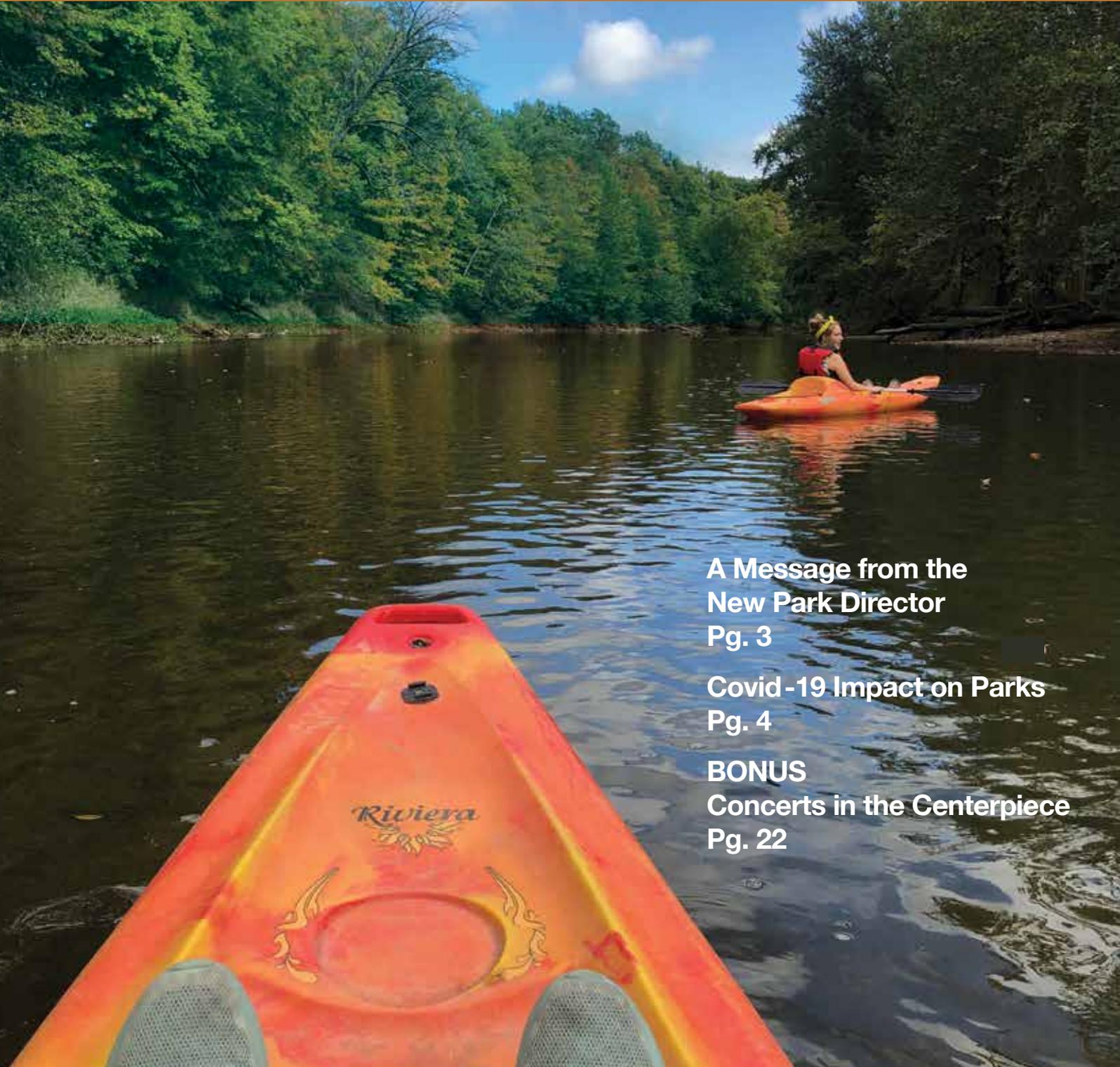




# The Chatterbox

July - October 2020 Leisure Guide



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## Hamilton County Commissioners

Christine Altman  
Steven Dillinger  
Mark Heirbrandt

## Hamilton County Council

Ken Alexander      Amy Massillamany  
Brad Beaver        Rick McKinney  
Fred Glynn         Steve Schwartz  
Jeff Hern

## Hamilton County Park Board

Stephen Andrews    Robyn Pauker  
Dr. Judith Campbell Susan Peterson  
Tom Clover         Andrew (Terry) Prather  
Mark McCauley     Larry Roudebush

## Mission Statement

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department exists to serve the leisure and recreation needs of its residents and tourists, and to enhance the quality of life in the county. We strive to preserve and provide high-quality, passive parks and facilities, to offer natural resource education and services, and to be recognized as a leader and resource for our community and its citizens in the pursuit of living an environmentally responsible lifestyle.

## Park Board Meetings

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except holidays. They are held at 6:30 p.m. in the Cool Creek Nature Center auditorium, located at 2000 -1 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033. The meetings are open to the public. Please call 317-770-4400 for COVID-19-related changes, if any.

## 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, shelter reservations or flooding. Please refer to *The Chatterbox* or call the administrative office for details.

## www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

For info on other parks visit [www.hampa.org](http://www.hampa.org) and [www.inpra.org](http://www.inpra.org).

**On the cover:** After launching from White River Campground, kayakers and canoeists can enjoy White River's peaceful recreation and unique riparian views, while practicing social distancing. Don't own a kayak or canoe? White River Canoe Company serves the campground. Visit [whiterivercanoe.com](http://whiterivercanoe.com). Additional information about White River Campground can be found on page 24.

Cover photo by Christian Richardson.

## Administrative Office • 317-770-4400

15513 S. Union St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Please call the numbers listed for holiday hours of park offices and facilities.

Director, Chris Stice  
[chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:chris.stice@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Deputy Director, Bruce Oldham  
[bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:bruce.oldham@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Resource Development Specialist, Don Nicholls  
[don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:don.nicholls@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Office Manager, Carrie Pacifico  
[carrie.pacifico@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:carrie.pacifico@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Admin Technical Coordinator, Carrie Melillo  
[carrie.melillo@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:carrie.melillo@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Sneath  
[steve.sneath@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:steve.sneath@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or  
[volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Special Events Coordinator, Christopher Gullion  
[christopher.gullion@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christopher.gullion@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Cool Creek Nature Center • 317-774-2500

2000-1 E. 151st St., Carmel, IN 46033

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education,  
Amanda Smith  
[amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Naturalist, Dan Popiela  
[dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:dan.popiela@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Naturalist, Zach McNulty  
[zach.mcnulty@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:zach.mcnulty@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Taylor Center of Natural History • 317-774-2574

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville, IN 46060

Mon. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sun., 1 – 5 p.m.

Historical Resource Specialist, Christy Brocken  
[christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:christy.brocken@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## White River Campground • 317-770-4430

11299 E. 234th St., Cicero, IN 46034

Season: Apr. 15 – Oct. 31

Office hours:

Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fri. and Sat., 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sun. 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Office Supervisor, Ian Rees  
[ian.rees@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:ian.rees@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

## Coxhall Gardens • 317-774-2582

11677 Towne Rd., Carmel, IN 46032

Dawn – Dusk

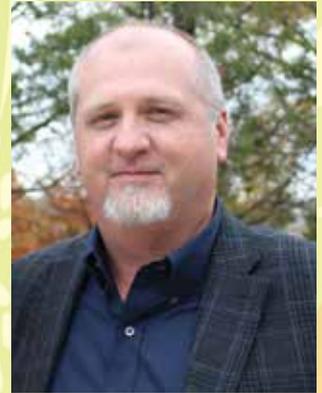
Coxhall Gardens Park Manager, Andy Kingsley  
[andy.kingsley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:andy.kingsley@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Coxhall Gardens Park Manager Assistant, Beth Semester  
[beth.semester@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:beth.semester@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

Proud Member of:



**An introductory message from B. Christopher (Chris) Stice –  
Hamilton County Parks and Recreation’s new Park Director:**



When I was in first grade, I remember visiting a tutor for help in improving my speech. I struggled with a lisp, making it difficult to pronounce my s’s. Having a name like Chris Stice, made it all the more challenging when introducing myself. Over time and with the help of that dedicated tutor, I overcame that obstacle. As an adult reflecting back on that time, I am reminded of how the tutor encouraged me and gave me hope that change for the better was possible.

I rely on that hope as much today as then. The COVID-19 global pandemic has not only changed our world, it has changed our local Hamilton County community - in every aspect of our lives. Our homes, our work environments, our relationships with family and friends - even how we recreate, have all been impacted to some extent. And while Hamilton County Parks cannot affect change in many areas of your lives during these troubling times, we strive to provide one of the few remaining resources that has become increasingly essential for the emotional and physical well-being of our community - its county parks. Throughout the entire duration of this health crisis, every Hamilton County Parks property and trail has remained open, requiring extraordinary administrative, programming, maintenance, cleaning and sanitizing measures to be undertaken by our selfless park staff. The staff, fully backed by a supportive park board, provides those additional services, while maintaining their regular duties - which are substantial during the spring season, when parks (and grass) come alive. Park usership in the state of Indiana has increased 109% (COVID-19 community mobility data for March 28 through May 9, 2020). And our park professionals have not missed a beat.

I personally thank each team member and our community for the grace, patience, dedication and persistence they have, and I am certain, will continue to exhibit.

As I write this, it is uncertain just how much change we will experience in the weeks and months ahead - concerts, programs and other activities are being evaluated for their safe staging. Our park board members, elected officials, health department and emergency management operators continually monitor the many aspects of the current pandemic and will help us safely navigate these trying times. As they do, I, along with my park family members are hopeful that all of the changes that lie ahead of us will be for the better!

**SEE YOU IN THE PARKS!**

Chris Stice, CPRP, Director, Hamilton County  
Department of Parks and Recreation

*More about Hamilton County Parks’ new director can be found on the back cover.*

### Solar Panels at the Cool Creek Nature Center Update

View the energy generated by our solar panels on the roof of the Cool Creek Nature Center. Visit [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com) and click on the *Cool Creek Solar Panels* link!



Snapshot taken June 12, 2020. Data generated since September 2, 2010

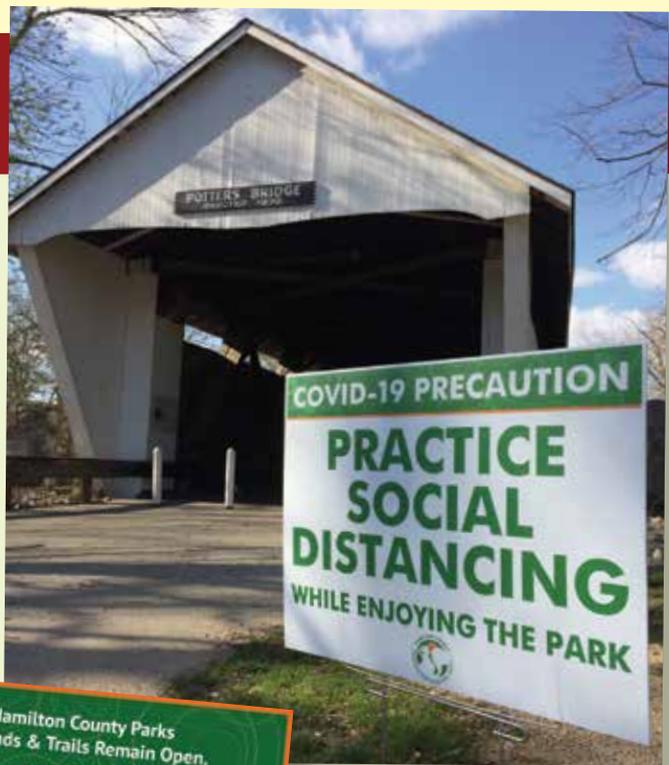
# Sign(s) of the Times

Unprecedented. Challenging. Disruptive. Deadly. These and a host of other terms, now almost clichés associated with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), or COVID-19, have dominated media headlines and dramatically altered our lives since March of this year. Both personally and professionally, daily routines have been interrupted in historic fashion. Your county park department is no exception and has not been spared the impact of the global pandemic. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation too, has had to address the challenges and obstacles created by the insidious virus, right alongside you and every member of our beloved community.

Such times of upheaval test the mettle of not only individuals, but organizations. To date, your Hamilton County Parks staff have not only risen to the occasion, they have done it in a way all Hamilton County residents can be proud. From the onset of the health threat, park staff, led by its new, but experienced director and deputy director, and with support from county agencies and park board members, initiated policies and procedures that were intended to not only preserve park services, but identify needs throughout the community where its resources – both material and human - could be best utilized in response to the COVID-19 threat. The park department supported the county's emergency preparedness operations, park vehicles and equipment were offered up and staff even converted a free book library into a makeshift food pantry that has provided for local residents in need.

It is with special pride that park staff acknowledge that not one Hamilton County Park, park trail or restroom has closed due to COVID-19. In fact, with park usership surpassing record numbers, park maintenance personnel increased restroom sanitation efforts twofold, and to ensure visitor safety and enjoyment, increased their efforts to maintain park grounds by emptying refuse containers twice daily.

Even though indoor park facilities were closed and public events (like the popular Cool Creek Summer Concerts), programs and activities were cancelled, postponed or altered as a safety precaution (see pages 5 and 22), park naturalists, with the support of the administration staff, created and presented innovative online programming that has generated followers



and interest like never before. Watch for such quality programming to continue... even expand, after the virus dangers abate.

As this issue of *The Chatterbox Leisure Guide* goes

to press, there remains an uncertainty about the looming threat of the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impact on each of our lives. However, one thing remains certain - your Hamilton County Parks team, regardless of the circumstances, will continue to provide you with the quality parks, facilities, events, programs and activities that our community has come to expect, and looks forward to the day when the only sign you see in your county parks reads "Welcome!"

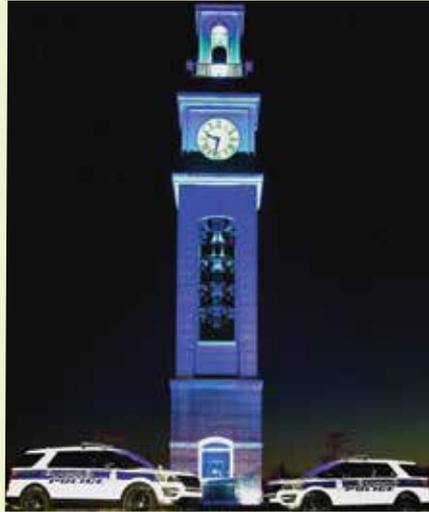


Taylor Center's Christy Brocken, shown above during a virtual presentation of her popular online series, *Eat Your Weeds*.

# True Blue Tower Tribute at Coxhall Gardens Recognizes Frontline Heroes

To recognize the sacrifices and risks undertaken by individuals in law enforcement, firefighting, healthcare, emergency service, medical research, and those individuals that contributed to keep our essential needs available throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Hamilton County Parks illuminated Coxhall Gardens' western bell tower in dramatic blue lighting, and programmed its carillons to play at 9:11 p.m. for two minutes every evening.

The public was invited to join in the symbolic gesture of gratitude by the ringing of bells and illumination of blue lights at their homes, businesses and facilities at the same time. Throughout the observance, photographs of the tower, along with comments of support were regularly posted on the park department's facebook page. Facebook followers were also asked to share personal stories describing acts of heroism, as well.



Hamilton County Parks and Recreation would like to thank the Butler Arts and Events Center staff of Joanna Hodges, Abraham Sheckels and Kelly Schmidt for their efforts to provide the technical expertise and resources required to achieve the stunning lighting effects that were seen and appreciated by thousands. A special thanks to HCPR staff member Beth Semester and her husband Lt. James Semester, Carmel Police, for assisting in the coordination of the special tribute.

*Carmel Police Department representatives attended the tower's inaugural lighting ceremony.*

*Photo courtesy Lt. James Semester, Carmel Police Department*

## Looking forward to seeing you in the parks soon!

2020  
Cool  
Creek  
Concerts  
Suspended

MAKEUP  
CONCERT  
UPDATES  
ON PAGE 22



Hamilton County Parks and Recreation, with direction provided by its park board members, made the difficult decision to suspend the popular 2020 Cool Creek Summer Concert Series. The action was taken out of concern for the well-being of all concert participants and the community at large, in light of the lingering threats and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Park event staff have made arrangements to have some of the concerts' contracted bands perform at an alternate park venue this fall. See page 22 for details.

Hamilton County Parks recognizes these organizations that have generously supported the concert series and ask that you support them in turn. They are, title sponsor

### Clay Township Trustee Office and Board

and the following event supporters:

- Ardsley Property Management
- Bach to Rock Music School - Carmel
- Carpenter Realtors - Westfield
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Friends of Hamilton County Parks
- Gerber Collision & Glass
- Indiana University Health
- Keeler-Webb
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Sobczak Construction -  
Dave and Stacey Sobczak
- The National Bank of Indianapolis
- UN Communications Group, Inc.

*and welcome the latest member to our sponsorship family - MetroNet!*

Call 317-770-4400 or visit our facebook page for updates.

# Cool Creek Park!

## Visit the Cool Creek Nature Center!

There is ALWAYS something new to explore at the Cool Creek Nature Center! Annually, more than 50,000 people visit the nature center! Our exhibits, designed and created by our staff, change seasonally.

Additionally, a free daily craft is offered every two weeks, scavenger hunts are available every day, and the Wildlife Viewing Area and Greenhouse are also available. While you are here, be sure to allow time for a nature hike and a stop at our popular playground and Nature Play Area! We hope you will make plans to stop in sometime this season! For more information, please call us at 317-774-2500.

### Hours:

Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Cost: Free

*PLEASE NOTE: The nature center is closed on July 3-4 and September 7 and will have safety precautions in place upon re-opening this season. Call or visit our website or facebook page for details.*

## Mission | Monarch Saving this Regal Icon

Monarchs have experienced a 90% decline in the last twenty years, and we are in danger of losing this beautiful insect. Visit the nature center to learn more about these butterflies, why their numbers are declining, and what we can do to help them, including introducing native plants like milkweed, the only plant the caterpillars eat, into your yards. The exhibit will be educational and fun for people of all ages.

More about monarchs on page 9!

Exhibit Runs: August 17 – October 4





## Summer Exhibit: Summer Sense-ations

We will be celebrating many of nature's most SENSE-ATIONAL things including hummingbirds, butterflies, lightning bugs, flowers, frogs, and other delightful creatures! Come inside, cool off, and enjoy exploring and learning about the amazing things that fill the summer sky, scent the summer air, and add musical fancy to this magical season!

Dates: Now through August 9

## Fall Exhibit: Autumn Attractions

Autumn is a beautiful time of year here in Hamilton County! The nature center is celebrating the season with an exhibit featuring some of the most remarkable aspects of autumn. Discover the secrets behind leaves changing colors and the amazing journey monarch butterflies begin this time of year.

Exhibit Begins: October 12

*Please note nature center holiday hours affect all exhibits listed above.*

## Native Plants for Sale at the Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse

One of the most important things we as Hoosiers can do for our environment is to plant native species that support our ecosystem. To aid in this mission, a select number of native plants from trusted growers will be for sale through the growing season in the greenhouse at the Cool Creek Nature Center. Native plants are well adapted to our area because they've evolved here, and they support our entire ecosystem. The plants have not been treated with pesticides and are priced for the primary purpose of providing our customers with native plants for their home landscapes. Our staff is knowledgeable and can help with planting recommendations and with further education. Quantities and species will vary due to what our suppliers have available.

Please contact us at 317-774-2500 or email us at [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) for information regarding what species we are selling, or any other questions related to our sale.

**Dates:** Plant delivery is based on our grower's supply. Typically, we are at full inventory by May 29. Please call the nature center and check our facebook pages for inventory lists and shipment updates. Sale will run through October 31.

**Cost:** Trees \$25 / Shrubs \$20 / Ferns \$10 / Flowers & Grasses \$7

**Location:** Cool Creek Nature Center Greenhouse during nature center hours



Call 317-770-4400 or visit our facebook page for updates.

# Park Programs

## Historical Plants & Their Stories

Join our Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education, Amanda Smith, as she presents about some of the truly strange, amazing, and inspirational ways native plants have been used through history. Many of our most beloved plants including milkweed, mayapple, elderberry, and spicebush have been used as medicine, food, charms, and other utilitarian uses through history. Myth, folklore, and superstitions related to the plants will be explored as well as some of the plants' potential uses in the future.

**Date:** Thursday, August 27

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Ages:** Adults and older students

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-Registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics - Awareness Workshop

This short workshop will better your knowledge of recreational-related impacts, the Seven Principles, and how Leave No Trace ethics can protect outdoor places. Our park naturalist is a trained Leave No Trace Master Educator and will use interesting games and activities to get you moving and learning.

**Date:** Saturday, August 29

**Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Ages:** 10 and over

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-Registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## The Buzz About Pollinators

Have you heard about our native bees? Did you know our native pollinators are in trouble? Buzz on in to this program to learn about our pollinators, our forgotten pollinators, how they benefit us and how we can help them in today's environment.

**Date:** Thursday, September 10

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Ages:** Adults and older students

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Teas from the Garden

In early autumn, gardeners often find themselves with an abundance of herbs. There are a number of ways to preserve them for the winter months for cooking, but did you ever think about blending your own herbal teas? Not only can you use herbs, but you can use other edible plants and flowers from your landscape. Bring your favorite mug to enjoy a cup of freshly brewed herbal tea. You'll go home with a list of resources for further exploration.

**Date:** Thursday, September 17

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Ages:** Adults and older students

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Children's Garden Tour at Coxhall Gardens

Take a tour of the Children's Garden at Coxhall Gardens and discover the inspiration behind this magical little spot. All sorts of ideas went into designing this children's area, and our naturalist will let you in on the story as we walk around and play. This program will meet at the entrance of the Children's Garden.

**Dates:** Thursday, July 16  
Thursday, August 20  
Thursday, September 17  
Thursday, October 15

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Parents and their children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CHG

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



# Storytime

As summer turns to fall, it's story time again! The plants and animals are getting ready to say hello to the fall with its beautiful leaves and cooler temperatures and last forest crop of the season. We would love to have you come and join us for a nature-inspired storytime! We will read a story, do a kid's craft, have a snack and go on a short hike (weather permitting).

**Dates:** Wednesday, August 5  
Wednesday, September 2  
Wednesday, October 7  
Wednesday, November 4

**Time:** 10:30 am

**Ages:** Ages 3 to 5

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Pajama-Rama

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

**Dates:** August 7, September 4, October 2

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for families with children ages 1 – 7

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Mission | Monarch

Hamilton County Parks is on a mission to help monarchs. Join Cool Creek Nature Center in learning about monarchs and actively helping them!

Monarch butterfly populations steeply declined over the last decades because of loss of habitat for native plants, expanded use of pesticides and reductions in their overwintering grounds. Did you know monarch butterflies make one of the longest migrations of any species, flying over 3000 miles from North America to very specific forests in the mountains of Mexico?

We can all help by planting milkweed – the only plant that monarch caterpillars eat! Protect them by restricting use of pesticides in your yard and garden. Our efforts will not only help monarchs but are beneficial to many native insects, birds and animals. You can pick up Common Milkweed seeds for free at the nature center!

## Migration Celebration 2020

Monarch butterflies are on the wing migrating through Indiana and on to their overwintering grounds in central Mexico. Celebrate this fascinating insect at the nature center. Take home a milkweed plant to provide food for next year's caterpillars. There will be music crafts, games for kids, hikes, and other activities for families. If all goes as planned, we will have the opportunity to release monarch butterflies! Stay for lunch served from a local food truck.

**3:00 pm:** A special speaker will discuss the needs of monarchs, other butterflies, and pollinators. Learn what to plant to attract these beautiful insects.

**Date:** Saturday, September 19

**Time:** 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Not required.



# Nature Preschool Programs

Bring the little ones to explore nature! We start our program by learning about a specific nature topic and then head outside to explore the woods and prairie at preschooler speed. Parents join in to encourage discovery alongside their child. Dress for the weather – we will try to go out every meeting! Give your children the love of nature.

**Ages:** Best for preschoolers

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Hiking in the Creek

**Date:** Wednesday, August 12

**Time:** 10:30 am

## Flowers with Powers

**Date:** Wednesday, September 9

**Time:** 10:30 am

## Not So Scary Things in the Woods

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14

**Time:** 10:30 am

# HomeSchool Hikers

Plan a break from the books to learn about nature and get your kids outside. We will discuss a nature topic and then explore the woods and prairie. Kids that spend time in nature are happier, healthier and smarter!

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## The Buzz about Pollinators

**Date:** Tuesday, August 18

**Time:** 1:00 pm

## Finding the Signs of Fall

**Date:** Tuesday, September 15

**Time:** 1:00 pm

## Monarchs

**Date:** Tuesday, October 13

**Time:** 1:00 pm



# Summer Nature Programs!

Hey kids! Here is your chance to explore Cool Creek Park and have some summertime fun. These one-and-a-half-hour programs will feature a craft, nature activity or game, and a performance by the camp staff. Each activity is related to the topic of the day.

## Monday, June 29 / Race to Outer Space

Take a voyage that's out of this world as we focus on stars, galaxies and space exploration.

## Tuesday, June 30 / Crickets

Discover the beauty in these cheerily, chirpy critters.

## Wednesday, July 1 / Creek Stomp

The creek has so many cool critters to discover. Put on some old shoes and enjoy wonders in the water.

## Thursday, July 2 / Bats

Can you catch a bug without crashing into a tree? Bats can. Come and see what makes them so amazing and helpful.

### Times:

10:00 – 11:30 am

1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Ages:** 3 – 10

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).





## Learn to Fish Instructor Workshop

This four-hour, train-the-trainer workshop will teach you how to run a basic Learn to Fish workshop by participating in one. You will gain knowledge on how to fish and how to teach others the basics of angling. After completing this training, you will gain access to loaner tackle from the Indiana DNR Sport Fishing Education program to run your own programs. Fishing license is required.

**Date:** Thursday, August 13

**Time:** 4:00 – 8:00 pm

**Ages:** Adults older than 18+ \*

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** MPB (Osprey Pointe Pavilion)

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

*\*Valid fishing license is required for all participating anglers 18+*

## Fall's Fruits and Leaves Program

Have you seen the "Indiana Banana," tasted a native persimmon from Indiana, or smelled the leaves of the "Indiana Forsythia; aka Spicebush? Come join us as we feel, smell, taste and see Indiana's treasures of the fall!

**Date:** Thursday, October 8

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Ages:** Adults and older students

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



# Fall Break Programs

## Nocturnal Animals

Indiana WILD will join us for a program all about animals of the night! These highly adaptive nocturnal creatures are as interesting as they are unusual.

**Date:** Monday, October 19

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Not Required.



## Owls of Indiana

Mark Booth with Take Flight Wildlife Education will be visiting the nature center and bringing a few owls that are found in Indiana. He'll share some of the amazing adaptations that these birds have!

**Date:** Tuesday, October 20

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Creepy Critters with Snakehead Ed

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 and busting many of the myths people have about these fascinating creatures.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Silly Safaris

Silly Safaris will take us on an entertaining trip. We will learn about some of the interesting animals in our area and around the world. Silly Safaris will share some of these amazing adaptations and silly characteristics!

**Date:** Thursday, October 22

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

# Little Haunt on the Prairie at Ghoul Creek Park

Thursday, October 22<sup>th</sup>  
(tickets available until 8:00 pm) 5-8:30pm

Little Haunt on the Prairie at Ghoul Creek Park is fun for the whole family! Spooky, yet age-appropriate Halloween activities will be offered for children ranging from preschool to school-ages and their families! You are welcome to come in your costumes and enjoy nature interpretation, entertainment, a hayride, food for purchase, and activities for the little ones as they trick-or-treat their way through this spooky event.

- Hayride
- Craft stations
- Spooky nature trail
- Halloween games
- Live owls with a wildlife educator
- Reptiles with Indiana Jim
- Monster Mash dance area
- Marshmallows at the campfire ring
- Entertainment



**Date:** Thursday, October 22

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:30 pm

**Ages:** Families

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**Location:** CCP

**Pre-registration:** Not required.

*Please bring a non-perishable or canned food item to donate to Amanda Strong Food for the Needy.\**

*\*Sorry a donation does not provide admission.*

## Community Seed Day

If you are looking for some neat landscaping ideas using native Indiana plants, you and your family will not want to miss Community Seed Day! Guests are welcome to collect seeds from our prairie and native flower beds to use in their landscaping at home. A naturalist will be available to assist in identification and germinating tips.

**Ages:** Best for all ages

**Cost:** Free

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

### Strawtown Koteewi Park:

**Date:** Saturday, October 10

**Time:** 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

### Cool Creek Park:

**Date:** Saturday, October 17

**Time:** 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

## Just Add Water

If you have always wanted to try fishing, we have a great opportunity for you! Join one of our park naturalists for a few hours of fun fishing at Geist Park, Morse Park and Beach and Coxhall Gardens. If you have equipment but are not sure how to use it, let our naturalist help you get set up. All equipment and bait provided. Fishing license is required.

**Dates:** Saturday, July 11 at Geist Park

Saturday, August 8 at Morse Park and Beach

Sunday, September 6 at Coxhall Gardens

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Ages:** 6 and older\*

**Cost:** Free

**Locations:** GP, MPB, CHG – look for green Hamilton County Parks canopy tent.

**Pre-registration:** Not required.

*\*Valid fishing license is required for all participating anglers 18+*



## Family Learn to Fish Workshop

Come join a park naturalist in a hands-on workshop to gain the knowledge, skills, and the confidence needed to go fishing. We will start with an instruction on the skills and ethics of catch and release fishing, then move outside to practice our new skills with some real fishing! Fishing license will NOT be required. September 26th is Free Fishing Day and the State of Indiana does not require a fishing license.

**Date:** Saturday, September 26

**Time:** 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Ages:** 6 and older

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** WRCG (in the rec center)

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Free Fishing Day

Come join one of our park naturalists for a few hours of fishing at Morse Park and Beach. If you have equipment, but are not sure how to use it, let our naturalist help you get set up. All equipment and bait provided. Fishing license will NOT be required. September 26th is Free Fishing Day and the State of Indiana does not require a fishing license.

**Date:** Saturday, September 26

**Time:** 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Ages:** 6 and older

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** MPB – look for green Hamilton County Parks canopy tent.

**Pre-registration:** Not required.



## Morse Beach is Open!

Hamilton County Parks is partnering with Friends of Central Pool in the operation of its beach and bathhouse at Morse Park and Beach. Visitors are asked to follow these guidelines for the safety and enjoyment of beach guests and staff:

- Masks are strongly recommended.
- Social distancing will be required at the beach.
- Coolers will be allowed this year with a \$5 charge.
- Re-entry will be allowed into the beach with wristbands.
- Pool noodles, life jackets and floaties are allowed in the beach. All other floats are not allowed.

At the time of publication, concessions are not open. Beach chairs may not be available until July 4th.

For updated operational details, please call 317-770-4403 prior to beach visits.

**Dates:** Weekdays and weekends, now – September 7

**Time:** Noon – 6:00 pm

**Cost:** \$4.00, children under 2 are free

Call 317-770-4400 or visit our facebook page for updates.

## Taylor Center of Natural History at Strawtown Koteewi Park

The Taylor Center of Natural History is open daily! Visitors are invited to discover the colorful local history that stretches thousands of years into the past. Artifacts recovered by professional archaeologists in previous excavations are on display in our exhibit room. More than nine miles of trails are open in Strawtown Koteewi Park, so don't forget your hiking shoes and sense of adventure! Group tours or presentations can also be arranged by calling 317-774-2574.

**Hours:** Monday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm • Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm • **Cost:** Free

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Taylor Center is closed on July 3-4 and September 7 and will have safety precautions in place upon re-opening this season. Call or visit our website or facebook page for details.

## Strawtown Enclosure-Native American Village Tours

Our interpretive staff conducts tours of the Strawtown Enclosure, a Native American village that was inhabited more than 700 years ago. During these tours we will discuss the Native Americans who built and used the enclosure and see some of the artifacts recovered by archaeologists. The tours begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History and include a short stroll to the village site. For more information, please contact us at 317-774-2574.

**NOTE:** Tours will not be offered during the month of September due to Archaeology Month programming.

**Dates:** The second Saturday of each month at 11:00 am and the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 pm

Saturday, July 11 at 11:00 am

Sunday, July 26 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, August 8 at 11:00 am

Sunday, August 23 at 2:00 pm

Saturday, October 10 at 11:00 am

Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Preschool Story Hour

Taylor Center of Natural History welcomes preschoolers to join us for an hour of fun! We will read a book, do a craft, and participate in a fun activity...all related to the theme of the day!

**Dates:** Thursday, July 9: Lightning Bugs

Thursday, August 13: Bluebirds

Thursday, September 10: Bobcats

Thursday, October 8: Snakes

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Ages:** Older preschoolers ages 3-5

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Preferred. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Celebrate National Moth Week with US

National Moth Week takes place during the last full week of July and we don't want you to miss out on the fun! We invite you to spend a relaxed evening at Strawtown Koteewi Park trying to catch a glimpse of these beautiful and sometimes elusive, nocturnal creatures. National Moth Week is an opportunity to become a Citizen Scientist and celebrate the beauty, life cycles, and habitats of moths. We will be "sugaring for moths" and doing a very basic light set-up to try to attract moths.

**Date:** Friday, July 24  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:30 pm  
**Ages:** Best for older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Native Plants to Support Immunity

The prairie is home to many native plants that are traditionally recommended for immune support and balance. We will gather a few herbs, including purple coneflower, bee balm, and grey-headed coneflower, to prepare a cooling summer elixir made with honey and vinegar. Also known as an oxymel, this preparation infuses fresh plants along with rehydrating electrolytes, and is a refreshing and nourishing herbal beverage when served with sparkling water and ice. Limited to 20 participants.

**Date:** Saturday, August 8

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**Ages:** 10 and up

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Still Life Drawing

Join us as the Taylor Center of Natural History for an afternoon of informal sketching. Taxidermy birds, feathers and skulls will be available for budding or experienced artists to sketch from. Please bring your own sketch book and pencils and we will provide the hot tea. Light instruction provided. No experience necessary!

**Dates:** Saturday, August 15: Flowers  
Saturday, September 19: Birds  
Saturday, October 17: Harvest

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Campfire Cooking

Join us as we explore the fun of campfire cooking. We will demonstrate pioneer and more modern techniques. We hope you can then transfer these recipes to your home fire pits and campfires.

**Date:** Saturday, August 22

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Limited to 10 participants. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Geology Open House

Come and join the Taylor Center of Natural History staff for our annual Geology Open House! Learn about the geology of Indiana and the various minerals, rock types, and fossils that are found in our state. Hands-on activities, samples and specimens will be on display throughout the day.

**Date:** Saturday, August 29

**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Registration:** Required. Limited to 10 participants. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Pioneer Fall Fest

Join the Taylor Center of Natural History staff at our historic red barn for a day of pioneer fun! Join our "quilting bee," make a corn husk doll and fresh butter, and learn all about pioneer plants with community herbalist Greg Monzel.

**Date:** Saturday, October 17

**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 pm

**Ages:** All

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



# STRAWTOWN KOTEEWI PARK'S **Adventure Area**

Guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park's unique Adventure Area should prepare for recreational activities that will excite, entertain, educate and encourage visits back to the park, time and time again. Whether riding trails atop majestic horses, mastering treetop courses 60' in the air, or sending an arrow skillfully toward its target at a blistering speed, these Adventure Area attractions will not only generate tons of heart-pounding excitement, they'll provide special memories that will last a lifetime! The Adventure Area can be found along Koteewi Drive, off Essig Road, located on the eastern boundary of the park **NOTE: Operations and hours subject to change. Call or visit each facility's web site for updated details.**

## Koteewi Aerial Adventure Treetop Trails

*Operated by Edge Adventures, Inc.*

Explore the woods in a whole new way! Five different treetop courses, from 16' to 60' high, offer a mix of elements and zip lines, challenging ALL skill types. Enjoy adventures lasting from two to three hours. Spend your time differently throughout your visit and returning visits!

**SEASON OPENS May 2, 2020**  
10 am - 4 pm

2-Hour Adventure: \$39.95 adult,  
\$34.95 child (7-15 years old)  
3-Hour Adventure: \$49.95 adult,  
\$44.95 child (7-15 years old)  
All Day Adventure: \$89  
per person (all ages)  
**Special Group Pricing: Discounts  
for groups 10-19, 20+ or 50+**  
**Hours vary by season. For current hours,  
please visit [edgeadventureparks.com](http://edgeadventureparks.com),  
or our Facebook page,  
call 800-590-8347 or email  
[info@edgeadventureparks.com](mailto:info@edgeadventureparks.com).**



*Operated by Edge Adventure Parks*

317-770-8845  
[edgeadventureparks.com](http://edgeadventureparks.com)  
Adventure Park Manager,  
Sally Burch



## K-Trails Equestrian Adventures

*Operated by K-Trails*

Fun, family adventure is the primary focus of K-Trails! A variety of trail ride experiences have been designed with your family in mind. Guests will be provided a demonstration covering the fundamentals in trail riding, a riding helmet and assigned a horse best suited for them. The basic trail ride is a ninety-minute experience. Longer rides and private family experiences are available. Riders must be 7 years old or older. Parent/grandparent-assisted pony rides are available for children younger than 7. Pony rides are available for guests with special needs requiring additional assistance.



Guided Ride (90 min experience) – \$30  
Guided Ride (2 hour experience) – \$40  
Guided Ride (2.5 hour experience) – \$50  
Pony Rides – \$10

Book your reservations  
at [www.ktrails.com](http://www.ktrails.com).  
Hours vary by season. For current  
hours please visit our website or  
Facebook page.



**K | Trails**  
EQUESTRIAN ADVENTURES

317-770-8835  
[ktrails.com](http://ktrails.com)  
Operator, John Stewart  
[john@ktrails.com](mailto:john@ktrails.com)

11949 Koteewi Dr.,  
Noblesville, IN 46060

## Koteewi Range Sport & Target Archery Center

*Operated by Tony Girt*

Start your archery adventure with us! Koteewi Range provides five special purpose ranges for all ages and levels of archery experience...from beginner to pro! Bring your own equipment or we'll rent you ours. Koteewi Range offers camps, classes, lessons, parties, team-building activities and archery tournaments.

**RANGE RATES**  
1 Hour on Target Range: \$10  
\$2 each additional hour  
Add \$8 for bow rental  
3D Trail: \$12  
Please call for annual  
membership,  
group and party rates.

**SEASONAL HOURS**  
Spring - Early Fall: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
7 days per week  
Late Fall - Winter: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Thursdays - Sundays



*Operated by Tony Girt*

317-776-8472  
[koteewiarchery.com](http://koteewiarchery.com)  
Range Manager, Tony Girt  
[tonygirt@koteewiarchery.com](mailto:tonygirt@koteewiarchery.com)

# Park Programs

## Indiana's Archaeology Month Celebration at Strawtown Koteewi Park

Our tradition of celebrating Indiana's Archaeology Month continues in 2020 at Strawtown Koteewi Park! We will host a variety of opportunities for groups and individuals alike. Our activities will bring to life the daily events of Strawtown Koteewi Park's original inhabitants by combining the research gleaned from 15+ years of archaeological investigations with historical and contemporary accounts of the life-ways of Indiana's Native peoples. Demonstrations will be paired with hands-on opportunities for visitors of all ages. The various activities are sure to engage all the senses while also educating our patrons about Native American culture and history!

### Group Scheduling

Schedule your group today for a fun, educational experience! Our staff will be conducting programs during the month for groups of various sizes. Please call, 317-774-2501 to register soon in order to reserve space for your group.

**Dates:** Throughout September

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register by calling 317-774-2501 or emailing [amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

**More information can be found at**  
[taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)  
or [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

## Indiana Archaeology Council Day

Celebrate Indiana's Archaeology Month at the Taylor Center of Natural History! Join us as we welcome back the Indiana Archaeology Council for this one-of-a-kind day of archaeology! The Indiana Archaeology Council invites the general public to attend a special day of lectures and hands-on learning supported by professional archaeologists from all around the state of Indiana. Tables supporting various archaeological topics will be set up around the Taylor Center of Natural History and guests are

encouraged to visit with the experts. Lectures relating to a wide range of archaeological topics will take place in the classroom. This is your chance to mingle with the experts and help us celebrate and support the professional archaeological community in Indiana.

**Date:** Saturday, September 12

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Ages:** Older children and adults

**Cost:** \$5 donation to Indiana Archaeology Council

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).



## Flintknapping Demonstration

In celebration of Archaeology Month, we are excited to welcome flintknapper Kevin Wyckoff. Kevin will demonstrate flintknapping using both traditional and modern techniques and tools. He will also help interested individuals learn how to make their own tools on a budget. Kevin specializes in making Mississippian arrowheads, but has experimented making a wide variety of stone tools. Stop by to learn more about this fascinating skill!

**Date:** Saturday, September 26

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Ages:** Best for school-aged children and adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TCNH

**Pre-registration:** Required. Register online at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com).





## Volunteer Spotlight: Jeanie Wiesler

Jeanie Wiesler enjoys being outdoors and giving back to her community. So much so, that in the past twelve months she has volunteered more than sixty hours removing invasive species such as honeysuckle, winter creeper and garlic mustard from Potter's Bridge Park.

Jeanie's efforts are helping improve the environmental health of the parks, so native plants and wildlife can flourish while slowing the further spread of invasive species. She says "It's very therapeutic to get outside, especially in these times, and feels good to know I'm doing something that makes a positive difference in our community."

We are so thankful for Jeanie's help, and we're sure our native plants and animals are too!

If you enjoy being outdoors and wish to help your community, please call our volunteer coordinator at 317-774-2509 or email [volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

## Hikes

### Beginning Bird Hikes

Birds are fascinating and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures however can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) on select Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for birdwatchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars!

#### Cool Creek Park

These hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park; past the nature center.

**Dates:** July 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29  
August 9, 12, 19, 23, 26  
September 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30  
October 4, 14, 18, 21, 28

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Ages:** Adults and older children

**Cost:** Free

**Pre-registration:** Not Required.

#### Strawtown Koteewi Park

These hikes will meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

**Dates:** July 1; August 5; September 2; October 7

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Ages:** Adults and older children

**Cost:** Free

**Pre-registration:** Not required.



### Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Hikes

Catch a peek at some beautiful birds as they make their annual trip south this fall. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry! Some birds will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the Nature Center's Wildlife Viewing Area for coffee and doughnuts. Don't forget your binoculars! Fall migration bird hikes meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

**Dates:** August 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26

**Time:** 8:00 am

**Ages:** Adults and older children

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCP

**Pre-registration:** Not required.



### Fall Flower Hike

Walk the trails of Cool Creek Park with a naturalist in search of fall wildflowers. We will explore both our prairie and forest habitats for these seasonal flowers. The group will discuss medicinal and edible attributes of the flowers as well as folklore that may be associated with them. This hike begins inside the nature center.

**Date:** Saturday, September 12

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Ages:** Adults

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCP

**Pre-registration:** Not required.



## Nature Trunks on Loan at the Cool Creek Nature Center

We have five trunks available for area educators to use as an additional resource for their classes! These kits make a great addition to any classroom or program that focuses on Indiana wildlife. Educators including scout leaders, teachers, and homeschool families are all eligible to borrow the trunks.

### The trunks available are:

**The Wildlife Trunk** consists of a variety of native skulls/bones, shells, skins, mounts, track molds and cards.

**The Tree-mendous Tree Trunk** includes many books, field guides, lesson plans, activity ideas, movies, wood samples and posters.

**The Fur File** includes fifteen real mammal furs with corresponding fact cards, additional lesson plans and resources for educators.

**The Bird Trunk** includes bird skulls, silhouettes, bird books, and other bird-related education materials.

**The Go FishIN' Kit** contains reels, fishing tackle, games and related literature to teach others how to go fishing.

To check on the trunks' availability for your up and coming programs, contact Zach McNulty at 317-774-2500 or email [zach.mcnulty@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:zach.mcnulty@hamiltoncounty.in.gov). There is no charge to borrow the trunks.



# Cool Creek Campfires

Join us around the Cool Creek campfire ring for songs, presentations, and marshmallows. Cindy Baney, music educator with Moriah Music, will start the evening off with music. Special speakers will then entertain guests each week with topics about snakes, birds, turtles, and more. Hang out with your family and friends during these special Wednesday evenings. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

Dates: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Ages: All  
Cost: Free  
Location: CCP (north side of the park)  
Pre-registration: Not required.



**All-American Animals / July 1**  
Celebrate our country's birthday with Coyote Chris of Silly Safaris. Animals that get us excited about our independence will be featured!

**Indiana Jim: Reptile Experience / July 8**  
Indiana Jim's wide assortment of reptiles and amphibians are sure to surprise, teach, fascinate, and intrigue you!

**Baby! It's wild Outside / July 15**  
Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators will talk with us about the do's and don'ts of wildlife that we might encounter in our communities. Some of their own rehabilitated animals will be on hand to help us understand when our help is needed and when it is harmful for wildlife...and us!

**Reptiles with Rex Morrell / July 22**  
Welcome Rex Morrell and his many reptile friends to the park. Rex will be bringing some of his largest and most charismatic reptiles to share with the audience!

**REALLY Dangerous Animals / July 29**  
Amazon John with Silly Safaris is back with some REALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS! Be sure to make it to this exhilarating show.

Safety guidelines will be in place. Call or email the nature center for details.



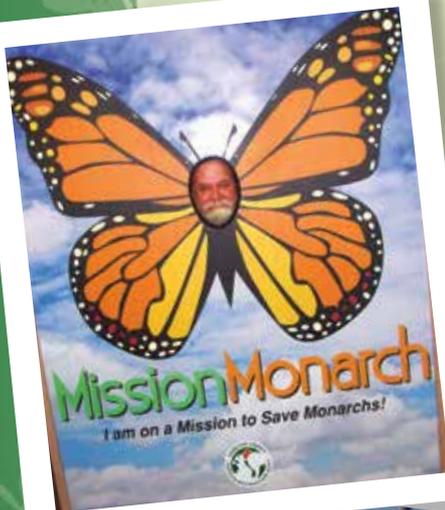
## Be a Parks Volunteer!

Volunteering for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department can be a fun and rewarding experience! Volunteer opportunities include general park upkeep, assisting with special events, helping with gardening, caring for the nature center's wildlife friends, greenhouse tending, landscaping, cleaning, socializing, educating and more. We welcome individuals and groups of all sizes and will work to find activities that are a good fit with your interests, skills and schedule.

Look for the volunteer symbol throughout this issue of *The Chatterbox* to find programs and events that offer volunteer activities, or contact us if you want to learn about other opportunities! To volunteer, please call 317-774-2509 or contact us at [volunteer@myhamiltoncountyparks.com](mailto:volunteer@myhamiltoncountyparks.com).

Call 317-770-4400 or visit our facebook page for updates.

## HCPR Staff Shoutout: Mike Roudebush



Mike Roudebush is the creator of many pieces of woodwork you may have encountered at any of our parks. He is the man behind most of our carpentry work such as kiosks, custom displays, podiums, frames, dedication plaques, etc. After his retirement from the water company in 2004 he became our department's custom carpenter. Mike has been part of our team for more than sixteen years.

The results of Mike's attention to detail and craftsmanship will be around for our community to enjoy and appreciate for decades. The time and work he puts into each piece reflects his standards for high quality and his passion for creating a fine piece of art.

*The Mission Monarch photo-op panel and the railroad crossing signal gate marking the grand opening of HCPR's section of the Monon Trail are just two of the many projects artfully handcrafted by HCPR's Master Woodsmith Mike Roudebush.*



## TOURNAMENT

*Crooked Stick Golf Club*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

JOIN US

for a great day of golf

10:00 a.m. Range and practice areas open for use  
12:30 p.m. Shotgun tee off

### FOR MORE INFO

John Scott Foster, Executive Director  
johnscottfoster@friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org  
317.750.6198  
friendsofhamiltoncountyparks.org

BENEFITTING

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS



## Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sale

Did you know? Native tree species support wildlife better than non-native varieties. Oak trees support 534 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars – more than any other native tree or plant! The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District has over 40 species of native trees and shrubs available in their fall native tree sale.

Orders are due in mid-September and trees are available for pick up in October. Learn more and order at [www.hamiltonswcd.org/treesale](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org/treesale).

## Hamilton County Invasives Partnership

Invasive species cause harm to our environment, economy, public health and our parks and natural areas. The Hamilton County Invasives Partnership is a coalition of county organizations and individuals working to fight invasive species in our county.

Learn more about invasives and join us at [www.hcinvasives.org](http://www.hcinvasives.org)!

## Donate Your Surplus Garden Vegetables to a Local Food Pantry

Did you know you can donate your garden vegetables to food pantries? You can! Learn how and where to donate at [www.donateyourvegetables.com](http://www.donateyourvegetables.com).

## Hamilton County SWCD

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District provides a variety of services to county residents to help you maintain and improve our natural resources!

- soil tests
- natural resources consultations
- well water evaluations and testing
- rain barrels
- tool loan program
- urban agriculture assistance and much more!

Learn more at [www.hamiltonswcd.org](http://www.hamiltonswcd.org).

# Help your friends. Help Yourself!



## Friends of Hamilton County Parks

**"I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!!"** Over the past month or so, how many times has this thought come to mind? How many times have you or a friend or family member said this (or shouted this)? It became a pretty common statement at my house, from one of us; my wife, or my oldest son and girlfriend who came to our house when colleges told their students to go home, or myself. Sometimes, once a day, or sometimes more.

But, there was a challenge to filling this desire to get out of the house, that most of us had not encountered in our lifetime. The challenge - where can you go? Many of the usual options were off the table; shopping, an invitation from a friend for a backyard BBQ or dinner party, a museum visit, a sporting event, pedaling to a local brewery for a cold beverage, a meal at a favorite restaurant.

The one constant that remained in our lives, the option that presented itself; our parks. They've always been here. Maybe you hadn't visited one in a while, but the idea came to mind. Let's go to the park. A great option. There is an abundance of scientific research that connects time spent out of doors, in nature, in park-like settings, to increased physical and mental well-being. And you have to admit, right now, anything that helps us feel happier and mentally sound is a good thing.

So, we went to those parks. We went in mass. And in doing so, we discovered a few things. First, our parks are lovely, we are lucky to have them. Miles upon miles of trails to walk. Verdant lawns, calling out for a blanket, a book, and a picnic basket. Rivers and lakes to cast a line into. Mountain bike paths to challenge bodies at risk of growing soft on the couch. What wonderful parks we have.

We also need to search for new ways that people can enjoy parks and show them some options available but unrecognized. The playgrounds were closed, rightfully so, but that left some parents in the lurch – some children disappointed. But there are other things for kids. Parents can help their kids discover and explore the natural world that they may not have stopped to notice when the easy option was to sip a cup of coffee and check a Facebook page whilst the kids were playing on the equipment. And we need to find and offer new experiences for people and open lines of communication with our community to let them know what all is available and waiting for them in their parks.

As an organization whose mission is to ensure you have access to parks that meet your needs and expectations, these last few months have given us a lot to think about. We want to hear your ideas, thoughts and concerns about your parks, what you, what our community needs and expects. And we need your support to turn ideas into reality. Want to talk? Want to set up a Zoom meeting? Call me at 317.750.6198 or email me at [johnscottfoster@friendshcp.org](mailto:johnscottfoster@friendshcp.org).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

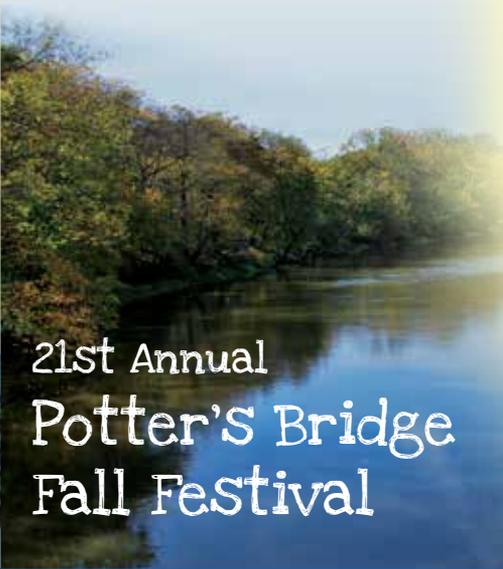
John Scott Foster, PhD  
Executive Director

**BONUS CONCERTS**



presents

# 2020 Concerts in the Centerpiece



## 21st Annual Potter's Bridge Fall Festival

Enjoy a special autumn day at Potter's Bridge Park during the 21st Annual Potter's Bridge Fall Festival. Listen to live music, visit the more than seventy arts, crafts, and food booths, watch your little ones play in the KidZone, or simply take in the natural beauty of Noblesville's most scenic park on the White River Greenway Trail.

**Date:** Saturday, October 3  
**Time:** 11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**Cost:** Free to the public, \$50 for 10x10 booth space\*  
**Location:** PBP

This year's concert series will be all the more special because some of the outstanding musical acts that were scheduled to perform at the suspended Cool Creek Summer Concerts, have agreed to play makeup performances in the spectacular Centerpiece at Coxhall Gardens. Joining the already stellar line-up for **TWO FREE BONUS CONCERTS** will be the incomparable Flying Toasters and the crowd-pleasing The Doo! Band! Watch for additional activities to be added between now and the start of this special "extended play" series



- Dates:**
- Sunday, September 6**  
**Stepp Walker Project**
- Sunday, September 13**  
**Indianapolis Jazz Orchestra**
- Sunday, September 20**  
**The Woomblies**
- Sunday, September 27**  
**Cook & Belle**

- Sunday, October 4**  
**The Flying Toasters**
- Sunday, October 11**  
**The Doo! Band**

**Time:** 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
**Ages:** All  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** CHG



\*Are you an arts and crafts vendor interested in selling your creations? To learn more about this unique vending opportunity or to register, call 317-770-4400 or visit the forms link on our website at [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com). Hurry, deadline is Friday, July 31st, 2020.



# White River Campground

**Operating Dates:** Now - October 31, 2020

**Location:** 11299 East 234th Street, Cicero, IN 46034

**Amenities:**

- 100 modern campsites
- 7 primitive campsites
- water, electric & sewer hook-ups
- camp store, includes bait and tackle
- recreation room
- restrooms/shower facility
- laundry facility
- playground
- picnic shelter
- White River access
- WiFi
- historic bridges connecting guests to Strawtown Koteewi Park and the Adventure Area



**Reservations are accepted 365 days in advance. Please call 317-770-4430 to make your reservation...today!**

**SORRY - NO REFUNDS.**

PRESENTED BY



## Family Fun Times!

### WHITE RIVER CAMPGROUND 2020

Throughout the 2020 season, White River Campground will offer quality entertainment and activities that are designed to add to the enjoyment of the camping experience for the entire family! For specific details regarding the following campground events and programming, please call 317-770-4430.

Saturday **July 4** // July 4th Band & Crafts

Saturday **July 18** // Kid's Magic Show

Saturday **Aug 1** // Fun Family Crafts & Games

Saturday **Sept 5** // Labor Day Weekend Band & Crafts

Saturday **Sept 12** // Fun Family Crafts & Games

Saturday **Oct 3** // WRC Halloween Festivities I

Saturday **Oct 10** // Year End Pitch-In Dinner

Saturday **Oct 17** // WRC Halloween Festivities II

Saturday **Oct 31** // Closing Day at the Campground

CAMPSITE/FACILITY	DAILY		WEEKLY	
	Hamilton County	Out of County	Hamilton County	Out of County
Full Hook-up	\$25	\$30	\$130	\$150
Electric and Water	\$20	\$25	\$120	\$130
Primitive Site	\$15	\$20	\$100	\$120
Day Visitor	FREE	FREE	/	/
Recreation Room Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Shelter House Rental	\$60	\$80	/	/
Boat Launch	\$3	\$5	/	/
Dump Station	\$5	\$8	/	/

**NOTE:** Rates do not include any applicable tax.

**Through July 6th** – Event access limited to first 100 campers with reservations only.

**After July 6th** – Campground resumes normal operations.\*

\*Campground operations are expected to return to normal starting Monday, July 6th unless unanticipated circumstances dictate otherwise. We look forward to another great season with all of our campers!



# Park Rentals



## Osprey Pointe Pavilion

Planning a shower, wedding reception, or any other special event? Our indoor rental facility at Morse Park and Beach offers a lodge-like setting and is available for private functions. Osprey Pointe is located on the banks of Morse Reservoir with a scenic view. The facility's seating capacity is 101 people and features 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.



## Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium

For a uniquely natural event venue, consider the Cool Creek Nature Center Auditorium. Capacity is 140 guests. Rental includes 20 rectangular tables (6' X 2 ½') and 135 chairs. Alcohol is prohibited and a contract is required. Call 317-774-2500 for rates, availability and complete details.

**SAVE TIME!** You can now make your rental facility or shelter reservation online through CivicRec.

Visit [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com) and go to "FACILITY FOR RENT." Click to reserve your rental and CivicRec will take it from there! Need some navigational aid? We're still here to help. Just call us at 317-770-4400.

*Note: Rental rates listed on this page DO include tax.*

## Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion

Looking for a beautiful and serene location to hold your upcoming wedding and reception? The Coxhall Gardens Centerpiece and Cripe Pavilion are 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 these facilities, please call **Ritz Charles** at 317-846-9158 or visit [ritzcharles.com](http://ritzcharles.com).

## Park Shelters

Looking for a place to have a picnic and enjoy your summer? Our affordable picnic shelters are a perfect place to have a get-together! Shelter rental is available from May 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Shelter rentals are for all-day use.
- No refunds
- Cash, check, money order, and all major credit cards

Cool Creek Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,B,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Geist Park	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelter	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60

- Grill located at each shelter.
- Shelters hold approximately 50 people.

Morse Park and Beach	Shelter Size	County Resident	Non-County Resident
Shelters A,C,D	20' x 30'	\$53.50	\$85.60
Shelter B	30' x 40'	\$107.00	\$149.80

- Grill located at each shelter
- Shelters A,C,D hold approximately 50 people.
- Shelter B holds approximately 100 people.

## Coxhall Mansion Tours Update



Out of an abundance of caution, group tours of the Coxhall Mansion have been suspended, due to the risk to public health associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the tours resume, watch for new programming that will offer guests the opportunity to learn even more about the stately mansion, the remarkable man who built it and the masterfully detailed replica of the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg, currently on display in the mansion.

Please visit our facebook page or [myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://myhamiltoncountyparks.com) for updated information regarding the resumption of mansion tours.

## July

- W 1** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Nature Program (Creek Stomp) 10am – CCNC  
c. Nature Program (Creek Stomp) 1pm – CCNC  
d. Campfire Program – All-American Animals – 7pm – CCP
- Th 2** a. Nature Program (Bats) 10am – CCNC  
b. Nature Program (Bats) 1pm – CCNC
- F 3** Independence Day – Facilities Closed
- Sa 4** a. Independence Day – Facilities Closed  
b. July 4th Band & Crafts – WRCG
- W 8** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program – Indiana Jim: Reptile Experience – 7pm – CCP
- Th 9** Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH
- Sa 11** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Just Add Water – Fishing Program 2pm – GP
- Su 12** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- W 15** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program – Baby! It's Wild Outside – 7pm – CCP
- Th 16** Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa 18** Kid's Magic Show – WRCG
- W 22** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program – Reptiles with Rex Morrell – 7pm – CCP
- F 24** Moth Week Program – 9pm – TCNH
- Su 26** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 29** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Campfire Program – REALLY – Dangerous Animals – 7pm – CCP

## August

- Sa 1** Fun Family Crafts & Game – WRCG
- W 5** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Storytime – 10:30am – CCNC
- F 7** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa 8** a. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Native Plants to Support Immunity 1pm – TCNH  
c. Just Add Water – Fishing Program 2pm – MPB
- Su 9** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- W 12** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Preschool Program (Creek Hike) 10:30 am
- Th 13** a. Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Learn to Fish Instructor Workshop 4pm – MBP
- Sa 15** a. Just Add Water - Fishing Program 10am – MPB  
b. Still Life Drawing – 1pm – TCNH
- M 17** Mission Monarch Exhibit Opens – 10am CCNC
- Tu 18** Homeschool Hikers (Pollinators) – 1pm CCNC
- W 19** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 20** Children's Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa 22** Campfire Cooking – 1pm – TCNH
- Su 23** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W 26** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th 27** Historical Plants and Their Uses – 6:30 pm CCNC
- Sa 29** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. No Trace Outdoor Ethics – 11am – CCNC  
c. Geology Open House – 1pm – TCNH

### KEY

- Su – Sunday** Bray Family Homestead Park (BFHP)  
Cool Creek Nature Center (CCNC)
- M – Monday** Cool Creek Park (CCP)
- Tu – Tuesday** Coxhall Gardens (CHG)
- W – Wednesday** Geist Park (GP)
- Th – Thursday** Lafayette Trace Park (LTP)
- F – Friday** Morse Park & Beach (MPB)
- Sa – Saturday** Potter's Bridge Park (PBP)
- River Road Park (RRP)
- Riverwood Canoe Landing (RCL)
- Rookery Preserve (RP)
- Strawtown Koteewi Park (SKP)
- Taylor Center of Natural History (TCNH)
- White River Campground (WRCG)

ADA Notice: Hamilton County, will upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so that they can participate equally in Hamilton County's public meetings. For special accommodations for a meeting contact the ADA Facilities Coordinator/Safety & Risk Manager at (317-770-1976) or [dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:dan.papineau@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) at least two (2) business days prior to the scheduled meeting or event to request an accommodation. Hamilton County Parks and Recreation is committed to accommodating all individuals with special needs. If assistance is required at any county park event, program or facility, please contact the administrative office in advance at 317-770-4400.

# September

- Tu1** Archaeology Month Begins – TCNH
- W2** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Storytime at Cool Creek – 10:30am  
CCNC
- F4** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa5** a. Labor Day Weekend Band & Crafts  
WRCG  
b. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP
- Su6** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Just Add Water – Fishing Program  
2pm – CHG  
c. Coxhall Concert: Stepp Walker Project  
5pm – CHG
- M7** Labor Day – Facilities Closed
- W9** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Preschool Program (Flowers with  
Powers) – 10:30 am
- Th10** a. Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH  
b. The Buzz About Pollinators  
6:30pm – CCNC
- Sa12** a. Fun Family Crafts & Game – WRCG  
b. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
d. Fall Flower Hike – 10am – CCP  
c. Indiana Archaeology Day  
10am - TCNH
- Su13** Coxhall Concert: Indianapolis Jazz  
Orchestra – 5pm – CHG
- Tu15** Homeschool Hikers (Signs of Fall)  
1pm – CCNC
- W16** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Th17** a. Children’s Garden Tour – 11am – CHG  
b. Teas from the Garden – 6:30 pm – CCNC
- Sa19** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Monarch Migration Celebration  
11am – CCNC  
c. Still Life Drawing – 1pm – TCNH
- Su20** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Coxhall Concert: The Woomblies  
5pm – CHG
- M21** On Par for Parks – 10am – Crooked Stick  
Golf Club
- W23** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Sa26** a. Migratory Bird Hike – 8am – CCP  
b. Family Learn to Fish Workshop  
10am – WRCG  
c. Flintknapping Demo – 12pm – TCNH  
d. Free Fishing Day – 2pm – MBP
- Su27** Coxhall Concert: Cook and Belle  
5pm – CHG
- W30** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP

# October

- F2** Pajama-Rama – 7pm – CCNC
- Sa3** a. Halloween Festivities I – WRCG  
b. Potter’s Bridge Fall Festival  
11am – PBP
- Su4** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Bonus Coxhall Concert – The Flying  
Toasters – 5pm – CHG
- W7** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – SKP  
b. Storytime at Cool Creek – 10:30am  
CCNC
- Th8** a. Preschool Story Hour – 11am – TCNH  
b. Fall’s Fruits and Leaves Program  
6:30pm - CCNC
- Sa10** a. Year End Pitch-In Dinner – WRCG  
b. Community Seed Day – 11am – SKP  
c. Enclosure Tour – 11am – TCNH
- Su11** Bonus Coxhall Concert – The Doo! Band  
5pm – CHG
- M12** Fall Exhibit: Autumn Attractions opens
- Tu13** Homeschool Hikers (Monarchs) – 1pm  
CCNC
- W14** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Preschool Program (Not So Scary  
Things) - 10:30am – CCNC
- Th15** Children’s Garden Tour – 11am – CHG
- Sa17** a. Halloween Festivities II – WRCG  
b. Community Seed Day – 11am – CCP  
c. Pioneer Fall Fest – 1pm – TCNH  
d. Still Life Drawing – 1pm – TCNH
- Su18** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- M19** Fall Break – Nocturnal Animals – 11am  
CCNC
- Tu20** Fall Break – Mark Booth – 11am – CCNC
- W21** a. Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP  
b. Fall Break – Snakehead Ed – 11am  
CCNC
- Th22** a. Fall Break – Silly Safaris – 11am  
CCNC  
b. Little Haunt on the Prairie – 5pm  
CCP
- Su25** Enclosure Tour – 2pm – TCNH
- W28** Beginning Bird Hike – 8:30am – CCP
- Sa31** a. Closing Day – WRCG  
b. Greenhouse Plant Sale Ends – CCNC



The park staff will occasionally take pictures of participants at our parks, programs, and special events. Photos may be used in future publications or online for marketing purposes. If you do not want your picture taken, please inform the photographer.

Save the Date!



Come be merry with us as we welcome Mrs. Claus and the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus! The Claus’s will be available for pictures throughout the program. Jingle John of Silly Safaris will be presenting his Animals of the North Pole program which will include several animals that like the cold weather, including a reindeer! Crafts and cookies will also be available!

**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 pm

**Ages:** All children and adults that believe in Santa Claus

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** CCNC





Hamilton County Parks and Recreation  
15513 South Union Street  
Carmel, Indiana 46033

 Printed on recycled (30%, post-consumer) paper stock. When you are finished enjoying *The Chatterbox*, please pass it on to a friend or recycle it.

If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please call 317-770-4400 or email [hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:hamilton.parks@hamiltoncounty.in.gov).

If the name shown on the address is incorrect or NOT the intended recipient, please contact us at 317-770-4400 and let us know. We'll update our list and send you YOUR free *Chatterbox*.



## Introducing the New Director of Hamilton County Parks and Recreation - Chris Stice

Chris Stice has been with the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department since 1995, after graduating from Oklahoma State University. He began his tenure as an intern, then became Quality Control Director until 1997, when he was named Deputy Director. In June of this year, he was appointed Park Director - a position in which he plans to continue advancing the field of parks and recreation by his servant leadership and desire to provide a quality environment and memorable programming for all members of the community, including those that do not have a voice.

Chris has led the Board of Regents of the Great Lakes Park Training Institute, receiving the Richard Lawson Award for Outstanding Service. He has co-hosted the Solheim Cup opening and closing ceremonies, US Senior Open, NRPA Program Committee and Chair. He served as President of the Board of Directors for both the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association and Foundation, being a founding member of the association's foundation.

To date, Chris has overseen the development and management of more than 1600 acres of parks, including nature centers, athletic complexes, gardens and archaeological sites. Annually, he has overseen 800 programs/events and regularly networks with Hamilton County municipalities and agencies when planning and developing multi-use trails.

Most importantly to Chris, he attends Northview Church and is the husband of Heather Sun Stice and is the blessed father of three children - Sierra Sol Stice, 15, Canyon Tyme Stice, 13 and Clover Vega Stice, 9. His family along with the HCPR staff wish Director Stice continued success as he leads the park department into the future!

Read the new director's personal message on page 3.

## ...and Welcome to the New Deputy Director - Bruce Oldham!



Hamilton County Parks' newly appointed Deputy Director, Robert Bruce Oldham (Bruce), was born and raised in Carmel, Indiana. His love for the outdoors was nurtured in the woods and creeks of Hamilton County and that affinity for nature grew as a young Scout and Eagle Scout. He is a proud alumnus of both Carmel High School and Ball State University, where he earned a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management. After completing an internship with Hamilton County Parks, alongside the new Park Director, Chris Stice and fellow intern, and now HCPR's Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education, Amanda Smith, Bruce took the position of Recreation Director for Johnson County Parks from 1998 to 2005. In 2005, he accepted a new role with Hamilton County Parks and was on his way to becoming Regional Parks Operations Manager. As Deputy Director, Bruce intends to build on the strong working relationship he has forged with Chris, Amanda and the entire park staff.

Bruce is proud of the outstanding reputation Hamilton County Parks has earned, recognizing the vision of past leaders, board members, and elected officials, and is equally excited about future opportunities involving community engagement, expansion of acreage and development of environmental-based programming. He looks forward to extending his efforts with the new director and a dedicated parks team that strive to provide quality recreation and nature education to the citizens of Hamilton County.

Bruce resides in Strawtown, Indiana with his wife Kendra and children Max, 18 (also an Eagle Scout), Lucy 4, and Beaux 3, all of whom are considered members of the Hamilton County Parks family, as well.

Welcome and congratulations Deputy Director Oldham!