bring new knowledge to West Michigan.

Thursday, August 18 • 8 AM - 3 PM

Registration required at ottawacd.org/cultivatingresilience

Fee: **FREE**

Program location: *Shady Side Farm, 13275 Blair St, Holland*



Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar

Join us for the 6th annual green stormwater seminar to learn about local initiatives to improve stormwater management and community resiliency to the impacts of coastal flooding. Speakers include Daniel Schoonmaker of the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, Shany Viars of American Rivers, and Dana Burd of Prein & Newhof. The program will also include activity rotation stations for some fun, hands-on learning! Up to 4 PDHs are available for professional engineers and green infrastructure practitioners.

Thursday, August 25 • 8:30 AM - 3 PM

Registration is required and fees apply

Program location: *Pinnacle Center, 3330 Highland Dr, Hudsonville*

Lake Macatawa Cleanup

Help clean Lake Macatawa! Depending on the group size, there may be a crew on the shores of the lake and another in kayaks in the lake. Anyone under 16 years old must be with an adult. All bags, gloves, grabbers, boats, paddles, and life vests will be provided. Meet in the parking lot with the boat launch.

Saturday, September 17 • 10 AM - 12 PM

Registration is required • Fee: **FREE**

Program location: *Dunton Park, 290 Howard Ave, Holland*

Stu Visser Trail Cleanup

Help clean up the trails at Stu Visser Park. We'll walk the trails and point out any interesting flora and fauna while helping beautify this amazing park.

Tuesday, September 20 • 6 - 7:30 PM

Registration is required

Fee: **FREE** - program sponsor Park Township

Program location: *Stu Visser Park, 929 Ottawa Beach Rd*



Wilderness Survival (Keppel Forest) Ages 8-14 Drop-off

Improve your outdoor skills while at this exciting program. Participants will learn how to make a shelter, read a map, build a fire, and more. This is a great program for 8-14 year olds. Please do not bring your pocket knives, weapons, or matches — we will provide all of the materials. Please do bring a water bottle.

Monday, July 11 • 10:30 AM - 12 PM

Registration is required • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Park Township

Program location: Keppel Forest, 2117 Lakewood Blvd, Holland

**Up Close & Wild (West Side Park)** Ages 4-99

Learn about the mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds that can be found in Michigan with a naturalist from the Outdoor Discovery Center. Live animals will be used in this family friendly presentation that is great for all ages. Time to handle some of the wildlife may be conducted during the program or at its conclusion depending on the size of the audience.

Wednesday, July 20 • 11 AM - 12 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation

Program location: West Side Park - 2152 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville

**Blueberry Fields Forever (Huyser Farm Park)** Ages 0-99

Learn about blueberries and how they have become a West Michigan industry. Bring collection buckets to take home some free blueberries from the u-pick, organic blueberry patch! Sturdy shoes and insect repellent are encouraged.

Friday, July 22 • 11 AM - 12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location - Huyser Farm Park, 4184 64th Street, Holland

Artist Seminar by Jason Wesaw (Herrick District Library) Ages 14-99

Join CultureWorks and the Outdoor Discovery Center for a lecture from local Potawatomi ceramicist Jason Wesaw. You'll be taken on a journey of Jason's work while also learning more deeply about Potawatomi culture, witnessing power in the creative process, and revering the land we collectively call home.

Monday, August 1 • 6 - 7 PM

Registration is not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE - sponsored by CultureWorks & ODC

Program location: Herrick District Library, 300 S. River Ave, Holland

**Paddle Adventure (Gilligan Lake)** Ages 10-99

We are partnering up with Tulip City Paddle Tours to go paddling on Gilligan Lake. This small lake will provide the perfect spot to try out your beginner skills on either kayaks or stand up paddle boards.

Wednesday, August 3 • 6 - 7:30 PM

Registration required • Register for either a SUP or a kayak • Fee: \$20 per person

Program location: 4300 66th Street, Holland - street parking only, limited parking

Family Kayaking (New Richmond Bridge Park - North Entrance) Ages 10-99

Paddle the Kalamazoo River with naturalists from the ODC Network. Kayaks, paddles, and vests are provided. The group will launch from the New Richmond Bridge Park (north entrance) and paddle up river into some marshy areas and forested river sections. Then we will turn around and paddle back to the park. This river has a slow current making this an ideal paddle for an inexperienced paddler or someone looking for a relaxed paddle.

Saturday, August 6 • 9 - 11 AM

Registration required - boats limited • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation

Program location: New Richmond Bridge Park (north entrance) - 5730 Old Allegan Rd., Fennville

Up Close & Wild (Former Airport) Ages 4-99

Learn about the reptiles, amphibians, and birds that can be found in Michigan with a naturalist from the ODC. Live animals will be used in this family friendly presentation that is great for all ages.

Tuesday August 16 • 6 - 7 PM

Registration required • Bring a blanket or chair to sit on the grass • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Park Township

Program location: 1269 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland

Frog Catching! (Farview Park) Ages 4-12

Families are invited to meet a naturalist at Farview Park in search of amphibians, insects, and other aquatic life. All collection tubs and dip nets will be provided.

Tuesday, August 23 • 4 - 5:30 PM

Registration required for all children • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location: Farview Park 6257 138th Ave, Holland

**Explore With Your Senses (Shore Acres Township Park)** Ages 3-9

Use all of your senses on this walk through Shore Acres Township Park. Touch, feel, smell, see, and taste your way along these dune trails with one of our naturalists. Learn how your senses differ from many of Michigan's native animals.

Tuesday, September 6 • 4 - 5 PM

Registration is required for all children • Fee: FREE - sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location: Shore Acres Township Park 6602 138th Ave, Holland

Birds and Brews (Saugatuck Brewing Company)
Ages 21-99

Join the ODC and Saugatuck Brewing Company as we pair specialty beers with a live birds of prey show.

Thursday, September 29 • 6 - 8 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$30 • Program location: Saugatuck Brewing Company, 2948 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas



Women In Nature Series

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. *Registration required for all programs.*

Dune Walk (Shore Acres Township Park)

Get in your steps after work and hike some of Michigan's beautiful dunes. Learn about the largest freshwater dune system in the world as we hike through the different dune zones to Lake Michigan and back. *Fee: \$6 per person.*

Tuesday, July 19 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Program location: Shore Acres Township Park, 6602 138th Ave, Holland

Kayaking (Schutmaat Park)

Join to learn about river wildlife, our efforts to improve local watersheds, and enjoy a casual paddle with a naturalist. This river is ideal for an inexperienced or casual paddler.

Fee: \$12 per person.

Thursday, August 18 • 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Program location: Schutmaat Park, 3500 Willyard Hamilton

**Native Gardening (ODC)**

In this gardening program, participants will learn the difference between native plants and "wildflowers", how they can be used in urban or suburban landscapes, and how native plants can attract birds and butterflies to their yards. *Fee: \$6 per person.*

Tuesday, September 13 • 6 - 7:30 PM

Program location: Outdoor Discovery Center, 4214 56th St, Holland

Paddling Adventure (Window on the Waterfront)

We are partnering with Tulip City Paddle Tours to offer guided tours of the Macatawa River on stand up paddleboards and kayaks for this river adventure. This is a great program for beginners. *Fee: \$20 per person.*

Wednesday, September 14 • 6 - 7:30 PM

Program location: Window on the Waterfront, 20 S River Ave, Holland

Building Authentic Experiences

Engaging students with authentic experiences continues to be a focus of the Education Network at the ODC. A key aspect of authentic learning is providing students with opportunities to ask questions and engage with experiences that are student-centered in the natural world they encounter. One such highlight is a recent first grade investigation where students were interested when birds were most active in their forest. With the help of

the ODC Education Network, the first grade classroom used observations and curiosity to drive their authentic science investigation. As a result of their work and data collection, students discovered that birds were more active in the morning. Well done! If you are interested in learning more about these types of experiences either at school or in your home school environment, please contact Bob Wandel at bob@outdoordiscovery.org.

Question:
When are
birds the
most active
in our
Forest?



Claim:
Bird are most
active in
the morning.

Evidences
30 bird were
counted in
the morning.

20 birds were
counted in
the afternoon.

Why?
Birds were
active in the
morning
because there
were less
kids playing
outside.

Walk in the Woods

Walk in the Woods is the largest fundraiser for our ODC preschools: Little Hawks, Seedlings, and Dragonflies Discovery Preschool. This year we raised funds for the new Dragonflies Discovery Preschool facility and scholarships for future students.

We fundraise in three major ways: Community/Business Sponsorships, Student

Sponsorships, and Basket Raffle. In total, we had 570 individuals attend events over two nights and we raised over \$52,000!

Thank you to 5/3rd Bank, Bradford Co, CL Construction, DeNooyer Chevrolet, City Delicatessen, Edward Jones Investments – Dan DeWeerd, Whiteford Wealth Management Inc., Wooden Shoe Restaurant, and the numerous Little Hawks, Seedlings, and Dragonflies families for sponsoring the event.



FIFTH THIRD BANK



Thanks to All of Our Golfers!

On June 1, we held the 3rd Annual Social Distance Cup at the Ravines Golf Club in Saugatuck. We had over 30 teams participate and raised over \$30,000 to go toward our mission of advancing outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan. Thank you to all who participated and supported the event.

A special thank you goes out to our Eagle and Birdie sponsors (listed below). Thank you to our beverage and lunch sponsors: K-Line Industries, Community Choice Credit Union, and special thanks to all of our hole sponsors!

Morning Flight Winners

First place team: Wells Fargo Advisors

Second place team: Duthler, Duits, Mast & Medema Team

Afternoon Flight Winners

First place team: Kyle Geenen Group

Second place team: Team TerBink



KAMMINGA FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND





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