the Chatterbox

Winter 2009/2010

HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

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Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department shall exist to serve the leisure and recreational needs of the residents and tourists of the county. We will strive to be the leader in providing well-maintained, high-quality passive parks and facilities, excellent programs and services, and the preservation of greenspace to enhance the quality of life in the county.

Park Board Meetings

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation park board meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium, located at 2000-1 East 151st Street in Carmel. The meetings are open to the public.

Park Hours

All parks operated by Hamilton County Parks and Recreation are open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Some sections of the park may be closed due to special events or shelter reservations. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administration office.

The Chatterbox is distributed in March, June, September, and December. If you would like to be on our mailing list or have an address change, please call the Administration Office at 317-770-4400.

Proud member of:

For info on other parks visit:
www.hampa.org www.inpra.org

Director's Dialog

Greetings and welcome to the Winter 2009-2010 edition of *The Chatterbox*!

On behalf of the staff and board of Hamilton County Parks, as well as the elected officials that support us, I would like to thank you for taking time to read *The Chatterbox*.

This is going to be a very busy time for your county park department. I know, I know . . the common thought is that during the winter people working for a park department sit around and eat Bon-Bons. Does that date me? Truth be told, if we are not at our busiest pace during the winter, the spring will be a train wreck. This winter we have double workload. In October, the Hamilton County Council and Hamilton County Commissioners made final votes of approval for a bond issue, which is providing $2 million of MUCH needed equipment, repairs, and improvements to your park department. We are charged with wise, but timely management, of those funds. The projects were all identified ahead of time but now the all of the work starts in design, bidding, and construction. In an effort to stretch those funds as far as possible, a lot of the work will be done in-house and in cooperation with other like-minded agencies. We will ask for your patience if sections of your favorite parks' are under construction during the next year. We are certain you will be happy with the improvements you will see.

This was not an easy vote for the officials in this economic time, but they support our efforts and understand how much our community supports the parks department. Please make an effort to give a heartfelt "thank you" to your county elected officials for their support.

Please take the time to look over all of our winter offerings that are listed in this publication. We have some great special events and Christmas break programming. Thank you for your wonderful support. Our work is a labor of love.

See you in the parks!

Allen Patterson

Park News

HCPR is "Greening" Up Our Act

Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is taking steps towards becoming more environmentally responsible. We realize the importance of using products that have a minimal impact on our environment.

We have switched our cleaning products to a brand that is Green Seal Certified. Their website explains that, "Green Seal Certification ensures that a product meets rigorous, science-based environmental leadership standards. This gives manufacturers the assurance to back up their claims and purchasers confidence that certified products are better for human health and the environment."

Other products we have chosen for our facilities are created with 100% recycled materials, such as our trash bags and napkins. Some products are created with sugarcane and vegetable starch. These non-toxic products are beneficial because they are created with a renewable resource and the manufacturing process does not require the use of petroleum. Whenever possible, HCPR's department chooses products that are locally produced or contain locally grown resources.

Even a small step can make a difference on the environmental impact we have on our planet. We encourage you to use these types of products in your own home! We also recommend you recycle and properly dispose of hazardous household waste. Every little bit counts!

Camp Registration Moved to March!

Saturday, March 13

Time: Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
Location: CCNC

The Cool Creek Nature Staff is gearing up for another exciting camp season! We are currently planning our summer camp schedule. Registration will be held earlier this year. Registration guidelines and camp dates will be published on our website, www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com, beginning January 11, 2010. Registration forms will be made available for pick up at the Cool Creek Nature Center beginning Saturday, February 27.

Contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 with any questions.

Park Programs

Cool Creek Nature Center Winter Exhibit : *Snowflakes and Silent Nights*

The beauty and peacefulness of winter is explored at our nature center during this exhibit. Learn about the wonder of snowflakes, how to identify animal tracks in freshly fallen snow, and about the owls living in the snow-filled woods. Winter is a great time to begin bird-watching, so while you are here we invite you to check out our Wildlife Viewing Area, which is typically busy with activity. You can also explore the "Learning Tree," do a free daily craft, visit our cozy greenhouse, and participate in scavenger hunts and activities.

Dates: December 7 -March 7
Nature Center is closed on: December 24 -26; January 1 and 18; February 8 and 15
Times: Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Cost: Free

Strawtown Enclosure- Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff will be conducting tours of the Strawtown Enclosure. During these tours, we will discuss the details known thus far regarding the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and village over 700 years ago. The tours will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History. For more information, call us at 317-984-5556.

Dates: Saturdays at 11:00 a.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Pre-registration: No

Note: There will be no tours on December 26

Puppet Shows with Miss Diane

Miss Diane and her puppet pals will be joining us again this winter. Diane Breier, Children's Entertainer, will be performing puppet shows with nature themes at the Cool Creek Nature Center. You won't want to miss all the fun stories she has ready for you!

Dates: Tuesday, December 15
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, February 9
Tuesday, March 16
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Best for ages 2-6
Cost: Free
Pre-registration: No
Location: CCNC

Pajama-Rama

Put on your cutest pair of pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack up an old blanket, and join us at the Cool Creek Nature Center for Pajama-Rama! Families looking for a fun program to enjoy with their toddlers and preschoolers will enjoy the Music Educator from Moriah Music who will lead us in songs and stories about some of our favorite animals.

Dates: December 4; January 8; February 5; March 12
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for families with children ages 1-7
Cost: Free
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: CCNC

Winter Break Programs

Hey students! Have you been stuck in the house all winter break? Do you have a little bit of "cabin fever?" Would you love to get out for a fun afternoon activity? Look no further than Hamilton County Parks as we present some fun and interactive programs.

Look for the for programs scheduled over holiday break!!

BFHP= Bray Family Homestead Park
CCP= Cool Creek Park
CCNC= Cool Creek Nature Center
CXG= Coxhall Gardens
GP= Geist Park
LTP= Lafayette Trace Park
MPB= Morse Park and Beach
PBP=Potter's Bridge Park
RRP= River Road Park
SKP= Strawtown Koteewi Park
TCNH= Taylor Center of Natural History
WRC= White River Campground

Holiday Tree Decorating

Help prepare treats for the Koteewi critters just in time for the winter holidays. We will be making edible treats and decorate a tree here at the park. Hot chocolate will be served after the tree decorating.

Date: Saturday, December 19
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Families
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or e-mail at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Animals of the North with Silly Safaris

Winter break is awesome with Silly Safaris! Join Alligator Aaron as he visits with some animal guests from way up North. This arctic adventure will be heaps of fun.

Date: Monday, December 28
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

How Wildlife Weathers Winter

How do animals survive the bitter winter weather? Find out when Kathy Hershey, biologist and president of Utopia Wildlife, visits and shares the amazing adaptations animals possess.

Date: Tuesday, December 29
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

History's Mysteries

Have you ever wanted to be a detective? Historians and archaeologists solve mysteries about the past, like detectives. Come join us and help solve a mystery!

Date: Tuesday, December 29
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Children 6 years old and up
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or e-mail at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Snakes and More

Snakes, tarantulas, and scorpions can give anyone a creepy-crawly feeling! Snakehead Ed isn't afraid of them! He will be sharing these critters with guests of the Cool Creek Nature Center. He will also dispel many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

Date: Wednesday, December 30
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Bone Detectives

Come explore our growing collection of animal bones and learn what they can tell us. Discover how archaeologists study bones to find clues about how ancient people lived. In this hands-on program you will handle and identify specimens and learn where to find out more information about bones.

Date: Wednesday, December 30
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Children 5 years old and up
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-984-5556 or e-mail at: taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Dogs of the Iditarod

Do you love dogs? If so, join Sue and Fawn Wilson of Team Firehawk as they introduce the sport of dog sled racing. Team Firehawk will discuss how the dogs played a part in history and about their participation in the Iditarod! On top of that, you'll get to meet the dogs and even stand on the sled!

Date: Thursday, December 31
Time: 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for school aged children
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

The heat produced by Skunk Cabbage can be 36 to 60 degrees warmer than the ambient air, which causes surrounding snow to melt. You can find this plant at Strawtown Koteewi Park this winter!

Exotic Feline Rescue Center Program

We are happy to welcome Jean Herrberg, staff member and licensed teacher with the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, as she presents an interactive and educational program about the Center and the magnificent creatures in their care. The mission of the Exotic Feline Rescue Center is to provide permanent homes for exotic felines that have been abused or abandoned and educate the public about these beautiful cats.

Date: Saturday, January 2
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Location: CCNC

What's This Rock?

Do you want to know where all those rocks you find come from and what are they made of? Come check out Indiana's rocks and fossils with Walter Gray of the Indiana Geologic Survey. This fun, hands on, and educational program is ideal for scouts working on their geology badges or anyone else with an interest in geology.

Date: Saturday, January 9
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Ages: Children 7 years old and up
Location: TCNH-SKP

Creative and Crafty at Cool Creek

Join a Naturalist at Cool Creek Nature Center and experiment with recycled craft creations! Whether you want some budget-friendly fun or need a boost of creativity, this program is for you. You will see lots of fun recycled craft examples and make some of your own!

Date: Saturday, January 16
Time: 1:00
Ages: Adults and Teens (Please, no children under the age of 13)
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC
Pre registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

The Underground Railroad: Hamilton County's Involvement

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, we are welcoming David Heighway, Hamilton County's Historian, as he presents a program about our county's connection to and involvement in the Underground Railroad. Don't miss out on this chance to hear David's interesting facts and stories about Hamilton County's intriguing history.

Date: Monday, January 18
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Collection Identification

Do you have some arrowheads, stone tools, or other Native American artifacts about which you would like to know more? Archaeologist Jim Mohow will help artifact collectors identify personal collection pieces. When possible, Mr. Mohow will give you the dates and stories associated with these fascinating relics of the past and the people who used them.

Date: Saturday, January 30
Time: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP

Groundhog Day Program

Join the Naturalists at as we celebrate Groundhog Day! Why does this rodent deserve its own holiday? Come find out! Learn cultural history and folklore as well as the natural history about this local "furry friend." Due to hibernation, no actual groundhogs will be in attendance.

Date: Tuesday, February 2
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

2010 Program and Event Calendars Available Soon!

Don't forget to pick your copy of the 2010 Park Calendar. Not only is it a wonderful way to keep track of your busy schedule, it also includes the upcoming dates for many of our favorite programs and events! Be the first to know when all of **your** favorite programs are scheduled!

The calendar includes wonderful photos of the park system taken by local photographers and park staff. All proceeds from the sale of the calendars support the programs offered at the Cool Creek Nature Center. Be sure to pick up a copy while visiting the Nature Center this winter!

Squirrel Mania

Join a Naturalist as we present a program beloved mascot, the squirrel. This program will focus on the natural history, ecology, and habitats of Indiana squirrels along with tips and tricks for dealing with squirrels at bird feeders.

Date: Saturday, February 6
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for families with school aged children and adults
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

The Presidents of the United States Show

Looking for a fun way to celebrate President's Day? Join Don Miller's fun show about the history of some of America's most famous leaders. We will learn through laughter as Don uses magic, silly costumes, and lots of audience participation!

Date: Monday, February 15
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Traded Beauty Presentation

Join us as we present a program focusing on the trade between Native Americans and early European Settlers. We will explore how these material items influenced both cultures. Historic documentation including George Winter's illustrations and journal entries and historic-era artifacts from the park property will be included.

Date: Saturday, February 20
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Ages: Older Children and Adults
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: TCNH-SKP

Adventures in Archaeology

Want to know what archaeology is all about? Get dirty and learn what really goes on in the field with our simulated excavation. Please come dressed for digging!

Date: Saturday, February 27
Time: 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Ages: Children 7 years old and up
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-984-5556 or email at taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: TCNH-SKP

Maple Syrup Program at Bray Park

Get "sappy" with Hamilton County Parks. The staff will be demonstrating the tapping process on some of the same trees that the Bray Family tapped over the last 150 years. Traditional and modern equipment will be featured as well as information about the folklore, history, and facts about Maple trees.

Date: Saturday, March 6
Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Cost: Free
Ages: All
Location: Bray Family Homestead Park
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Strawtown Koteewi Park and the Taylor Center of Natural History

Visit the Taylor Center of Natural History and see several new displays now on exhibit. *Traded Beauty*, an exhibit focusing on the early trade between Native Americans and European Settlers, is now being showcased. The laboratory currently features a display about dugout canoes which highlights a dugout canoe found in the White River south of our park in 1999 and was later donated by Conner Prairie. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. Over five miles of trails are open, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by 317-984-5556 or 317-714-7144.

Hours: Monday and Saturday- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Note: The Taylor Center is closed on: December 24-26; January 1 and February 15

Special Events

Holiday Happenings

Join in on the holiday cheer at the Cool Creek Nature Center! Visit Santa Claus, listen to the Dicken's Carolers, check out the Owl Program and Holiday Puppet Show, or make a craft for your mom and dad! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

This year we will be offering wagon rides through the park. They will be free of charge and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Wagon rides will be availble from 1-5 p.m.

Date: Sunday, December 13
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Cost: Event is free
Location: CCNC

Bring a donation of canned food, new clothing, and new toys to the Cool Creek Nature Center the ENTIRE month of December. All donations will benefit Amanda Strong Food for the Needy program, which benefits needy families in Hamilton County.

Race to the New Year

Start your New Year's resolution to get in shape at Cool Creek Park! The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with Washington Township Parks and Recreation and Westfield Parks and Recreation for this fifth annual 5K walk and run. Awards will be given in seven ages groups. Early registration ends December 20th. For more information, please call 317-574-9450.

RACE TO THE NEW YEAR 2010

Date: Saturday, January 2
Time: Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.
Race begins at 9:30 a.m.
Cost: $15 before December 20
$20 after December 20
Registration Info: Call 317-574-9450
Location: Cool Creek Park

Daddy-Daughter Dance

Dads, spend a quality night at the Cool Creek Nature Center with your little girl and dance the night away at our sixth annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. Snacks, refreshments, music, and games will be on the agenda for a fun-filled night. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required and space is limited!

Date: February 10
February 11
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Cost: $10 per father-daughter couple
$3 for each additional daughter
Pre-Register: Yes, call 770-4400. Payment is required at the time of registration. Registration ends February 5 or when event is full.
Location: CCNC

2010 Special Event Sponsors

The department is looking for sponsors and donors for the 2010 Special Event Season! Your tax-deductible contribution will help us provide you with fun events and is a great way to give back to the community

Giving levels vary.
Booth space and in-kind donations are also available!

Please contact Kurtis Baumgartner to request a sponsorship packet:
317-770-4404
kurtis.baumgartner@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Be a Parks Partner

Volunteering is an American tradition that has made an immeasurable contribution to communities, organizations and individuals throughout the country. Today's volunteers are active, dynamic, creative individuals who possess the skills, desire, patience, and time to accomplish a wide variety of tasks.

Volunteers help preserve and protect Hamilton County's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Volunteers of all ages give their time and expertise to help achieve the Hamilton County Parks mission statement.

The major objective to Parks Partners is to utilize help in a way that is mutually beneficial to the Hamilton County Parks Department and the volunteer.

Areas of Interest:

Special Events
Assist with the many opportunities at the department's special events. Events include the Cool Creek Concert Series, Jukebox Saturday, Potter's Bridge Fall Festival, and Haunted Trails.

Cool Creek Nature Center
Help with gardening, caring for Nature Center wildlife friends, greenhouse work, gardening, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, and education (help with hikes, educational stations, etc.).

Maintenance
Help clean trails, clear invasive plant species, or simply pick up trash. Great for group/family volunteer projects.

Yes! I would like to volunteer.

What HCPR park are you willing to work at?
- ☐ Coxhall Gardens
- ☐ Cool Creek Park
- ☐ Geist Park
- ☐ Lafayette Trace Park
- ☐ Morse Park and Beach
- ☐ Potter's Bridge Park
- ☐ River Road Park
- ☐ Strawtown Koteewi Park
- ☐ White River Campground

What area are you interested in helping with?
- ☐ Cool Creek Nature Center
- ☐ Special Events
- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ I'm open for everything!

I am available:
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Twice a month
- ☐ Seasonal or when available

Best time frame for me is:
- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Weekends

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
E-mail Address:_____
Phone:_____

Please return form to:
Hamilton County Parks and Recreation-volunteer
15513 South Union Street
Carmel, IN 46033
317-770-4400
fax: 317-896-3528

Nature Hikes

Christmas Bird Count

Celebrate the holidays by helping Hamilton County Parks and the National Audubon Society conduct it's annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us at the Nature Center for a day of hiking and birding. A $5 donation is requested by the to help cover production costs of the result report. Lunch for participants will be provided by HCPR. Call the Nature Center at 317-774-2500 or Art Jeffries at 317-844-1686 to pre-register and for more details.

Date: Saturday, December 19
Time: 8:00 am
Ages: All
Cost: $5.00 donation to National Audubon Society
Location: CCNC
Pre-registration: Yes, call 317-774-2500 or email at cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. This is a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Bring your binoculars!

Cool Creek Park: These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the Nature Center.
Dates: December 13, 16, 23, 27, 30; January 10, 13, 20, 24, 27; February 7, 10, 17, 21, 24
Days: Wednesday and every other Sunday (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month)
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Strawtown Koteewi Park: These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.
Dates: December 2; January 6; February 3
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Tike Hike-Bird Hike

Join us and members of the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society as we look to ignite children's interest in bird watching. A short, indoor program, outdoor bird hike, and craft will be included in this program. Please meet in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Date: Saturday, December 12
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Star and Satellite Gazing Tours

Join Dr. Ronald Weiss, adjunct professor of Astronomy and Earth Science for Vincennes University, for a fascinating evening of star and satellite watching. Amateur astronomer Dan Malone, of Wabash Valley Astronomical Society, will be assisting Dr. Weiss as the group learns about and attempts to view the stars, planets, constellations, satellites, and deep sky objects that are visible each month. In the event that the sky is cloudy, an indoor astronomy program is planned. You are welcome to bring your own telescope or binoculars as well. This program will meet near the Taylor Center of Natural History. We ask that pets are left at home during this program.

Dates: Saturday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 16, at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, February, 13 at 6:00 p.m.
Ages: Best for families with school aged children and adults
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP

Winter Tree ID

Don't let the "bark" bite after the leaves have fallen from the trees. Take the time to walk the trails with Naturalist "Nature" Dan to see if you have what it takes to ID a tree in the winter. We will take a closer look at bark, twigs, fruit, and buds and how they can be used to identify trees any time of year.

Date: Saturday, January 2
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Winter Track Walk

Let's take a stroll along the snow covered trails of Strawtown and look for animal tracks. You will learn easy ways to identify tracks and make a track "cookie" to take home. In the event of bad weather or no snow, we'll hunt for tracks indoors.

Date: Saturday, January 16
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Ages: All
Cost: Free
Location: TCNH-SKP

Group Educational Programs

Scout Groups Activities

Are you looking for a great activity for your scouts? Look no further than Hamilton County Parks. Scouts can experience a hike or an animal talk with a naturalist and also participate in a craft. Whether you are working towards a badge or just looking for a fun scout activity, our staff is up for the challenge. Groups are typically scheduled at least two weeks in advance and dates do fill up fast; so don't wait! To schedule your scout trip or receive additional information concerning them, please call 317-774-2503.

Cost: Free/Hamilton County scouts
$1 per child/Out of county scouts
Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2503.

Adult/Senior Programs

Gardening clubs, senior citizen organizations, high school science or nature clubs, and other adult groups looking for programs and presentations should look into Hamilton County Parks! Our park staff is available to conduct themed hikes, lectures, and presentations on many nature-related topics at any of our parks. Our staff may also be scheduled for outreach/offsite programming when available.

Cost: Free/Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2501.

School Field Trips with Hamilton County Parks

Put the fun back into your school's field trips by visiting one of Hamilton County's Parks! Our Naturalist staff know that kids love being outside as they learn through discovering, and teachers love an organized, safe, and educational experience for their students. We've provided the equipment and enthusiasm needed for hands-on field trips for over ten years. With a variety of parks and themes to choose from, you are bound to find a program that fits your needs. We will be glad to tailor parts of your visit to fit your grade's curriculum. Our field trips are geared toward students of all ages and group sizes.
Call us today to schedule an exciting nature trip at any of our parks for example, Cool Creek Park or Strawtown Koteewi Park. Don't wait! Spots fill up fast! To schedule your school's field trip or receive additional information concerning them, please call 317-774-2501.

Cost: Free/Hamilton County students
$1 per child/Out of county students
Donations are accepted
Pre-registration required by calling 317-774-2501.

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

If you are interested in incorporating native wildflowers into your landscape or are seeking ways to support our local natural resources and environment, you may be interested in joining Wild Ones. Cool Creek Nature Center is looking to charter a local chapter of Wild Ones, a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving environmentally sound landscapes through preservation, restoration and the establishment of native plant communities. Through speakers, field trips volunteering and other activities, members will learn about various native plants and the benefits to using them in a home landscape.

Wild Ones®
NATIVE PLANTS, NATURAL LANDSCAPES

Members may also help with various restoration projects within the community. Discover what you can do to incorporate native wildflowers into your landscape while giving back to nature at the same time.

Date: Saturday, February 13
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Ages: Adults
Pre-registration: Yes, by calling 317-774-2500 or email: cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov
Location: CCNC

Rental Facilities

Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach is looking good and waiting for to you to rent! Osprey Pointe is located on the bank of Morse Reservoir with a beautiful view of the water and sunset. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and has a kitchenette and restrooms.

Facility Rental Rate:	$160.50 for 4 hours
Non-resident Rate:	$240.75 for 4 hours
Additional Hours:	$42.80 per hour
Damage Deposit:	$100
Alcohol Deposit:	$400

Rental Rates include an on-site security guard and use of all tables and chairs.

Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece is now ready to rent for weddings, wedding receptions, and any other special event you may have on your calendar. Rental is available from April through October.

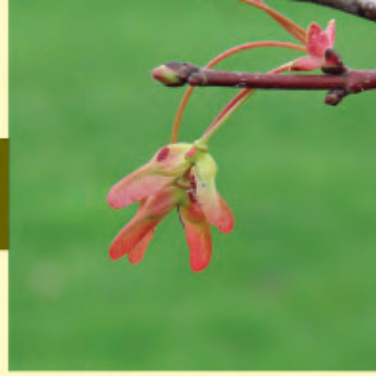
For more information and to rent this facility, please call Ritz Charles at 317-846-9158.

Cripe Pavilion, Coxhall Gardens

Shelter Reservations

Looking to rent a picnic shelter for a family picnic, reunion, or other special event? Shelter reservations are now available online! Please visit www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com and click on the "facilities for rent" link.

Shelter are available for rent between the months of April - September. Book your shelter for 2010 today!



At-a-Glance: An Autumn Full of Fun

December

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP	3	4 Pajama Rama	5 Star/Satellite Tour
6 Enclosure Tour	7 Winter Exhibit Begins	8	9 Beginning Bird Hike	10	11	12 Tike Hike
13 Beginning Bird Hike Holiday Happenings Enclosure Tour	14 Fall Exhibit Begins	15 Puppet Show	16 Beginning Bird Hike	17	18	19 Xmas Bird Count Holiday Tree Decor
20 Enclosure Tour	21	22	23 Beginning Bird Hike	24 Facilites Closed	25 Facilites Closed	26 Facilites Closed
27 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	28 Animals of the North	29 Histories Mysteries Wildlife Weathers Winter	30 Snakes & More Beginning Bird Hike Bone Detectives	31 Dogs of Iditarod		

January

					1 Facilites Closed	2 Exotic Feline Rescue Winter Tree ID Race to the New Year
3 Enclosure Tour	4	5	6 Beginning Bird Hike@ SKP	7	8 Pajama Rama	9 Whats This Rock? Enclosure Tour
10 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	11	12	13 Beginning Bird Hike	14	15	16 Star/Satellite Tour Winter Track Talk Enclosure Tour Crafty @ Cool Creek
17 Enclosure Tour	18 Underground Railroad Facilites Closed	19 Puppet Show	20 Beginning Bird Hike	21	22	23 Enclosure Tour
24 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour 31	25	26	27 Beginning Bird Hike	28	29	30 Collection Ident. Enclosure Tour

February

	1	2 Groundhog Day Prog.	3 Beginning Bird Hike @ SKP	4	5 Pajama Rama	6 Squirrel Mania Enclosure Tour
7 Beginning Bird Hike Enclosure Tour	8 Nature Center Closed	9 Puppet Show	10 Daddy Daughter Dance Beginning Bird Hike	11 Daddy Daughter Dance	12	13 Wild Ones Star/Satellite Tour Enclosure Tour
14 Enclosure Tour	15 President Program Facilites Closed	16	17 Beginning Bird Hike	18	19	20 Traded Beauty Enclosure Tour
21 Beginning Bird Hike 28	22 Art Exhibit Begins	23	24 Beginning Bird Hike	25	26	27 Adv. in Archaeology Enclosure Tour

1. Administration Office

15513 South Union Street,
Carmel, 46033
317-770-4400

For more information about special events, programs, picnic shelter rentals, and fees or to receive a *Chatterbox* newsletter, call us at 317-770-4400.

2. Bray Family Homestead Park

4528 State Road 38, Noblesville

This new 92-acre park was acquired in 2007 from the Bray Family and is still under development. The development of the park will be limited to trails, overlooks, wildlife feeding areas, and new plantings. Please call 317-770-4400 for more information and up-to-date details on the progress

3. Cool Creek Park

2000 E.151st Street, Carmel, 46033
317-774-2500, CCNC

This 90-acre park offers a nature-orientated setting for all seasons. Wooded trails span 3-4 miles of beauty and wildlife. There is a playground area and shelter nearby that can be used while children are at play. Four additional shelters are available for picnicking and rentals. This park also provides a home to the Cool Creek Nature Center and the Cool Concert Series.

4. Coxhall Gardens

116th and Towne Road, Carmel, 46032

This 125-acre park is one-of-a-kind to the residents, tourists, and visitors of Hamilton County. It includes a children's garden, twin bell towers, centerpiece, lake, and plenty of open space. Future plans include a conservatory, museum, and numerous speciality gardens.

5. Geist Park

10979 Florida Rd., Fall Creek Township

This 17-acre park is nestled along the banks of Fall Creek as it enters Geist Reservoir. It is the perfect spot for wildlife viewing and water recreation, including fishing and canoeing. It is also equipped with a play are, picnic shelter, and restrooms.

6. Lafayette Trace Park

Strawtown Avenue East, White River Township

More than 100-acres of land along the White River Greenway in White River Township is currently under development. Current amenities include a canoe launch and parking lot. Please call 317-770-4400 for more information and up-to-date details on the progress of the park .

7. Morse Park and Beach

19777 Morse Park Lane,
Noblesville, 46060
317-776-9743, Morse Beach

Swim, sunbathe, picnic, fish, and play volleyball at Morse Park and Beach. This 23-acre park is also the home of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department's spring and fall adult softball leagues.

8. Potter's Bridge Park

19401 North Allisonville Road,
Noblesville, 46060

Potter's Covered Bridge, constructed by Josiah Durfee between 1870-71, is the centerpiece of this park. The only remaining covered bridge in Hamilton County, Potter's Bridge was restored in 1999 and surrounded by a 30-acre park. The park also includes a trail that connects to the White River Greenway Trail which runs along the White River.

9. River Road Park

12575 River Road, Carmel, 46033

A two-mile trail, river overlooks, softball and soccer fields, and open space are situated along the banks of the White River at the 63 acre park. An archeaological playground, sandbox, and interpretive building are unique attractions designed to educate about native american life.

10. Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville, 46060
317-984-5556, Taylor Center

This 750-acre property, which borders 3.25 miles along the White River, is currently under development. Current amenities include the Taylor Center of Natural History, over 5 miles of multi-use trails, and a canoe launch. Please call 317-770-4400 for information and up-to-date details on the progress of the park.

11. White River Campground

11299 East 234th Street, Cicero
317-984-2705
Open April 15 - October 31

White River Campground offers the perfect spot to spend a getaway weekend in Hamilton County. The campground has 106 modern and primitive campsites along the White River with quiet spots for fishing and canoeing. A 55x35 feet picnic shelter is available for rental to large groups. Laundry facilities, showers, restrooms, campstore, recreation room, and playground make camping at White River Campground a pleasant experience.

The Parks Department recycles all paper, plastic, cardboard, ink cartridges, batteries, light bulbs, and hazardous waste.
Please join us in helping our earth!

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beach
boat dock
pool
fishing
canoe launch
music pavilion
picnic tables
picnic shelters
restrooms
playground
disc golf
soccer fields
softball fields
basketball court
volleyball court
bicycling
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nature trail
paved trail
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Hamilton County Parks and Recreation
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Nature's Inspirations:
Art Exhibit

Get inspired by the work of artist's who capture nature and its majesty. This exhibit features nature-inspired artwork including paintings, photography, and other art mediums. Work from both professional and amateur artists will be featured. Visitors to the exhibit will be encouraged to cast a vote for their favorite entries. Be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to see the inspirational art work on display.

Dates: February 22-March 7
Times: During Cool Creek Nature Center Hours
Cost: Free
Location: CCNC

Artists interested in exhibiting fine art in this exhibit should contact the Cool Creek Nature Center at 317-774-2500 or by Friday, January 29, 2010 for more information and entry procedures.

Artist: Spradlin

Artist: Southworth

Artist: Ashby