

Discover Nature

Programs and News
from the ODC Network



Summer
2023



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

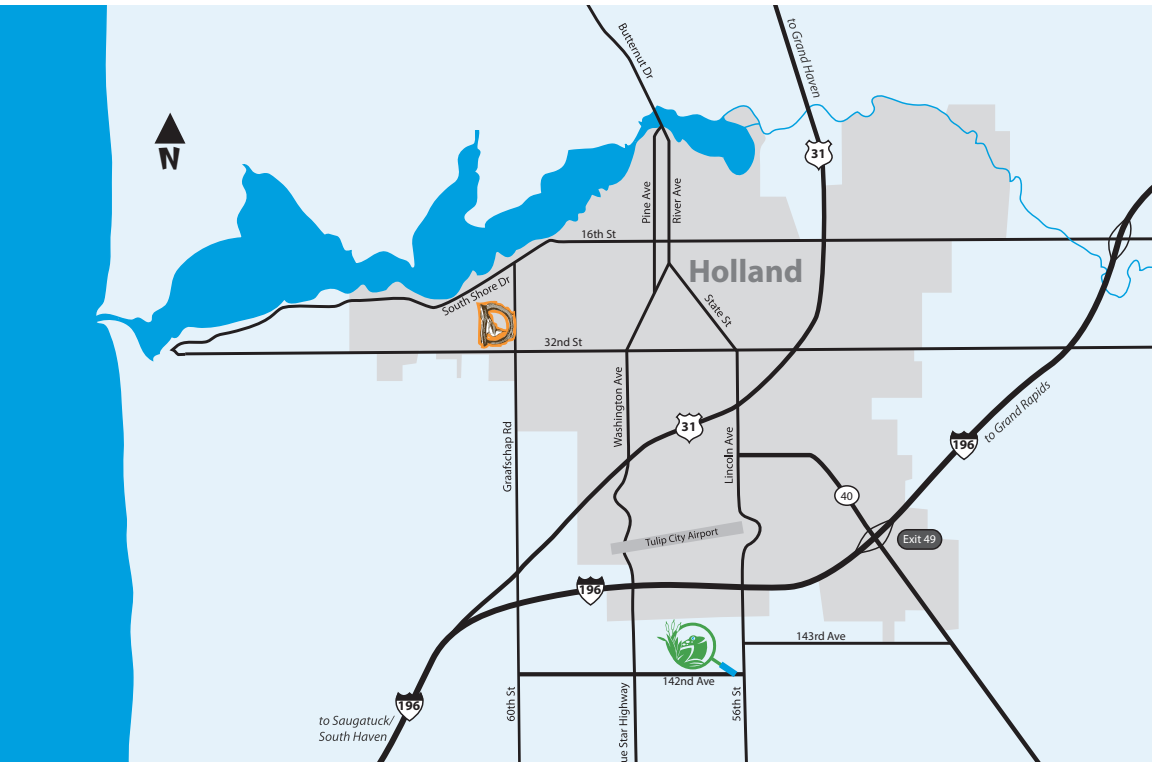


The Outdoor Discovery Center is 155 acres with about 3 miles of trails, located on the south side of Holland, just south of West Michigan Regional Airport. Admission is free! Trails open dawn to dusk—Visitors Center open 10 AM–3 PM, Monday–Saturday.

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.





Juneteenth @ Kollen Park - June 17, 2022

I AM Academy STEM Night - March 2023

LAUP Youth Leadership Conference - February 2023

Career Carousel - May 2023

Spotlight: Community Nonprofit Partners

If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together – African Proverb

This summer season, we encourage you to learn about the following nonprofit organizations. We've increased partnership opportunities this year with I AM Academy and LAUP, where organizational missions intersect with culture and identity.

I AM Academy | iamacademymi.org

The mission of I AM Academy is to empower African American adolescents to achieve their full potential by centering their identity, cultivating relationships, supporting educational success, providing college experiences, and facilitating job readiness; ultimately changing the narrative and trajectory of their community.

LAUP | laup.org

The mission of LAUP is to empower Latinos to create a better community for all through advocacy, celebration, and education. LAUP has established roots since 1975. Their youth - adult programs also include a focus on career, citizenship, civic engagement, dance classes, and Spanish language classes.

Check out the ODC Up Close & Wild booth at these upcoming events/programs:

- July 15: LAUP Fiesta @ Holland Civic Center
- June-August: I AM Academy STEAM Summer Camp @ Maple Avenue Ministries
- September 16: Grand Haven Hispanic Heritage Fiesta 2023 with Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative!

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 2023

August

September

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Hawks, Falcons, and Owls - Oh My! <i>DeGraaf Visitors Center Closed</i> |
| 2 | 3 Celebrate Eagles | 4 ODC & DeGraaf Visitors Centers Closed | 5 | 6 | 7 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Wilderness Survival Fit & Healthy Families | 11 Time Travel ABCs | 12 Nature For Tykes - Sun & Shadows | 13 Critter Catchers | 14 Knee-high Naturalists | 15 VoLes |
| 16 | 17 Fit & Healthy Families | 18 Time Travel ABCs Explore A Story Up Close & Wild Archery | 19 | 20 WiN - Painting Under the Pavilion | 21 Knee-high Naturalist Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Fit & Healthy Families | 25 Time Travel ABCs Paddle Adventure | 26 Blueberry Fields WiN - Dune Walk | 27 Bike Maintenance & Repair | 28 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes | 29 Amazing Insects |
| 30 | 31 Fit & Healthy Families | 1 Time Travel ABCs | 2 | 3 | 4 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Explore A Story Time Travel ABCs | 9 Nature for Tykes - Flowers | 10 | 11 Knee-high Naturalists | 12 Macatawa WaterFest VoLes <i>ODC & DeGraaf Visitors Centers Closed</i> |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Time Travel ABCs Up Close & Wild | 16 Critter Catchers | 17 Farm Field Day | 18 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks | 19 Paddle Adventure |
| 20 | 21 WiN - Kayaking | 22 Time Travel ABCs Adult Archery Night | 23 | 24 Frog Catching West Michigan Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar | 25 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes | 26 Family Kayaking |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Knee-high Naturalists Banquet for Birds Snake Snacks | 2 <i>DeGraaf Visitors Center Closed</i> |
| 3 | 4 <i>ODC & DeGraaf Visitors Centers Closed</i> | 5 Explore A Story WiN - Wildflowers | 6 | 7 Explore With Your Senses | 8 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Plant ID Walk | 13 Nature for Tykes - Insects | 14 Senior Series - Dune Walk Archery Night | 15 Knee-high Banquet for Birds VoLes WiN - Clay Workshop | 16 MI Animals & Book Signing |
| 17 | 18 Homeschool - Insects | 19 | 20 | 21 Evening at ODC | 22 Knee-high Naturalists | 23 Plan Your Garden Workshop |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Trail Cleanup | 29 Knee-high Banquet for Birds Macroinvertebrate Survey | 30 VoLes |

Hawks, Falcons, and Owls - OH, MY! (ODC) **Ages 6-99**

We have many kinds of birds of prey that call Michigan home. During this program we will talk about hawks, falcons, and owls and what makes them unique. We will have live birds from each of those groups for everyone to see up close. Plan on a 10 minute walk to the DeWitt Birds of Prey Center from the front parking lot.

Saturday, July 1 • 10–11 AM

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

Monday, July 3 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$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 7

Friday, July 21

Friday, August 4

Friday, August 18

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

Friday, September 1

Friday, September 15

Friday, September 29

**Snake Snacks (ODC)** **Ages 3-99**

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

Friday, July 7

Friday, July 21

Friday, August 4

Friday, August 18

Friday, September 1

3:30–4:30 PM • *Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: \$6 per person, \$4 for members*

**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!

Monday, July 10

Monday, July 17

Monday, July 24

Monday, July 31

6–7:30 PM

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

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 12 • Theme: Sun and Shadows

Wednesday, August 9 • Theme: Flowers

Wednesday, September 13 • Theme: Insects

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



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.

Find more program details and register at outdoordiscovery.org

Critter Catchers (ODC) Ages 4-12

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

Thursday, July 13

Wednesday, August 16

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



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 14

Friday, August 11

Friday, September 8

Friday, July 28

Friday, August 25

Friday, September 22

10 AM–12 PM • *Registration required* • *Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 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 15 • 10 AM–12 PM

Friday, August 25 • 3–5 PM

Friday, July 28 • 3–5 PM

Friday, September 15 • 3:30–5 PM

Saturday, August 12 • Time TBA

Saturday, September 30 • 10 AM–12 PM

Registration required • *Fee: FREE*

Amazing World of Insects (ODC) Ages 4-99

Our meadow is the home for a huge variety of insects and arachnids. Join us as we talk about the amazing lives of insects and then use sweep nets to catch all sorts of bugs. Get an up close view of these awesome little animals. We will provide the nets, guests should wear bug spray, sunscreen and close toed shoes.

Saturday, July 29 • 10–11 AM

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



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.

Tuesday, August 22 • 6–7:30 PM

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

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



Grab a Community Pizza from Hops AND Donate to Preschool!

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 Seedlings, 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.



Hangout With Herrick

Registration required and limited: herrickdl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Herrick District Library

Archery (ODC) **Ages 10-99**

Learn how to use a bow and try your hand at archery. Perfect for complete beginners! All required items provided.

Tuesday, July 18 • 6:30–8 PM

Plant Identification Walk (ODC) **Ages 8-99**

Learn more about the native plants that grow this time of year. The group will assemble on the front porch of the Visitor's Center before taking a leisurely walk on the ADA-accessible trails.

Tuesday, September 12 • 6:30–7:30 PM

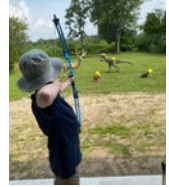
Archery Night (ODC) **Ages 10-99**

Have you always wanted to try out archery? Now is your chance! 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.

Thursday, September 14 • 6–7:30 PM

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

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



Michigan's Animals & Book Signing (ODC) **Ages 4-99**

Learn about the reptiles, amphibians and birds that can be found in Michigan with a naturalist from the Outdoor Discovery Center. Also, visit with local author, Jenny de Fouw Geuder, as she signs copies of her newest book - *Nature Explorer*. Live animals will be used in this family-friendly presentation.

Saturday, September 16 • 10–11 AM

Registration not required, but appreciated • Fee: FREE



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

Explore the world of insects found at the ODC. We will use tools to catch insects and see them up close. We will learn what makes an insect an insect and how amazing their lives can be.

Monday, September 18 • 10 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child



New Sculptures Now on ODC Art Trail

A walk along the Doug and Kori Eldean Rentz Art Trail at the Outdoor Discovery Center will have visitors finding a few new sculptures. Larry Sybesma, a 2013 and 2014 Art Prize contestant, has three new repurposed metal sculptures along the trail. Two additions are larger than life dragonflies soaring over the grasses at the east entry to the trail. The third is a heron appearing ready to eat its prey from a stump perch near the intersection of the Art Trail and the Sensory Trail.

These metal sculptures are made from reclaimed metals and crafted into life-like creations with details down to the eyes and antennae. Other pieces by Sybesma on the trail and around the wetland in front of the Visitors Center include a fishing great blue heron, a perching woodpecker, butterfly and owl silhouettes. These and other works along the art trail are only minutes from the main ODC parking lot and can be seen between sunrise to sunset every day of the year.

Tri-Communities Rain Barrel Program

Businesses in Saugatuck, Douglas, and Fennville will be hosting rain barrels from June to September 2023 as part of the Tri-Communities Rainscaping Project. This project is centered around restoring and protecting the Kalamazoo River Watershed while partnering with Saugatuck Center for the Arts to feature the works of local artists on each of the rain barrels.



This public art installation encourages visitors and residents to explore all of the barrels through an interactive Scavenger Hunt: each barrel will have a code that will correspond to a fill-in-the-blank puzzle in the Scavenger Hunt, with 1 individual puzzle for each of the 3 cities involved. Prizes will be available to those who complete and turn in these puzzles (while supplies last). Scavenger Hunt pamphlets and prizes will be available for pickup at Saugatuck Center for the Arts June-August.



We are thankful for the funding provided by the **Michigan Arts & Culture Council Community Partner Grant** that supports civic, economic, and educational benefits of arts and culture in our community!

Learn more at outdoordiscovery.org/rainbarrels



Community Carbon Fund

In partnership with the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, the Community Carbon Fund provides a West Michigan-centric option for reducing our collective carbon footprint. The fund helps to support local, nonprofit projects that aim to reduce our carbon footprint. Donating to the Community Carbon Fund is an investment in the environmentally-conscious development of our community.



Learn more at thecommunitycarbonfund.org

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.



Bicycle Maintenance and Repair (DeGraaf)

Thursday, July 27
6:30–8 PM
Fee: \$15 per person, \$10 for members



Rainscaping + optional Rain Barrel Building Workshop at Macatawa Water Festival

Saturday, August 12 • 10–11 AM
Visit outdoordiscovery.org/macatawa-water-festival for more details



Plan your 2024 Native Garden Workshop (DeGraaf)

Saturday, September 23
9–10:30 AM
Fee: \$35 per person, \$30 for members

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.

Tuesday, July 18 Tuesday, August 8 Tuesday, September 5
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 7 Friday, August 4 Friday, September 1
Friday, July 21 Friday, August 18 Friday, September 15
Friday, September 29



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

Time Travel ABC's Ages 5-99

Make history come alive with local resident and historical interpreter, Onalee Zartman. Drop in to explore daily doings of cabin life through artifacts, books and crafts. Try something new—or old! (Food not provided)

Tuesday, July 11 Tuesday, August 1
Tuesday, July 18 Tuesday, August 8
Tuesday, July 25 Tuesday, August 15
Tuesday, August 22

10 AM–3 PM • Registration is not required • Fee: FREE



Find more program details & register at degraaf.org

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 at DeGraaf Nature Center, drive to various locations

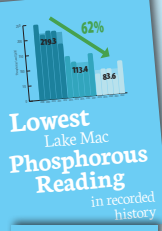




Project Clarity Success Celebrated



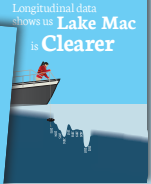
Project Clarity celebrated its 10 year anniversary with 170 guests and stakeholders at a special event in June. Project Clarity started in response to the challenge of record high Phosphorous levels in Lake Macatawa—our community chose not to ignore the situation, but to invest.



46,000 Tons of Sediment annually withheld from the Macatawa River—enough to fill **20 miles of back-to-back dump trucks**—the length of the Macatawa River!

These investments have produced the lowest level of Phosphorous in Lake Mac in the last 50 years. While work remains ongoing, we enjoyed celebrating the success we've had with a dinner presentation at Boatwerks and a view of a blue Lake Macatawa as the backdrop.

Restored **92 Acres of Wetlands** and gained enough floodwater storage to fill **115 Olympic-sized swimming pools!**



Macatawa Water Festival (Windmill Island Gardens)

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.

Saturday, August 12 • 9 AM–1 PM

No registration necessary • Fee: FREE

Program Location: Windmill Island Gardens, 1 Lincoln Avenue, Holland



Thank you to our Watershed Sponsors:



Volunteers Are Welcome!

Register online by scanning the code:



Cultivating Resilience Farm Field Day (Morren Crops & Cattle)

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 17 • 9 AM–2:30 PM

Registration required at ottawacd.org/cultivatingresilience Fee: FREE, lunch included

Program Location: Morren Crops & Cattle, 10819 Quincy St, Zeeland



Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar (Pinnacle Center)

The seventh annual seminar will include presentations about various aspects of green stormwater infrastructure and some fun, interactive games! This event is intended for engineers, developers, planners, elected officials, environmental/conservation organizations, and anyone else interested in learning more about green stormwater.

Thursday, August 24 • 8:30 AM–3:15 PM

Registration is required and fees apply

Program Location: Pinnacle Center, 3330 Highland Dr, Hudsonville



Trail Cleanup (Keppel Forest)

Help clean up the trails while we walk the trails. A naturalist will point out any interesting flora and fauna while helping beautify this amazing park.

Thursday, September 28 • 6–7 PM

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

Program Location: Keppel Forest, 2109 W. Lakewood Blvd, Holland



Wilderness Survival (Wendt Park) 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. 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 10 • 10:30 AM–12 PM

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

Program location: Wendt Park, 14598 James St, Holland

**Up Close & Wild (Dumont Lake Park)** Ages 0-99

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.

Tuesday, July 18 • 11 AM–12 PM

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

Program location: Dumont Lake Park 2417 31st St, Allegan

**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 paddleboards (SUPs).

Tuesday, July 25 • 5:30–7 PM

Registration required • Register for either a SUP or a kayak • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Laketown Township

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

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.

Wednesday, July 26 • 11 AM–12 PM

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

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

**Up Close & Wild (Virginia Park)** 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 15 • 6–7 PM

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

Program location: Virginia Park, 699 Harrington Ave, Holland

Paddle Adventure (Window on the Waterfront) Ages 10-99

We are partnering with Tulip City Paddle Tours to offer stand up paddleboards and kayaks for this river adventure. This is a great program for beginners. We will have kayak and SUP instructors to lead the group up the Macatawa River where the current is slow and easy.

Saturday, August 19 • 10–11:30 AM

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

Program location: Window on the Waterfront, 10 S. River Ave, Holland

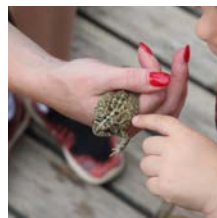
**Frog Catching (Farview Park)** Ages 4-12

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.

Thursday, August 24 • 10–11:30 AM

Registration required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Laketown Township

Program location: Farview Park, 6257 138th Ave, Holland



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 26 • 9:30–11 AM

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

Program location: New Richmond Bridge Park (north entrance) - 5700 Old Allegan Rd, Fennville

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.

Thursday, September 7 • 4–5 PM

Registration is required • Fee: FREE - Sponsored by Laketown Township

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

Senior Series - Dune Walk (Saugatuck Dunes State Park) Seniors

Join us as we take a leisurely walk through the back dune and head out to view the big lake. Your naturalist guide will introduce you to the amazing ecology of Michigan's freshwater dune system. This hike is rated easy to moderate and involves walking up and down moderately sloped dune paths.

Thursday, September 14 • 10–11:30 AM

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

Program location: Saugatuck Dunes State Park, 6575 138th Ave, Holland

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.*



Painting Under The Pavilion

Enjoy a glass of wine as you create a nature-inspired painting. Step-by-step instructions and supplies provided. *Fee: \$45 per person.*

Thursday, July 20 • 6:45–8:30 PM

Program location: ODC, 4214 56th St, Holland

Dune Walk (Mt. Pisgah)

Stroll through the treetops of the dunes along Lake Michigan's shore with a naturalist who will point out interesting flora and fauna. (Hike does include 200 stairs.) *Fee: \$6 per person.*

Wednesday, July 26 • 6:30–7:30 PM

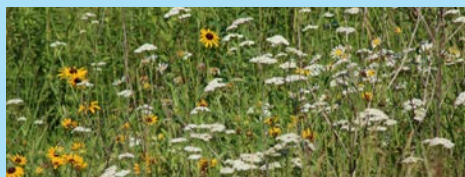
Program location: Mt. Pisgah, 2238 3rd Ave, Holland

Kayaking (Window on the Waterfront)

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: \$15 per person.*

Monday, August 21 • 6–7:30 PM

Program location: WOW, 10 S. River Ave, Holland



Wildflowers (Rabbit River Preserve)

Learn about the abundant wildflowers that grow in the meadows and the large trees you can find in the forest. *Fee: \$6 per person.*

Tuesday, September 5 • 6–7 PM

Program location: Rabbit River Preserve, 4401 135th Ave, Hamilton

Clay Workshop (Holland Area Arts Council)

Ceramicists at HAAC will instruct how to make a slab-built mug (no experience with clay needed)! This program is great for beginners as well as seasoned ceramicists. *Light refreshments provided. Facility is fully handicapped accessible. Fee: \$85 per person.*

Friday, September 15 • 6–8 PM

Program location: HAAC, 150 8th St, Holland

To register, visit hollandarts.org/all-ceramics-classes

Special Events Help Support Our Mission

Family Discovery Night

Family Discovery Night is Little Hawks, Seedlings, and Dragonflies Discovery Preschools' largest fundraiser. This year we raised funds for the program expansion and scholarships for future students.

For this event, we fundraised three different ways: Community/Business Sponsorships, Student Sponsorships, & Basket Raffle/Event night donations. In total, we had over 800 children and adults attend the events over two nights and we raised nearly \$45,000!



Thank you to our Sponsors!



DeNooyer Chevrolet • City Delicatessen • Edward Jones Investments—Dan DeWeerd • OrangeTheory Fitness • Salt & Pepper Savory Grill & Pub • West Michigan Uniform • Whiteford Wealth Management Inc. • Wooden Shoe Restaurant and the numerous Little Hawks and Seedlings students for sponsoring the event.



Thanks To All of Our Golfers!

On May 31, we held the ODC Cup at Diamond Springs Golf Course. We had 44 teams participate throughout the day and were able to raise over \$50,000 to go toward our mission of advancing outdoor education and conservation in West Michigan. Thank you to all who participated and supported the event.

Congratulations to the following teams:

Morning

First Place Team:

Ballast Financial Group (Wells Fargo Advisors)

Taxidermy Cup Winners:

JR Automation won Wiley Coyote

Afternoon

First Place Team:

Saugatuck Harbor Insurance

Taxidermy Cup Winners:

Good Ink/MI Awesome won the Opossum



A special thank you to our Eagle and Birdie Sponsors:

BVW Property Management • BVW Unsalted Properties • DISHER • K-Line Industries • Kamminga Family Charitable Fund • Midwest Construction/Geerlings Development • National Bulk Equipment • Saugatuck Brewing Co.

Lastly, thank you to our beverage, lunch, and all of our hole sponsors!



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Join us for Evening at the ODC on September 21!

Join us for Evening at the ODC on **Thursday, September 21st, 2023 at the Outdoor Discovery Center**. Guests will celebrate the ODC Network's continued growth and impact in the West Michigan community by exploring the Herb Eldean Education Center construction and seeing new improvements to the nature preserve. Guests will enjoy social time with ODC Family and Friends and indulge in delicious food and drink. Throughout the night attendees will have the opportunity to invest in the ODC Network's mission and also take part in Event Exclusives.

Your attendance will help us continue to deliver high quality nature-based programs, experiences and services that connect people, land and nature through outdoor education, greenway development, and habitat and wildlife conservation.

Thank you to our first-in sponsors!

Eagle Sponsor



Hawk Sponsors

BVW Property Management
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For more information, including registration information, email Ashley VanZee ashley@outdoordiscovery.org, or visit outdoordiscovery.org/evening-with-the-odc

2023 Tulip Time Kinder Parade Grand Marshals

The Gentex Discovery Preschool is an example of ODC Network and Gentex Corporation's commitment to the West Michigan community and to early childhood education.

To celebrate this partnership, the two organizations were chosen to be the 2023 Tulip Time Kinderparade Grand Marshals. Preschoolers from the Seedlings Discovery Preschool were able to ride the float, joined by ODC Network staff.





ODC Education Network: Not Your Same Old Summer School



Summer school has been a long tradition steeped in remediation and reteaching to help kids build on their foundations from the school year. This approach has often caused learner fatigue and disengagement from students feeling like doing “more of the same”.

Coming out of the pandemic, we continue to see kids who have significant needs due to learning loss over that time. The ODC Education Network is stepping into the community to create a summer school experience that goes beyond remediation.

The ODC Network received a total of \$340,000 in support from the Michigan Department of Education, Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area, the Holland Junior Welfare League, and our Gear up for Summer campaign to help provide local summer school

programs. This funding will help connect literacy and math to real life applications. That means students will be able to match tangible, outdoor experiences that engage all of their senses with their learning. Most importantly, summer school will be FUN!

Utilizing school grounds, local parks, and the Outdoor Discovery Center, students will build curiosity and wonder through learning about nature, exploration, and adventure. Through that curiosity, we know we will open gateways to reading, writing, and math in a way that is a game changer for our young learners.

ODC Education Network ambassadors partnered with staff from local schools to help develop, plan, and implement rich summer experiences with a focus on literacy and math throughout West Michigan.



We're travelling all over! Some of our Partnerships Include:

- Dragonflies Discovery Preschool with West Ottawa Public Schools Kinder
- Fennville Elementary
- Grand Haven Public Schools with Peach Plains and Pottawatomie Park
- Holland Public Schools with Holland West and VanRaalte Farm
- Holland Public Schools K-12 Special Ed Program at Outdoor Discovery Center
- Innacademy Zeeland
- Innacademy Allegan
- Jenison Public School
- Little Hawks Discovery Preschool along with Holland Public Schools Kinder
- West Ottawa Public Schools at Great Lakes Elementary
- West Ottawa Public Schools Summer Migrant Program

This all adds up to over 2,000 students in West Michigan that will experience “NOT your same old summer school” this summer as they build their literacy through nature, adventure, and exploration.



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