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“Hardwood Species Diversity of Metea County Park

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By Tyler Egbert, Environment Science B.S. student at the University of Saint Francis, Intern at Metea County Park

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Metea County Park (south) lies along the southern bank of the Cedar Creek, one of only three scenic rivers in the State of Indiana. Within the park there is a land formation known as an oxbow lake. This phenomenon occurs when a river, or creek in this case, changes its path. What remains is standing water that makes a U shape in most situations. This particular land feature can be witnessed first-hand along Raccoon and Muskrat Trails in the park. Ron Divelbiss, Environmental Educator for the park, asked me, an Environmental Science Intern from the University of Saint Francis, to lay grids along the slopes of this oxbow lake and identify the species of trees along the southern escarpment. An escarpment is a long steep slope that separates two distinct types of topography. He was also curious to find out the number of each species and their location on the escarpment. The plan was to stake out three grids and compare them. This would give us some type of idea as to the species diversity within the forest.



The grids would be 66 by 66 feet. This, when factored out, would give us a grid of .1 acre. We chose to do this because it was a nice even number to work with. In order to get as close to a 66 by 66 foot grid I had to use the Pythagorean theorem to calculate the new distance along the slope which came out to appropriately 69.5 feet. The first grid which was staked out was located south of the oxbow lake and east of the bridge on Raccoon Trail. The second grid was also south of the oxbow but east of the bridge on Raccoon Trail. The third and final grid was west by northwest of Raccoon trail still along the escarpment of the oxbow lake.

The different kinds of hardwood species found in the plots vary greatly. White oak, sugar maple, American beech, wild black cherry, and slippery elm are just some of the species that can be found in all three plots. Other trees like the tulip tree and the American basswood are more dispersed and harder to find. Of all the spices listed there are some that thrive in lower more damp areas. American basswood is one such example. This particular tree is dominant in sandy loam soils that are damp. The sand deposited by the creek remains even after the water feature has relocated. This would cause the sandy loam in which America basswood thrives. This is also a low area which holds water. These two factors create a good environment for that particular tree.



American beech trees, on the other hand, do not fare well in damp soil. They do tend to grow well in the bottom lands of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This is due to the fact that these trees do better in heavy soils with more decaying matter. A flood with the deposition of leaves and other material would greatly improve the soil for Amer-

ON THE WEB
Allen County Parks
www.allencountyparks.org

Fox Island Alliance
www.foxislandalliance.org

Friends of Metea
www.friendsofmetea.org

Allen County Parks is proud to be a partner in the Nistem network



We Want Snow!

If there is more than 4 inches of snow, come out to Fox Island and Metea for cross-country skiing! We have skis available for rent. The sled hill at Metea County Park will also be open from 9 am - 6 pm every day when there's enough snow.

Upcoming Programs for Winter & Spring

Program fees are usually \$2.00 per person unless otherwise stated, and are used to provide operating funds (which are not supported by tax revenue) for Allen County Parks. Most programs require pre-registration to allow resource and staff allocation planning. There may be requirements for a minimum number registered to offer the program. You will be notified at least 1 day before the program if it has been cancelled due to minimum registrations not being met. For chronological listings of programs see below. The page number the program can be found on, follows the date and program name.

Programs Chronologically - Name, Location, and page number (HS = Home School Program)

January

- 1 SW Allen County Christmas Bird Count - Fox Island 3
- 5 Scrapbooking/Craft Night - Fox Island 4
- 6 Cross Country Ski Clinic - Fox Island 5
- 6 Owl Prowl - Fox Island 5
- 8 Cell Structure (HS) - Metea 9
- 9 Cell Structure (HS) - Metea 9
- 9 Fox Kit Club "Frogsicles"- Fox Island 4
- 9 Preschool Discovery Hour Animal Tracks—Fox Island 4
- 15 Microscopic Study of Cells (HS)—Metea 10
- 16 Microscopic Study of Cells (HS)—Metea 10
- 20 Cross Country Ski Clinic - Metea 5
- 21 Tracks and Frogsicles Hike—Metea 6
- 27 History of Fox Island - Fox Island 6
- 31 Blue Moon/Supermoon Celebration— Fox Island 6

February

- 2 World Wetland Day Walk - Fox Island 6
- 2 Groundhog Day— Metea 6
- 6 Fox Kit Club "Tree Rings" - Fox Island 4
- 6 Preschool Discovery Hour Touch a Turtle - Fox Island 4
- 8 Beginning Astronomy Series - Metea 5
- 9 Caving Adventure Pre Class - Metea 7
- 10 Jaunt & Java - Fox Island 7
- 10 Coyote Howl - Fox Island 7
- 15 Beginning Astronomy Series - Metea 5
- 16 Great Backyard Bird Count - Fox Island 3
- 16 Scrapbooking/Craft Night - Fox Island 4
- 17 Caving Adventure Trip - Metea 7
- 17 Great Backyard Bird Count - Fox Island 3
- 18 Great Backyard Bird Count - Metea 3
- 19 Great Backyard Bird Count - Metea 3
- 19 Earthworm Dissection Class (HS) - Metea 10
- 20 Earthworm Dissection Class (HS) - Metea 10
- 22 Beginning Astronomy Series - Metea 5
- 24 Trail Guiding at AC Parks—Fox Island 7
- 26 Crayfish Dissection (HS) - Metea 10
- 27 Crayfish Dissection (HS) - Metea 10

March

- 1 Home & Garden Show - Memorial Coliseum 7
- 2 Home & Garden Show - Memorial Coliseum 7
- 3 Home & Garden Show - Memorial Coliseum 7
- 3 Frigid Fungi - Fox Island 8

March continued

- 4 Home & Garden Show - Memorial Coliseum 7
- 6 Preschool Discovery Hour Owls - Fox Island 4
- 9 Scrapbooking/Craft Night - Fox Island 4
- 12 Fish Dissection (HS) - Metea 10
- 13 Fish Dissection (HS) - Metea 10
- 13 Fox Kit Club "Think Like a Scientist" Fox Island 4
- 18 Oxbow Creek Hike - Metea 8
- 18 Discovering Mosses - Metea 8
- 19 Frog Dissection (HS) - Metea 10
- 20 Frog Dissection (HS) - Metea 10
- 20 Spring Equinox - Metea 8
- 25 Salamanders, Frogs and Toads - Fox Island 8
- 28 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 30 Good Friday Hike - Fox Island 9
- 30 Blue Moon Woodcock Watch - Fox Island 9

April

- 2 Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Camp - Fox Island 3
- 3 Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Camp - Fox Island 3
- 4 Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Camp - Fox Island 3
- 4 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 5 Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Camp - Fox Island 3
- 6 Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Camp - Fox Island 3
- 10 Fox Kit Club Animal Sounds - Fox Island 4
- 11 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 15 Soundscapes Hike - Metea 9
- 18 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 22 Metea's Earth Night - Metea 9
- 25 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5

May

- 2 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 5 Sol Fest - Fox Island 3
- 6 Sol Fest - Fox Island 3
- 9 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5
- 16 Tai Chi - Fox Island 5

Special Events

Southwest Allen County Christmas Bird Count Fox Island County Park

January 1, Monday 8:00AM – until the birds fly home

Meet at Fox Island’s nature center at 8:00am for a light breakfast sponsored by the Fox Island Alliance and to receive your birding assignments. A chili lunch (sponsored by Stockbridge Audubon Society and provided by Lori and Brett Fisher) will be served. Register by December 28th with Cynthia Powers, zzedpowers@aol.com or 638-4291 to receive your birding location assignment.

Cost: FREE

Pre-register by: 12/28 Min. 5 Max. N/A

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Great Backyard Bird Count Fox Island County Park and Metea County Park (check dates)

February 16, Friday 11:30 AM -1:30 PM (Fox)
February 17, Saturday 11:30 AM -1:30 PM (Fox)
February 18, Sunday 1:30 AM -3:30 PM (Metea)
February 19, Monday 1:30 AM -3:30 PM (Metea)



Join birders across the country as we observe the variety of bird species found in Allen County and across the United States. Scientists, called Ornithologists, use our data to compare bird survival rates from one year to the next. For more information on the Great Backyard Bird Count, view their website ww.birdsource.org/gbbc/

Cost: \$2.00 park entry, free with annual pass and “potluck item”

Pre-register by: 2/12 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Jr. Indiana Master Naturalist Day Camp Fox Island County Park April 2 – 6, Monday–Friday 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Designed for children, ages 9-12, who are really nuts about nature and outdoor play! If your child is interested in exploring the natural world, we offer this class to encourage such exploration. Students will learn about reptiles, butterflies, spiders, birds, frogs, local geology/soils, plants and much more! They will also be introduced to local natural resource professionals. Registration forms are available at both nature centers and can also be downloaded from the website: www.allencountyparks.org or call Natalie Haley. Pre-register NO LATER than March 19th at NOON for your child to experience this one-of-a-kind nature experience! Fees include field guides, games, crafts and outdoor play! Send a sack lunch and refillable water can daily with your Jr. Naturalist.



Cost: \$100.00 per camper

Pre-register by: 3/19 Min. 10 Max. 20

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Sol Fest 2018 Fox Island County Park May 5 & 6, Saturday 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Sol Fest is a two day music festival at Fox Island County Park usually held the first weekend of May each year. It is a celebration of the Sun (solstice)! It's cold now but remember Spring and Summer and the sun, they are right around the corner and so is Sol Fest! The most exciting thing about Sol Fest is that it benefits the KIDS!!! Proceeds from the festival are designated for scholarships for schools that can't afford to visit Allen County Parks on field trips, kids that can't afford to attend our day camps and to provide environmental educational programming to organizations that assist disadvantaged kids.

Cost: \$5.00 per person

(Sorry park annual passes NOT honored this weekend due to fundraiser!)

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

Pre-School Discovery Hours — Fox Island

Preschool Discovery Hour Fox Island County Park

January 9, Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Animal Tracks

Gather outdoors to cast a plaster animal footprint to take home, Wear mud shoes and dress for the weather to take a hike looking for tracks and other animal signs.

February 6 Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Touch a Turtle

We love our exhibit turtles and you will too! Get to know them better as we will bring them out of their aquarium habitats. Here's a chance to touch, hold or just look at our turtles close up.

March 6, Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Owls

We'll start with a story about Snowy Owls, and then learn about our local owls. We'll explore adaptations that make them great hunters and finish with a snack.

Cost: \$ 3.00/child\$ 2.00/adult Pre-register by: 1/4 (Jan), 1/31 (Feb) & 3/1 (Mar) Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Fox Kit Club Adventures



Fox Kit Club Adventures

Fox Island County Park

January 9, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM "Frogsicles"

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to learn about what happens to animals in the winter at Fox Island.

February 6, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM "Tree Rings"

Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center to learn how tree rings relate to your life

March 13, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM "Thinking Like a Scientist"

Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center to learn how to think like a scientist.

April 10, Tuesday 10:00 AM– 11:00 AM "Animal Sounds"

Meet a naturalist at the Nature Center to learn frog and insect language/

This program has been developed for pre-school children and their families or teachers. Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center Fees include a snack and drink for the children. Pre-school teachers of paid attending students are free. Fees include free gate entrance for the day!

Cost: \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per parent

Pre-register by: 1/4, 2/1, 3/9 and 4/5 respectively Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley

Misc. Multi Date Programs

Scrapbooking/Craft Nights

Fox Island County Park

Janaury 5, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

February 16, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

March 9, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

Christmas and vacation pictures are beckoning! Join us in scrapbooking memories to last a lifetime. We provide hot tea and cocoa to ward off the chill. Pizza can be ordered for an additional \$5.00. Bring an optional snack to share (not required). Crafters may spend their time sewing, crafting or socializing for the same fees. Paid pre-registration is required five days in advance. Just send a check made out to Allen County Parks, with a note letting me know to reserve your spot!

Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by 1/1, 2/12 & 3/5 respectively Min. 5 Max. 22

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Misc. Multi Date Programs - continued



Beginning Astronomy Series
Metea County Park Nature Center
February 8, 15 and 22, Thursdays 7:30 PM

If you want to learn about astronomy and space first hand (rather than from a TV show or podcast), this is for you. We will use telescopes and various optics, have close encounters with outer space objects, explore our solar system, and venture outside our galaxy. Includes handouts and star charts, along with instruction for using your own scopes. We will go outside to observe when weather permits, so prepare for cold weather.

Cost: \$20.00 for the series

Pre-register by: 2/4 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email: [bdispenza at allencountyparks.org](mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Tai Chi
Fox Island County Park
March 28 – May 16, Wednesdays 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Instructor Sandy Gebhard will teach the Sun Seventy-three form in this eight-week Tai Chi class. This gentle, non-strenuous form can be practiced by all. Be prepared to have fun as you join this light hearted group.

Cost: \$50.00 for eight weeks. \$8.00 drop-in fee.

Pre-register by: 3/23 Min: 10 Max: 25

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman at allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Nature Hikes and Programs

Cross Country Ski Clinic
Fox Island County Park
January 6, Saturday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Learn: how equipment works, waxing vs. no-wax, purchasing, ski prep and maintenance, how to dress and receive basic instruction and practice on technique (weather permitting). Leave phone number and shoe size when registering in order to reserve equipment.

Cost: \$10.00 includes one hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$5.00 if bringing your own equipment.

Pre-register by: 1/1 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman at allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Owl Prowl
Fox Island County Park
January 6, Saturday 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

We will gather indoors to discover whooo our resident owls are, and then head outdoors to listen and look for them. Dress for the weather and for trails.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by 1/1 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: [rzartman at allencountyparks.org](mailto:rzartman@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

Cross Country Ski Clinic
Metea County Park
January 20, Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon

Learn how equipment works, waxing vs. no-wax, purchasing, ski prep and maintenance, how to dress and receive basic instruction and practice on technique (weather permitting). Leave phone number & shoe size when registering in order to reserve equipment.

Cost: \$10.00 includes one hour rental (weather permitting) or voucher for future ski rental. \$5.00 if own equipment.

Pre-register by: 1/15 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: [bdispenza at allencountyparks.org](mailto:bdispenza@allencountyparks.org) Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Nature Hikes and Programs—continued



Tracks and Frogsicles Hike
Metea County Park
January 21, Sunday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Track frozen winter life found in your own backyard wildlife sanctuary – Metea County Park!

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 1/17 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley

The History of Fox Island and Surrounding Area

Fox Island Nature Center

January 27, Saturday 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Learn about the early natural history of the area around Fox Island and learn how Fox Island County Park came to be.

Cost \$2.00 regular park admission Free to park volunteers and Trail Guides

Pre-register by: 1/19 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email: jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston



Blue Moon / Supermoon Celebration

Metea County Park Nature Center

January 31, Wednesday 7:30 PM

Use telescopes, enjoy moon snacks, and learn more moon science during our appreciation of all things lunar. Part of the program will be outside if clear skies allow, so be prepared for the weather.

Cost: \$3.00

Pre-register by: 1/27 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email: bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



World Wetlands Day Walk

Fox Island County Park

February 2, Friday 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Walk to Fox Island’s vernal pools and wetlands as part of a day-long, community-wide celebration with partners ACRES Land Trust, Little River Wetlands Project and IPFW’s Environmental Resources Center.

Cost: \$2.00 admission or free with annual pass

Pre-register by: N/A

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Groundhog Day

Metea County Park Nature Center

February 2, Friday 5:00 PM

As the weather continues cold, we all wonder when spring warmth will be arriving. One of our native animals has a reputation for being able to tell when – the groundhog. We are going to encourage him with a little celebration held in his honor. Learn about hibernation, the history of woodchuck weathermen, sing some Groundhog Day songs, and go looking for our own Metea Park Marvin. Will he see his shadow? Or will he just hibernate through his special day?

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 1/29 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email: bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Nature Hikes and Programs – cont.

Caving Adventure

Metea County Park Nature Center and a cave in southern Indiana

February 9, Friday – Pre-caving class 7:30 PM

February 17, Saturday – Cave trip All day

Go underground with Allen County Parks. Bob Dispenza will be leading a trip to a cave in southern Indiana. We'll be exploring a wild cave in the area and going off the beaten path, looking for cave wildlife and unusual formations. Class fee covers maps and caving instruction. Learn about geology, cave life, needed equipment & cave formation. This activity is somewhat strenuous, but suitable for beginners in good physical condition.

Cost: \$25.00

Pre-register by: 1/5 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Jaunt and Java

Fox Island County Park

February 10, Saturday 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Join us for a rejuvenating hike followed by your choice of coffee, tea or hot cocoa to warm up. Dress for the weather and for trails.

Cost: \$ 2.00

Pre-register by: 2/5 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

Coyote Howl

Fox Island County Park

February 10, Saturday 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Join us for a moonless hike to listen for calls and search for signs of these wily canines. Dress for the weather and for trails.

Cost: \$ 2.00

Pre-register by: 2/5 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Trail Guiding at Allen County Parks

Fox Island Nature Center

February 24, Saturday 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

This class is designed for new and experienced trail guides who want to learn more about leading educational hikes in our county parks. Tips, tricks and trivia.

Cost: Free to AC Parks' Volunteers and Trail Guides.

Pre-registration required by 2/16 Min:5 Max: 30

To register or for more information: Email: jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston

Home and Garden Show – Allen County Parks Booth

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

March 1 through March 4, Times Vary

Come out and see our exhibit in the Family Fun Area, make a craft, learn about native wildlife, and find your nearest Allen County Park. Volunteers needed to help out!

For more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Nature Hikes and Programs – cont.



Frigid Fungi
Fox Island County Park
March 3, Saturday 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Fungi add interest to a woodland hike when plants are dead or dormant. Explore the important roles of mushrooms, their identification and lore.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 2/26 Min:5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email:rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman

Oxbow Creek Hike
Metea County Park
March 18, Sunday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Take a hike along our Cedar Creek oxbows. What is an oxbow?
Take a hike with Naturalist Nat and find out!

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 3/14 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley



Discovering Mosses
Metea County Park Nature Center
March 18, Sunday 4:00 PM

Some of the few green things in the woods this time of year are mosses. Most folks just pass them by without noticing, but they really stand out after the snow melts and before the wildflowers start up. Find out more about these tiny green “elfin” forests on this hike. Be prepared for muddy trails.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 3/14 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Spring Equinox
Metea County Park Nature Center
March 20 Tuesday 5:30 PM

While the weather may lag behind, spring officially arrives on this day. We will look into the mysticism and science behind this astronomical event, bust some myths, and go for a walk in the woods to look for signs of spring.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 3/15 Min. 5 Max. 30

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Salamanders, Frogs, Toads
Fox Island Nature Center
March, 25, Sunday 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Learn about Fox Island’s most common amphibians and check out our vernal pools for Salamander eggs.

Cost: \$2.00 regular park admission. Under 7 free Free to park pass holders.

Min: 5 Max: 40

To register or for more info: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston

Good Friday Hike

Fox Island - Dulin Observation Bldg.

March 30, Friday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Learn about one of the most unusual plants in our parks and hike to see them growing in the wild.

Cost: \$ 2.00 Regular park admission, Free to park pass holders

Pre-register by: 3/19 Min: NA Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3180 Jeff Ormiston

Blue Moon Woodcock Watch

Fox Island County Park

March 30, Friday 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

We will walk to this whimsical bird’s display grounds as a waxing Blue Moon rises. As daylight fades, we’ll settle in to observe the courtship flight of this close relative of the snipe.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 3/25 Min:5 Max: 20



Soundscapes Hike

Metea County Park

April 15, Sunday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Take a hike with Naturalist Nat and listen to our backyard soundscape at Metea.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 4/10 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley



Metea’s Earth Night

Metea County Park

April 22, Sunday 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

This event is to recognize the valuable resources provided by Meno-aki or “Mother Earth”. Enjoy a relaxing evening walking among the stars. Hiking in the dark will be highly encouraged. Be prepared for wet Earth (mud) along the trail.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 4/18 Min. 5 Max. 40

To register or for more information: Email:bdispenza at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Home School Programs - All classes are pre-register and pre-pay!

Cell – Structure and Function - Homeschool

Metea County Park Nature Center

January 8, Monday 12:00 PM (Option 1)

January 9, Tuesday 9:30 AM (Option 2)

The students will study the parts of the cell and the job they do for the cell. **Prerequisite:** Students must have taken **Learning About the Microscope.**

Cost: \$5.00

Pre-register by: 1/2 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



Home School Programs – cont. All classes are pre-register and pre-pay!



**Microscopic Study of Cells— Homeschool
Metea County Park Nature Center
January 15, Monday 12:00 PM (Option 1)
January 16, Tuesday 9:30 AM (Option 2)**

The students will study the structures of cells using the microscope. Prerequisite: Students must have taken Learning About the Microscope.

Cost: \$5.00

Pre-register by: 1/8 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

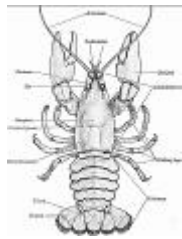
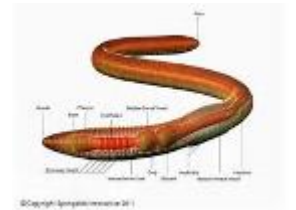
**Earthworm Dissection - Good for Home School Students taking biology
Metea County Park
February 19, Monday 12:00 PM (Option 1)
February 20, Tuesday 9:30 AM (Option 2)**

Dissections are important because they show us how different we are from other organisms and yet how alike we are. The earthworm is a basic invertebrate and we will be comparing it to other invertebrates and vertebrates.

Cost: \$5.00

Pre-register by: 2/14 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



**Crayfish Dissection - Good for Home School Students taking biology
Metea County Park
February 26, Monday 12:00 PM (Option 1)
February 27, Tuesday 9:30 AM (Option 2)**

The crayfish is an invertebrate with an exoskeleton. It has other interesting body parts to learn about.

Cost: \$5.00

Pre-register by: 2/13 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

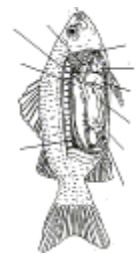
**Fish Dissection - Homeschool
Metea County Park Nature Center
March 12, Monday 12:00 PM (option 1)
March 13, Tuesday 9:30 AM (option 2)**

We will be studying the external features and the open it up and study the interior structures.

Cost: \$10.00

Pre-register by: 3/7 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



**Frog Dissections – Homeschool Program
Metea County Park
March 19, Monday 12:00 PM (option 1)
March 20, Tuesday 9:30 AM (option 2)**

As we dissect a frog we will be studying the 10 vertebrate organ systems.

Cost: 10.00

Pre-register by: 3/10 Min. 5 Max. 9

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

“Hardwood Species Diversity at Metea County Park —continued from page 1”

ican beech. If the flooding last for long periods of time, the situation changes. In that scenario, the conditions are no longer ideal for American beech trees to thrive. Both beech and basswood favor the lower portion of the escarpment.

Oak trees on the other hand, favor the uplands or well-drained soil. There are two types of oak trees found here. White oak grows well in sandy plains with well-drained soil. This describes the area leading up to the escarpment perfectly. There is a tall grass prairie leading up to the wood line on the south side. There are several streams flowing through the escarpment emptying onto the oxbow lake. These streams are providing adequate drainage for the upland areas. This is the type of environment in which white oaks should be very successful. Secondly, there are red oaks. These trees grow well on northern or eastern facing slopes with deep ravines and again in well-drained soil. They also prefer a thick soil with a loam silt mixture. The tuliptree, which is the state tree of Indiana, can also be found in the upland portion of the escarpment. Sugar maple trees are present in the uplands of the escarpment as well. They are not dominant. The large oak trees out-compete them in the top dry soil.

We can see from the study results that tree species segregate themselves along the slope depending on what conditions they can tolerate. Trees that need a lot of moisture (basswood, cottonwood) are found lower down, with beeches and maples in mid-slope, and the top occupied by oaks and tulip trees.

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We Want Snow!

If there is more than 4 inches of snow, come out to Fox Island and Metea for cross-country skiing! We have skis available for rent. Last rental of the day at 4:00 pm each day.

Rental Rates

Adults and Children 12 years and older \$6.00 per hour

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CASH OR CHECKS ACCEPTED !!! AT THIS TIME WE DO NOT ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

The sled hill at Metea County Park will also be open from 9 AM to 6 PM every day when there's enough snow.

Check our website for ski conditions at www.allencountyparks.org and click on Ski Conditions Page.



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Allen
County
Parks!**

Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, southwest Fort Wayne 449-3180

Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, at State Route 1, Leo-Cedarville 449-3777

Payton County Park, 13928 Dunton Rd. just east of Hometown between Gump and Hathaway Roads

Cook's Landing County Park, corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Roads

Deer Run Wilderness Area — Spencerville IN—PROGRAMMED USE ONLY 610-9909

TEACHERS

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Park Hours

November 5th thru March 10th 9:00 AM–6:00 PM
 March 11th thru Memorial Day 9:00 AM– 7:00 PM
 Fox Island & Metea County Parks Nature Centers are open
 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon–Fri
 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat. & Sun

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Our Mission: "To establish and manage a permanent park system incorporating conservation, education, outdoor values and nature preservation, and to provide recreational opportunities for the people of Allen County within this structure"