



# Discover Nature

Summer 2019



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



**FREE ADMISSION—Two Locations!**



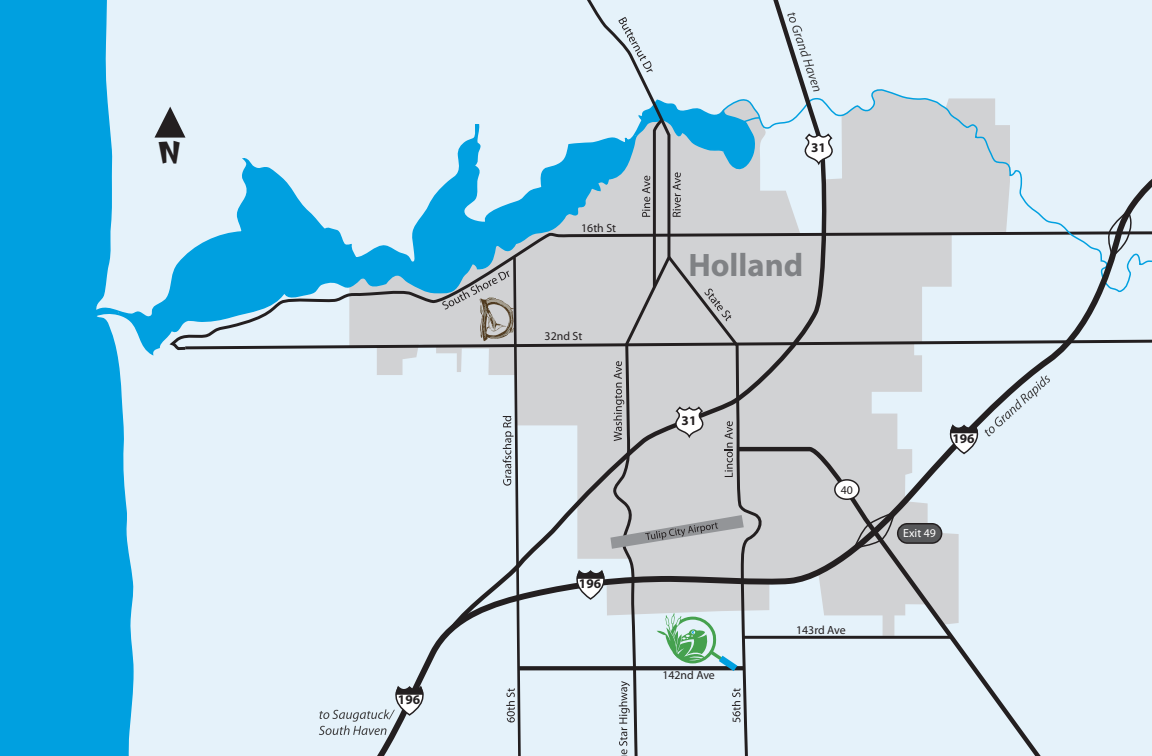
**4214 56th Street • Holland, MI • 49423**

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!



**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!



## Join us for a Program!

In the following pages, you will find descriptions of all of our community programs available in the upcoming months.

Register at [outdoordiscovery.org](https://www.outdoordiscovery.org)

## 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



DeGraaf Nature Center  
600 Graafschap Road  
Holland, MI 49423



Other Locations  
*Addresses listed beneath  
program description*



Check out the new Eldean Family Nature Playpark at ODC!

# June 2019

*Did you know?*  
Check our Facebook page for additional Pop-up Programs on Saturdays!

# July

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Turtle Races Wild Edibles
2	3 Hungry, Hungry Serpents	4	5 Win-Archery	6	7 Knee-high Naturalists	8
9	10	11 Explore a Story	12 Nature for Tykes Wetland Watercolor Collage	13 Knee-high Naturalists Live Birds of Prey	14 Banquet for the Birds A River Runs Through It	15 VoLes Women of Wilderness
16	17 Picnic on the Playground	18	19 Little Explorers	20	21 Knee-high Naturalists Family Paddle	22 River Encounter Nature's Paintbrush
23	24 Critter Catchers	25 Creek Stomp	26 Adventure Hour	27 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes	28 Banquet for the Birds Biomimicry Art	29 Marvelous Mud Day
	1 Picnic on the Playground Hungry, Hungry Serpents	2 Live Birds of Prey	3 Celebrate Eagles	4	5 Knee-high Naturalists	6 Sensational Senses Michigan Wildlife
	8	9 Explore a Story	10 Nature for Tykes	11 Knee-high Naturalists Archery Night	12 Dune Discovery Banquet for the Birds	13 Water Festival VoLes
14	15 Wilderness Survival	16	17 Adventure Hour	18 Blueberry Fields Forever Printmaking	19 Knee-high Naturalists	20 Life in a Pond
21	22	23 Win-Kayaking	24	25 Knee-high Naturalists	26 Banquet for the Birds Up Close & Wild VoLes	27 Interesting Insects Nature's Paintbrush
28	29 Critter Catchers	30	31	1	2 Knee-high Naturalists	3
4	5 Picnic on the Playground Hungry, Hungry Serpents	6 Nature Puppet Show	7	8 Knee-high Naturalists Win-Biking	9 Pioneer Living Banquet for the Birds	10 River Encounter VoLes The Spin on Spiders
11	12 Picnic on the Playground	13 Explore a Story	14 Adventure Hour	15 Eco-printing Win-Dune Walk	16 Knee-high Naturalists VoLes	17 Life in a Meadow Tackling Invasives
18	19	20 Knee-deep in a Wetland	21 Life in the Woodland Era	22 Knee-high Naturalists Wildflower Walk	23 Banquet for the Birds	24 Family Kayaking
25	26 Critter Catchers	27	28 Nature for Tykes	29	30 Knee-high Naturalists	31 Live Birds of Prey

## Hungry, Hungry Serpents (ODC)

Have you ever wondered what snakes eat? Snakes are carnivores and only eat other animals. They are definitely not vegetarians! Come to the Visitors Center to find out what's on the menu as you watch our resident serpents enjoy a meal.

Monday, June 3

Monday, July 1

Monday, August 5

2–3 PM • No registration necessary • Fee: FREE

## Knee-high Naturalists (formerly Nature School) (ODC)

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 are encouraged to attend with their 4 to 6 year old - though not required. 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, June 7

Friday, July 19

Friday, August 30

Friday, June 21

Friday, August 2

Friday, July 5

Friday, August 16

10 AM–12:00 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 per child for members

## Nature for Tykes (ODC)

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 - learning about and meeting some birds, discovering some of the amazing animals that live in a pond, and exploring how sunlight and shadows work! Please dress for the weather.

Wednesday, June 12 • Theme: Birds

Wednesday, July 10 • Theme: Pond Life

Wednesday, August 28 • Theme: Light & Shadows

10–11:00 AM • Registration required • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Banquet for the Birds (ODC)

Stop by the De Witt Birds of Prey Center during this open house style program and watch a naturalist feed our resident raptors. You will learn about the habitats these birds live in, some of their amazing adaptations, and what they love to eat. You can bring a snack for yourself too!

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

Friday, June 14

Friday, July 12

Friday, August 9

Friday, June 28

Friday, July 26

Friday, August 23

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



## Picnic on the Playground (Little Hawks Discovery Preschool)

Meet us at our Little Hawks Discovery Preschool to have some great fun on our playground. Each playgroup will be led by a Little Hawks teacher with fun activities for your little one and lots of playtime on our natural playscapes. Bring a picnic lunch for after playtime if you'd like.

Monday, June 17

Monday, August 5

Monday, July 1

Monday, August 12

11 AM–12:00 PM • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

Park at the Little Hawks Entrance, 5678 143rd Avenue.

## Critter Catchers (ODC)

Our captive education animals are hungry! Learn what they like to eat then head out on the trails to catch their prey. Bring your catch back to the center and help a naturalist feed the reptiles and amphibians. Nets and other materials for capturing animals will be provided.

Monday, June 24

Monday, July 29

Monday, August 26

11 AM–12 PM • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Adventure Hour (ODC)

It's time for adventure! We've got some special hands-on activities planned and we need the "big" kids to come out and play. Each of the Adventure Hours will have a different theme. This drop-off program is ideal for ages 8 and up.

Wednesday, June 26 • Theme: Fishing

Wednesday, August 14 • Theme: Animal Care

2–3 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Turtle Races (ODC)

Come one, come all to the great turtle race! Meet the competitors and learn a little bit about some of our native turtles. Pick your favorite one and root for it during the race. They might end shell and shell with each other. Come out to see the excitement!



Saturday, June 1 • 11 AM–12 PM • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Women in Nature—Archery (ODC)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active, and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. This archery program will include a quick lesson on how to shoot a bow and arrow, which will be taught by one of our certified women archery instructors. Then participants will have the opportunity to practice for the rest of the evening. Fun 3D targets will be set up, along with normal ring targets.

Wednesday, June 5 • 6–7:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person



Photo by Mike Lozon

## Live Birds of Prey (ODC)

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

Thursday, June 13 • 2–3 PM

Saturday, August 31 • 11 AM–12PM

No registration necessary • Seats are on a first come, first serve basis • Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members



## Women of the Wilderness (Little Hawks Discovery Preschool)

This program is for females looking to increase their skills in the outdoors. Come alone, with friends, or as a mommy-daughter date! We will learn together how to increase our abilities in a specific area like plant identification, fire building, orienteering, etc. Come ready to become independent women in the wilderness! Ages 8+.

Saturday, June 15 • 11 AM–12 PM • Registration required • Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members

Park at the Little Hawks Entrance, 5678 143rd Avenue

## Marvelous Mud Day (ODC)

Let them get dirty! Kids, even the grown up ones, need dirt and water and sticks and trees and mud. Come join us as we celebrate International Mud Day, connecting people around the world through the earth. Dress to get dirty because it's gonna be a mess!

Mud and rinse water will be provided. You may want to bring a towel!

**Saturday, June 29 • 11 AM–12 PM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Celebrate Eagles (ODC)

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.

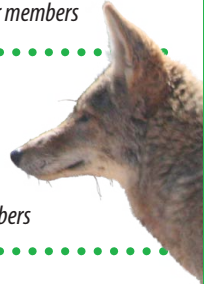
Plan to take a 10 minute walk from the Main Entrance to the De Witt Birds of Prey Center for this program.

**Wednesday, July 3 • 11 AM–12 PM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per person, FREE for members

## Sensational Senses (ODC)

Animals use their senses in their everyday lives to survive. Using our captive, live animals we will see if our senses match an animal's or how they differ.

**Saturday, July 6 • 11 AM–12 PM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Archery Night (ODC)

Hey grown-ups, don't you want to shoot at a duck-billed dinosaur? Well then, come on out to the ODC for your chance to learn or hone your archery skills. We will provide all of the equipment. (Sorry, no outside bows.) This program is for 18 yrs old and up. We will be walking out to the range as a group—please arrive a few minutes early.

**Thursday, July 11 • 6–7:30 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person, \$5 for members

## Life in a Pond (ODC)

Visit the ODC to learn about all of the amazing creatures that live in a pond. From frogs to turtles to insects, the diversity of animals is incredible. Use nets to catch some pond creatures and learn how they survive in such a competitive habitat.



**Saturday, July 20 • 11 AM–12 PM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Nature Puppet Show (ODC)

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.

**Tuesday, August 6 • 10–11 AM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Life in a Meadow (ODC)

Our meadow will be busy with activity during the summer so come explore with us as we search for insects using nets, admire the summer wildflowers, and look for signs of wildlife that call our meadow home.

**Saturday, August 17 • 11 AM–12 PM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Traditional Life in the Woodland Era (ODC)

How would you grind flour 500 years ago? How would you hunt an elk or carry water? Try your hand at spear-throwing and some other Eastern Woodland Era skills and interact with artifacts during a tour of our replica Ottawa/Potawatomi Summer Village. This drop-off style program is perfect for children ages 7-12 years.

**Wednesday, August 21 • 9 AM–12 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$15 per child, \$10 for members

## Knee-high Naturalists (DeGraaf)

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 are encouraged to attend with their 4 to 6 year old - though not required. Parents or guardians are asked to attend with their 3 year old to help with bathroom use and transitioning into a group learning environment.

Thursday, June 13  
Thursday, June 27

Thursday, July 11  
Thursday, July 25

Thursday, August 8  
Thursday, August 22

**10 AM–12:00 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$5 per child for members

## Explore a Story (DeGraaf)

It's time to round up the little ones and come out 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, June 11

Tuesday, July 9

Tuesday, August 13

**9–10 AM** • No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members

## Adventure Hour (DeGraaf)

It's time for adventure! We've got some special hands-on activities planned and we need the "big" kids to come out and play. This drop-off program is ideal for ages 8 and up.

Wednesday, July 17 • Theme: Survival

**2–3 PM**

Registration required • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Wild Edibles (DeGraaf)

Have you ever needed a snack on a hike? There are many things in the Michigan woods that are good sources of nutrition and are pretty tasty. Join a naturalist at DeGraaf to learn about some of the wild things you can eat along the way.

Saturday, June 1 • **1–2 PM**

No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per person, FREE for members



## Wetland Watercolor Collage (DeGraaf)

Each artist will use aquatic plants as brushes to paint a watercolor wetland landscape. We will then go for a walk and collect aquatic plants to add dimensions to the creations. This program is for children ages 5-12 and they may be dropped off for the program.

Wednesday, June 12 • **1–2:30 PM**

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$8 for members

## Nature's Paintbrush—Pastel Wildflowers (DeGraaf)

This Nature's Paintbrush Workshop will be held 'Plein air', out of doors. Participants will have an opportunity to enjoy the wildflowers that are bursting with color! We will be learning pastel painting techniques and wildflower composition strategies. The workshop is designed for artists ages 12-adult. All materials and instruction will be provided.

Saturday, June 22 • **1–3 PM**

Registration required • Fee: \$25 per person





## Biomimicry Art (DeGraaf)

Nature has used time to develop and refine the most efficient designs. We will explore different forms in nature and how they are used in our world. Students will then get to choose a design already found in nature and investigate where else it could be beneficial. This is a great drop off class for 7-13 year olds.

**Friday, June 28 • 1–2:30 PM**

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$8 for members

## Live Birds of Prey (DeGraaf)

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.

**Tuesday, July 2 • 11 AM–12 PM**

No registration necessary • Fee: \$5 per person, FREE for members

## Michigan Wildlife (DeGraaf)

Learn about the reptiles, amphibians, and birds that can be found in Michigan with a naturalist from the DeGraaf Nature Center. Live animals will be used in this family friendly presentation that is great for all ages. There will be time to explore natural artifacts like bones, feathers, and furs. Also, you will be able to get an up close look at some of our captive animals.

**Saturday, July 6 • 1–2 PM**

No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per person, FREE for members

# Improving Water Quality in Lake Macatawa

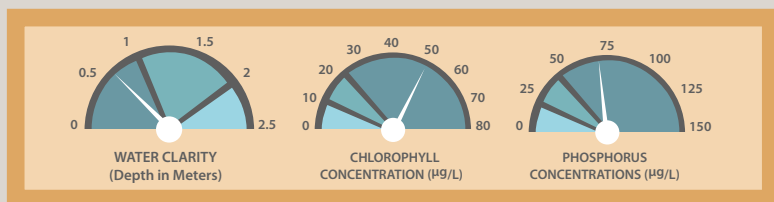
Project Clarity is a community initiative to permanently clean and restore the waters of Lake Macatawa and the Macatawa Watershed. For the last five years, we have been implementing projects around the watershed and monitoring progress with our partners at GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute.

Phosphorus is the main nutrient of concern in the Macatawa Watershed, often bound to sediment that muddies the lake. It can lead to algae blooms and throw off the natural nutrient balance of inland lakes.

2018 saw the lowest in-lake levels of phosphorus that Lake Macatawa has seen since regular monitoring began in the 1970's. Averaging around 72 parts per billion, phosphorus levels fluctuate throughout the year, depending on the season and factors like the amount of precipitation the area receives.

While it is great to see the levels of phosphorus drop, we need to keep working on reducing phosphorus and keep an eye on the lake. Factors such as changing lake levels, dredging, increasing precipitation, and changing weather patterns can impact levels of phosphorus from year to year. For instance, 2017 saw nearly two times more precipitation than any previous year lake levels were monitored. However, best management practices and projects implemented across the watershed kept phosphorus levels from spiking as high as they might have twenty years ago. We may be able to reach the target set by state and federal regulators of 50 parts per billion if we continue to strategically add wetlands and reduce runoff.

To read the full Lake Macatawa Dashboard and Monitoring Report, visit [macatawaclarity.org](http://macatawaclarity.org).



## Printmaking from Found Objects (DeGraaf)

Our class will begin with a walk, collecting objects from nature for printmaking. Each object will be used to create textured prints, which will then be cut up to make a collage. This is a great drop-off class for 7-12 year olds.

Thursday, July 18 • 1–2:30 PM

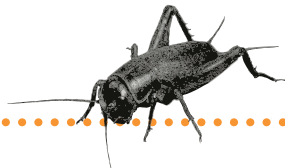
Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$8 for members

## Interesting Insects (DeGraaf)

Are creepy crawlies totally your thing? Do you want to learn about the most abundant animals on our planet? Come to this program to find out what makes insects so interesting. How are they so strong? Why do they need 6 legs? How cool is it that they have a skeleton on the outside of their bodies? Visit DeGraaf Nature Center to find out the answers to these questions and more!

Saturday, July 27 • 11 AM–12 PM

No registration necessary • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Nature's Paintbrush—Clay Paintings (DeGraaf)

You may have tried painting on clay, but have you ever created a painting from clay? In this Nature's Paintbrush Workshop, participants will use colorful clay as a medium for creating nature compositions on canvas board. The workshop is designed for ages 10- adult. This program includes instruction and all materials.

Saturday, July 27 • 1–3 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$25 per person

## Pioneer Living (DeGraaf)

This early American life class will teach students what it was like to live in Michigan during the time of settlement. Many fun pioneer crafts, activities, and games are planned. This drop-off style program is ideal for children ages 7-12 years.

Friday, August 9 • 9 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$15 per child, \$10 for members



## The Spin on Spiders (DeGraaf)

Join a naturalist and take a fascinating journey into a spider's world to see how the special and unique design of various spiders helps them to thrive and survive. Then (weather permitting) we'll go on a live spider hunt on our trails.

Saturday, August 10 • 11 AM–12 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$4 per child, FREE for members



## Eco-printing (DeGraaf)

Participants will be creating art directly from the tannins found in leaves! This scientific process draws out the natural tannins and transfers them onto cotton. Extra watercolor paints may be added for a unique effect. All materials provided. This drop-off style program is ideal for children ages 7-12 years.

Thursday, August 15 • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required • Fee: \$10 per child, \$8 for members

## Tackling Invasive Species (DeGraaf)

Native Michigan habitat is becoming more scarce as human involvement continually introduces unfamiliar species, causing cascading effects within our ecosystem. Join us to learn about invasive species, the ways in which they affect our ecosystem, and how we handle their presence. We will also go on a walk to see the invasive plants present at DeGraaf and practice identification and removal techniques.

Saturday, August 17 • 1:30–3 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE

## River Encounter (Window on the Waterfront)

These fun, family-friendly kayak paddles will have the group finding local wildlife, floodplain plant species, and learning about what makes our watershed unique. You will also learn about our Macatawa River Greenway project and what efforts are being taken to protect the Macatawa River and Watershed. River Encounters launch from Window on the Waterfront in Holland. Meet at the parking lot at 20 S. River Avenue.



Saturday, June 22

Saturday, August 10

**9–11:30 AM** • Registration required • Fee: \$25 single kayak, \$35 double kayak, 50% discount for members

Program location: 20 S River Ave., Holland, MI 49424

## VoLes Volunteer League (Locations TBA)

Our Volunteer League is a service club for teens to experience what it takes to maintain a natural area and captive wildlife, plus gain insight to the ODC Network mission of educating people about the importance of nature. This program is designed for 12 to 18 year olds who will work with ODC Network staff on a variety of indoor and outdoor tasks. We might spend time improving the nature preserve by removing invasive species, cleaning up animal enclosures, or a number of other projects that further our goal of connecting people with nature. It's also a great way to earn those community service volunteer hours!

VoLes club meetings are scheduled for one Friday/Thursday and one Saturday of each month, for a total of six meetings per session. Spring, Summer and Fall sessions are available, no prior experience or participation required to sign up.

There is no fee for this activity, however a signed Behavior Guidelines Agreement and Photo/Liability Release Form are required.

Saturday, June 15 • 10 AM–12 PM

Thursday, June 27 • 3–5 PM

Saturday, July 13 • 12:30–2 PM • *Water Festival Clean-up*

Friday, July 26 • 3–5 PM

Saturday, August 10 • 10 AM–12 PM

Friday, August 16 • 3–5 PM

Registration required • Fee: FREE



## A River Runs Through It (Van Raalte Farm)

Learn about the water cycle, watersheds, and stream ecology all while being knee-deep in the North branch of the Macatawa River at Van Raalte Farm. Come prepared to be in the water using nets and our knee boots or your own water shoes, but also bring shoes (and socks) for hiking. Please come dressed for the weather and bring a water bottle, snack, sun screen, and insect repellent.

This drop-off style program is for children ages 7-12 years.

**Friday, June 14 • 9:30 AM–12 PM** • Registration required • Fee: \$15 per child, \$10 for members

Program Location: 1076 E 16th St., Holland, 49423

## Community Pizza at Hops in June

We have the privilege of being the recipient of the Community Pizza fundraiser from Hops at 84 East for the fourth year in a row! For the entire month of June, Hops will donate \$5 from each Community Pizza purchased to the ODC.

Month of June

Program Location: 84 E 8th Street, Holland, MI 49423



## Live Birds of Prey at The Soft Spot

Stop by The Soft Spot in Borculo and enjoy some ice cream while seeing a hawk, eagle, or owl up close! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the ODC Network.

**Tuesday, June 18 • 6–8:30 PM**

*Program Location: The Soft Spot, 9622 Port Sheldon St, Zeeland, MI 49464*



## Little Explorers (Wolters Woods)

Explore the nature trails as only a preschooler could. Find colors, shapes, and textures on the easily accessible trails of Wolters Woods. All materials will be provided. At the conclusion of the program, feel free to make time to play on the playground.

**Wednesday, June 19 • 10–11 AM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Laketown Township*

*Program Location: Wolters Woods Park, 6281 147th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423*



## Family Paddle (Dumont Lake)

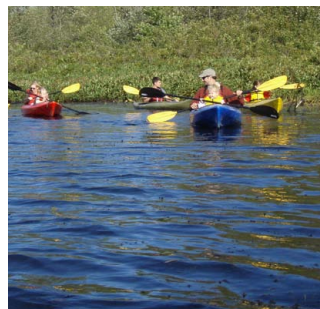
Paddle Dumont Lake with naturalists from the Outdoor Discovery Center. Kayaks, paddles, and vests are provided. The group will launch from the Dumont Lake boat launch and paddle around the shoreline. Lakes are the perfect place to learn to paddle for the first time or to get some practice in.

**Friday, June 21 • 6–8 PM**

*Registration required and boats are limited*

*Fee: FREE—sponsored by Allegan County Parks & Recreation*

*Program Location: Dumont Lake Park, 2417 31st St., Allegan, MI 49010*



## Creek Stomp (Stu Visser Trails)

Explore the wetlands and Pine Creek at Stu Visser Trails with a naturalist in search of insects, fish, crayfish, and crustaceans! Expect to walk into the water with shoes or boots. No bare feet or open-toed sandals. Meet at the parking lot off Ottawa Beach Road. All materials will be provided.

Children 10 years old and under must be accompanied by a participating adult.

**Tuesday, June 25 • 10:30 AM–12 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Park Township*

*Program Location: Stu Visser Trails, parking lot on Ottawa Beach Road, 923 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland, MI 49424*



## Dune Discovery (Shore Acres)

Explore the Lake Michigan dunes with our naturalists as we visit Shore Acres Township Park. We will hike through each unique dune zone as we make our way to the big lake. As we learn about the different flora and fauna that call the dunes their home we will begin to understand a little more about this rare ecosystem. Please bring a towel, snack, and water bottle. This drop-off style program is for children ages 7-12 years.

**Friday, July 12 • 9–11:30 AM**

*Registration required • Fee: \$15 per child, \$10 for members*

*Program Location: Shore Acres Park, 6602 138th Ave, Holland, MI 49423*



## Macatawa Water Festival (Windmill Island)

For the fifth year in a row, the Macatawa Water Festival will be held on Holland's Windmill Island. Over 30 community partners and sponsors will come together to offer water activities and educational experiences designed to engage both young and old in restoring and preserving our lake and watershed.

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. Meijer will provide seasonal fresh fruit from local farmers!

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

**Saturday, July 13 • 9 AM–1 PM**

*No registration necessary • Fee: FREE*

*Program Location: Windmill Island, 1 Lincoln Avenue, Holland MI 49423*



## Wilderness Survival (Keppel Forest Preserve)

Improve your outdoor skills while at this exciting day camp. Participants will learn how to make a shelter, read a map, build a fire, and more. This is a great program for 9-14 year olds. Please do not bring your pocket knives, weapons or matches - we will provide all of the materials necessary. Please do bring a water bottle and a snack.

**Monday, July 15 • 9 AM–12 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Park Township*

*Program Location: Keppel Forest, 2117 Lakewood Blvd. Holland, MI 49424*

## Special Stonebread at Tripelroot

For the whole month of July, Tripelroot will donate \$1 from each purchase of a special stonebread to the ODC Network. Dine out to show your support anytime in July or join us the evening of July 18th to see our birds of prey!

**Thursday, July 18 • 5–7:30 PM** • *Program Location: Tripelroot, 146 E Main Ave, Zeeland, MI 49464*

## Blueberry Fields Forever (Huyser Farm Park)

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.

**Thursday, July 18 • 11 AM–12 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Laketown Township*

*Program Location: Huyser Farm Park, 4184 64th Street, Holland, MI*



## Women in Nature—Kayaking (Shutmaat Park)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. This program will take place on the Rabbit River in Hamilton. This river has little current and is ideal for an inexperienced or casual paddler. During these programs, women will get the opportunity to learn about river wildlife, our efforts to improve local watersheds, and enjoy a casual paddle with a naturalist.

**Tuesday, July 23 • 6–7:30 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: \$10 per person • Program Location: Shutmaat Park, 3500 Willyard, Hamilton, MI 49419*

## Up Close & Wild (Littlejohn Lake County Park)

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. Time to handle some of the wildlife may be conducted during the program or at its conclusion depending on the size of the audience.

**Friday, July 26 • 11 AM–12 PM**

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

*Program Location: Littlejohn Lake County Park, 3540 113th Ave. Allegan, MI*



## Women in Nature—Biking (Upper Macatawa Natural Area)

Women in Nature is a program series designed to motivate women to be more healthy, active and passionate about the natural world surrounding them. For this program, we are partnering with Velo City Cycles and will meet at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area. There is an option for a guided 6 mile mountain bike ride or a self-guided 8 mile road ride (bike path and road). Meet at the 84th Avenue parking lot.

**Thursday, August 8 • 6–7:30 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Velo City Cycles*

*Program Location: Upper Macatawa Natural Area, 1300 84th Avenue, Zeeland, MI*



## Women in Nature—Dune Walk (Shore Acres Park)

During this program in the Women in Nature series, get in your steps after work and hike some of Michigan's beautiful dunes. Learn about the largest freshwater dune system in the world. Bring a friend along as we hike through the different dune zones to Lake Michigan and back.

**Thursday, August 15 • 6:30–7:30 PM**

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

*Program Location: Shore Acres Township Park, 6602 138th Ave., Holland, MI 49423*

## Speciality Sangria Supports Us at Boatwerks

For the whole month of August, Boatwerks will donate a percentage from each purchase of their specialty sangria to the ODC Network. Dine out to show your support anytime in August or join us for lunch on the 17th to see our birds of prey!

**Saturday, August 17 • 12–3 PM**

*Program Location: Boatwerks, 216 Van Raalte Ave, Holland, MI 49423*



## Knee-deep in a Wetland (Farview Park)

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. Old shoes or boots that can go into the water are recommended.

**Tuesday, August 20 • 4–5:30 PM**

*Registration required • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Laketown Township*

*Program Location: Farview Park 6257 138th Ave, Holland, MI*



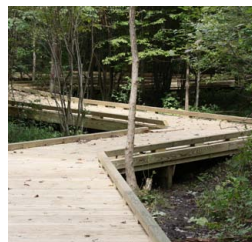
## Wildflower Walk (Rabbit River Preserve)

Walk the trails of the Rabbit River Preserve with one of our naturalists. Learn about the abundant wildflowers that grow in the meadows and the large trees you can find in the forest. Wear sturdy shoes and insect repellent and dress for the weather.

**Thursday, August 22 • 6–7 PM**

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

*Program Location: Rabbit River Preserve, 4401 135th Ave., Hamilton, MI 49419*



## Family Kayaking (New Richmond Bridge Park)

Paddle the Kalamazoo River with naturalists from the ODC Network. Kayaks, paddles, and vests are provided. We will launch from the New Richmond Bridge Park and paddle up river into some marshy areas and forested river sections. This is an ideal paddle for an inexperienced paddler or someone looking for a relaxed paddle.

**Saturday, August 24 • 9–11 AM**

*Registration required and boats are limited • Fee: FREE—sponsored by Allegan County Parks and Recreation*

*Program Location: New Richmond Bridge Park (north entrance), 3160 Old Allegan Rd. Fennville, MI*

# Production sponsored by:



## Start School Ready READY FOR SCHOOL

The move from preK to Kindergarten is one of the most important transitions a child will make. This summer Little Hawks Discovery Preschool is partnering with Ready for School and local school districts to deliver Start School Ready: A pre-kindergarten learning adventure with powerful results.

This four-week, half-day program is for incoming kindergarten students in the

Holland, Zeeland and Hamilton area. Start School Ready lesson plans are designed for outdoor exploration and learning. Every day is designed to engage children's innate sense of wonder and natural curiosity as they explore through inquiry and insect studies.

To apply, fill out the online application at [startschoolready.org](http://startschoolready.org) or call 616-834-0515 for more information.



*"As a program partner for Start School Ready, the ODC is excited to see nature-based education experiences provided for our most vulnerable early learners. This partnership will help us accomplish our mission and provide incredible benefits for our community's children." –Travis Williams*

*"We believe Collaboration + Teamwork = Innovation and have applied that formula to increase local school readiness. Start School Ready is a perfect example. Our passion is early learning and collaborating with community partners to develop best practices that accelerate kindergarten readiness. Because seeing big potential in all small children has the power to transform lives and build better places to live and work."*

*–Donna M. Lowry, MD, President/CEO, Ready for School*

### Children in Start School Ready can look forward to:

- Attending Monday, July 8 – Friday, August 2, from 8:15 am-12:15 pm
- Enjoying breakfast and lunch each day.
- Activities and classroom routines that boost confidence and increase school readiness.
- Having early literacy and social-emotional skill building incorporated into their daily experiences.
- Teaching strategies and objectives that align with state and local school district standards to offer a springboard for success in school.



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