

GENESEE  
COUNTY  
PARKS



SUMMER 2024



PARKS PLAYBOOK



# CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD

Visit Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad this summer, 10am - 5pm, Thursday - Sunday, plus Holidays. Each day our staff provide engaging experiences to create lasting memories for our guests. Visit our historical homes, see demonstrations by our artisans, catch a show in the Opera House and take a spin on our vintage amusement rides. All events are rain or shine. Reservations can be made online or by calling 810-736-7100 ext.6

## Honoring American Veterans

Come celebrate the 2024 season opener for Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad! Past and current service members will receive **FREE** admission to the Village. Make a card in the Buzzell House to send to a Veteran, sign the memorial quilt in the Eldridge House, and stop by the Stanley School to make a craft. Be sure to visit the Mountain Men at their encampment to learn about traditional skills. **(Saturday only, 2pm)** Quilts of Valor will perform a quilt dedication ceremony for selected Veterans at the Gazebo.

**May 25-27**  
**10am-5pm**

## Annual Genesee County Day

A family fun day the - Genesee County way! Enjoy games, giveaways, inflatables, and more at Crossroads Village's **annual FREE admission day**. Celebrate all things Genesee County with food trucks, vendors, and entertainment for all ages. Reserve your ride on the Huckleberry Railroad today!

**June 1**  
**10am-5pm**  
**FREE Admission | \$12 Train Rides** (Reservations Recommended)



GENESEE COUNTY  
MICHIGAN

## Antique Tractor Show/Vintage Market

Get up close and personal with this unique display of antique machines and tractors from across Michigan. Explore the vendors of our vintage market, where old treasures get new owners. Children 10 and under can register at **1pm** for the Pedal Pull Competition and visit Stanley School for a make and take craft.

**June 8-9**  
**10am-5pm**



New!

## Michigan Innovation Fair

Discover the Michigan Innovation Fair—a tribute to creativity and ingenuity! Co-hosted by the Michigan Inventors Coalition, it celebrates our state's innovative spirit. Engage with groundbreaking inventions and insightful talks on patents and the path to market. Whether you're an experienced inventor or a newcomer, there's something for all. Kids can unleash their creativity with hands-on activities, while robotics enthusiasts can witness demonstrations. Join us and become part of a community shaping the future, embracing Dreamers, Doers, and Innovators. Celebrating Science, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.



**June 15-16**  
**10am-5pm**

## Banjo Daze Folk Festival

A celebration of folk music, starring America's musical instrument, the 5 String Banjo! Enjoy performances by Michigan's Troubadour, Neil Woodward, Suzanne & Jim, Banjo Betsy, and more. Musicians are encouraged to bring their favorite instrument and join in on some open jam sessions. Several Michigan music shops will also be onsite, so stop by and pick up some gear during this live music weekend! **FREE** make and take Canjos for kids while supplies last!

**June 22-23**  
**10am-5pm**

## Independence Day Celebration

Spend the day with some old fashioned fun. There will be games and prizes for kids, card making for veterans, and at **2pm** join us for our annual Crossroads Ice Cream Social as we celebrate our nation's 248<sup>th</sup> year of Independence. Twisting Smiles will offer **FREE** balloon art for kids.

**July 4**  
**10am-5pm**

## Curious at Crossroads Oddities Fest

Get ready for a weekend of all things strange and unusual! From tantalizing taxidermy to over the top entertainment, Curious at Crossroads will host over 100 vendors from across Michigan and beyond for this wildly weird weekend. Meet the voice behind the true crime podcast, "Already Gone", Nina Innsted; visit with the author of Haunted Flint, Roxanne Rhodes; and stop in Sunday morning for a special add on, Mimosas and Murder with true crime author, Rod Sadler. Explore the Village while doing a scavenger hunt to find some hidden gems and have a chance to win some great prizes! **FREE** crafts and balloon art for kids by Twisting Smiles.

**June 29-30**  
**10am-5pm**





## Touch-A-Truck

All weekend long! Get up close and personal with the equipment and vehicles that serve our community. Everything from road graders to firetrucks will be on site for you to explore. New this year, check out the "Jurassic Terror", "The Mystery Machine", "The Lansing Ghost Busters", and get in on some RC Racing fun with **Fast Action Motor Sports!** Stop out on Sunday from 10:30am - 12:30pm for a special Meet & Greet with **Hooper, from the Detroit Pistons!**

**July 6-7**

**10am-5pm**

**\$2 Admission for All! | \$12 Train Rides** (Reservations Recommended)

## Apprentice Weekend

Visit with village artisans to learn the skills of their trade during this make and take weekend. Learn how to tap tin, stamp leather, operate a printing press, and more. Youth can sign up for group apprenticeships to work alongside our artisans and create handcrafted projects that they can take home with them.

**July 13-14**

**10am-5pm**



## Day Out with Thomas: Bubble Tour

Come to Crossroads Village for an interactive train ride with Thomas the Tank Engine. Enjoy live entertainment, photo ops, hands on bubble play, and more! Be sure to visit the pop-up gift shop to snag some exclusive Thomas gear! **New** this year, a special Breakfast with Sir Topham Hatt ticket add on will be available. Add on tickets are limited, visit our website for more details.

**August 16-18 & 23-25**

**9am-5pm**

Train Times: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm

## Train Times for Crossroads Village:

11am, 1pm, & 3pm.  
(unless otherwise specified).

## Opera House Show Times:

12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm.  
(unless otherwise specified).



## 42nd Annual Railfans Weekend

We dedicate this weekend to train enthusiasts of all ages. Celebrate our famous Huckleberry Railroad with shop tours, model railway displays, and more! Visit our website for more information on our special two day pricing and photo run for this event.

**August 3-4**

**10am-5pm**

## Mystery Weekend

A mystery is afoot and the citizens of Crossroads Village need your help! Search the town for clues and ask the right questions that will lead you to solve this year's mystery. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a special prize!

**August 10-11**

**10am-5pm**

## Say Goodbye to Summer: Closing Weekend

As summer once again comes to a close, plan on making one last trip and share with us the memories of the 2024 season. Vote on your favorite handmade artisan item that will be on display at our annual Grange Fair and relax in the beautiful atmosphere of Historical Crossroads Village. Take this opportunity to make your reservation for our upcoming 2024 Halloween Ghost and Goodies event.

**August 31- September 2**

**10am-5pm**



# WELLNESS IN THE PARKS

## Yoga in Nature

*For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum*

Everyone can benefit from yoga! This yoga series offers a variety of classes from slow pace yoga to help you unwind after a long day, to a heart-pumping flow to help you stay fit. Yoga mats are provided if needed and optional suggested items include a yoga mat, block, bolster, strap, or even a blanket. Will be held 100% outdoors, weather permitting.

*For teens and adults of all abilities.*

**Tuesdays throughout the Summer:**

**June 4, 11, 18, & 25 | July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30**

**August 6, 13, 20, & 27**

**6-7pm FREE**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

## Turnip the Beets

*For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum*

Gardening is a relaxing pastime. Let's combine gardening, music, and nature to unwind. Each session will start with gardening to music time, then a short walk in nature, and end with some nature journaling. Dress to get dirty and to walk on a paved trail. It's recommended that you bring a refillable water bottle.

*Suggested for ages 12 and older.*

**June 2, 16, & 30, July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25**

**10-11:30am**

**\$5 per person**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



## Run the Parks

The Run the Parks series is BACK! Join Hurley's Fitness and Nutrition instructors as they introduce you to five different park locations that are great for running and walking. This week's run/walk will be a mix of gravel and paved trails. This program will be held 100% outdoors, weather permitting, any cancellations will be shared on the For-Mar Facebook page.

*For teens and adults of all abilities.*

**July 31** @ Richfield County Park    **Aug 7** @ Bluegill Boat Launch

**Aug 14** @ Stepping Stone Falls    **Aug 21** @ The Hogbacks

**Aug 28** @ For-Mar

**6:30-7:00pm**

**FREE**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



For -Mar's  
Summer 2024  
**Nature  
Day  
Camp!**

Grades Pre-K to 8th



**ANIMALS! GAMES!  
BUGS! MUD! FISHING!**

**SKILL BUILDING!**

**July 4, 2024 - August 16, 2024**

**LIMITED SPOTS!**



**Visit our website for more info**

# FISHING PROGRAMS

## REEL FISHY FUN!

Let's cast out and reel in some memories! We have the bait and equipment; we are missing you! If you are a first-timer or an experienced angler, this program is for you. Kids ages 5-16 can fish without a license. Folks 17 and older are welcome to fish but will need a license. Dress for sun and bugs. Please bring a water bottle.

*Suggested for families with children.*

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

**June 21, 28, & July 5** @ Buell Lake

**July 12, 19, & 26** @ Bluegill Boat Launch

**6-7:30pm**

**FREE**

# HIKES, TREKS, & WALKS IN THE PARKS

## Full Moon Hikes

Join a naturalist for a full moon hike and see firsthand how beautiful and peaceful the park is after dark. These hikes at For-Mar are at least one mile long with some stops along the way. The trail has some small hills and exposed roots.

Strawberry Full Moon Hike - **June 22** @ For-Mar **8:30-10pm**

Buck Full Moon Hike - **July 20** @ For-Mar **8:30-10pm**

Full Moon Blue Super Moon- **August 17** @ For-Mar **8-10pm**  
**\$5 per person**

## Photo Hikes

Nature Photography Hike - **June 8** @ Applewood Estate

Nature Photography Hike - **July 13** @ Max Brandon Park

Nature Photography Hike - **August 3** @ For-Mar Butterfly House  
**9-10:30am \$5 per person**

## Bat Hike

**June 14** @ For-Mar  
**8:30 - 10pm \$5 per person**

## Frog & Toad Night Hike

**June 15** @ For-Mar  
**9 - 10pm \$5 per person**

## Butterfly Hike

**July 6** @ For-Mar  
**10 - 12pm FREE**

## Firefly Hikes

**July 6 & August 2** @ For-Mar  
**8:30 - 10pm \$5 per person**

## Vernal Pool Patrol

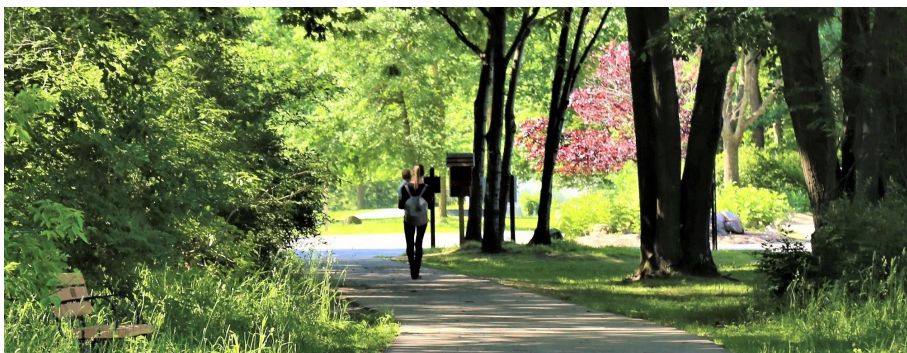
Be a Vernal Pool Patroller! Join For-Mar staff as we hike to and gather data on a few vernal pools around Genesee County looking for fairy shrimp, salamanders, wood frogs, and more. The hike will be of moderate difficulty with steep inclines. Dress for wet conditions.

*Suggested for ages 12 and up. Adult must accompany children.*

**June 8** @ Stanley Road Tubes Fishing Site - meet in the parking lot

**Time: 2 - 4pm FREE**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



## Friends of Fungi

*For-Mar – Dewaters Educational Building – 5360 Potter Rd. Burton, MI 48509*

Discover the fantastic fungi at For-Mar during a series of Educational Field Experiences. Each experience includes an introduction on mushroom identification and focuses on identifying fungal species through the seasons (not to identify mushrooms for edibility). Long pants, closed shoes, and tick repellent are highly recommended during the hike.  
*Suggested for ages 16 and older.*

**June 23, July 14, August 11, & September 15**  
**1 - 3pm FREE**



## Sunday Stroll - Nature's Calendar

As summer winds down, let's take a leisurely stroll to observe the changes in the parks! This naturalist-led hike will highlight the changes in trees, plants, and animals. Dress for sun and bugs; wear closed toe shoes.

*For all ages, recommended for ages 5 and up.*

**August 4** @ Atlas County Park

**August 18** @ Toboggan Hill

**6 - 7:30pm FREE**

## Twilight Treks in the Parks

Join For-Mar's traveling naturalist to see and hear nature's newest news! Each program will feature a hike and field guide how-to. Dress for the weather and bugs.

*For families with children 6 & up.*

**August 15 (Bats)** @ Clover Beach-Linden County Park

**August 29 (Fireflies)** @ Richfield County Park

**7:30 - 9pm FREE**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Weekly Nature Pop-up Programs

*For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum*

Each Wednesday throughout the summer we are excited to bring you different nature themed Pop-Up Programs for you and your kids to enjoy together. Each For-Mar Pop-Up Program will include Garden Time, Kids fitness fun, a themed activity area, and new this year each session will have one or more community partners that will join us.

**Jump into Summer - June 26**

**Outdoor Recreation - Skills Day! - July 10**

**Music in Nature - July 24**

**Tree Talk in the Arboretum - August 7**

**Stuffed Animal Adoption Day - August 21**

11-1pm **FREE** *Pre-registration is not required.*

## Nature Quest

### Terrific Turtles

**June 17** @ Kearsley Park (Gazebo)

**June 18** @ Mott Park (Clubhouse)

### Portable Pond

**June 24** @ Kearsley Park (Gazebo)

**June 25** @ Mott Park (Clubhouse)

### Snakes, Lizards, & Bugs

**July 1** @ Kearsley Park (Gazebo)

**July 2** @ Mott Park (Clubhouse)

*Suggested for families with children.*

**6-7pm**

**FREE**

*Nature at the Park programs do not require registration.*

**Pollinator Power! - July 3**

**Nature's Superheroes - July 17**

**Animal Babies - July 31**

**When I GROW UP! - August 14**

**End of Summer Celebration - August 28**

## Nature At the Library

*Gloria Coles Flint Public Library*

*1026 E. Kearsley St, Flint, MI 48503*

**Bug Hunt - June 20**

**Worms on Wheels - June 7**

**Terrific Turtles - July 11**

**Portable Pond - July 17**

**Things with Wings - July 25**

**Fassss-cinating Snakes - August 1**

*Suggested for families with children.*

**6:30-7:30pm**

**FREE**

*Nature at the Library programs do not require registration.*



## Bug Buddies Adventure

Join us for an exciting journey into the fascinating world of bugs! Our Bug Buddies Adventure program is designed for curious minds eager to explore the wonders of nature. In each session, kids will embark on a bug hunt in various habitats, from lush gardens to hidden forest trails, to discover a diverse array of insects. Dress to get dirty and for bugs and sun. Please bring a water bottle.

*Suggested for ages 5 and up.*

**June 22, 29, & July 6** @ For-Mar

**10-11:30am**

**\$5 per person**

## Incredible Edible BUGS!!

Grasshoppers, Hornworms, and Crickets, OH MY!! Join us as we teach you the best ways to eat your BUGS! Learn about other countries' bug eating habits and try some For-Mar creepy crawlers firsthand! This is sure to be a delicious program for the whole family.

**July 20** @ For-Mar

**10-12pm**

**\$5 per person**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

## Behind the Scenes of Animal Care

*For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum*

Have you ever wondered what goes in behind the scenes at For-Mar to take care of our animals? Join a For-Mar Naturalist to learn how we care for our For-Mar animal teachers.

*For all ages & abilities.*

**July 21 & August 18**

**11-12pm FREE**

*Pre-registration required by the day before the program.*



## Nature Storytime

Sprout a love of reading and nature during Nature Story Time. We will share books, songs, games, and make a craft.

*Suggested for preschoolers and early elementary.*

**June 19, July 23, & August 20** @ For-Mar

**11-12pm \$3 per student**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Squid Dissection – ASL Interpreted

Dissect a squid, gross! Don't worry; a squid dissection is not as icky as it sounds. We'll look at the cephalopod family both alive today and extinct (squid, octopus, cuttlefish, and more). Then we'll get our hands dirty actually dissecting a squid. One squid per person.

*For ages 8 and up.*

**June 14** @ For-Mar

**1 -2:30pm \$5 per person**

*Pre-registration required by 6/13/24*

### Michigan Rock and Mineral Collection

Join scientist Bill Heyworth as he teaches us about the many different types of rocks and minerals found in Michigan. Each participant will build and take home a collection of 12 Michigan rocks and minerals.

**July 12** (For ages 4-7. *Parents must accompany children*)

**July 19** (For ages 8 and up)

Both programs @ For-Mar - Pavilion

**1 - 2:30pm \$5 per person**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

### Geocaching 101 – with Cache Hunter Junkies

Learn the basics of navigating to a Geocache with your phone or GPS.

*For all ages and abilities.*

**July 13** @ For-Mar

**Time: 10am – 12pm FREE**

*Pre-registration is required by 7/12/24.*

### Native Plant 101

Vern Stephen, owner of Designs by Nature, will hold a workshop before the Native Plant Sale to assist you in making your native plant selections!

*Great for ages 16 and up.*

**June 15** @ For-Mar

**9 - 11am \$3 per person**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*

### Annual Native Plant Sale

Join us for our annual spring Native Plant Sale with Designs by Nature. These Michigan native species are a great way to increase the biological diversity of your gardens. Whether you just want something new, or want to create a more diverse ecosystem, these natives are the answer. Pre-order and day of sale available. Pre-order pick up will start at 11:30am.

*For all ages and abilities.*

**June 15** @ For-Mar

**12-3pm**

*Pre-orders due by 6/3/24, large variety of native plants available at the sale.*

### Mud Day Playdate!

It's ooey and goeey and made when it rains... its MUD! Join us as we play, paint, and cook with mud! This program is inspired by International Mud Day . So, grab your favorite friends and dress to get messy. We suggest bringing a towel and extra set of clothes. This program is 100% outdoors and very MUDDY! There will be hoses to wash off. *For all ages and abilities.*

**June 29** @ For-Mar (Dewaters Educational Building – 5360 Potter Rd. Burton, MI 48509)

**3 playdate times 10-11:30am, 12-1:30pm & 2-3:30pm**

**\$10 per car**

*Pre-registration required by the day before the program.*

### Monarch Festival

It's time to celebrate a wonderful butterfly filled season here at For-Mar. Join us at the butterfly house and gardens for a magical day filled with one of For-Mar's favorite butterfly friends, the Monarch. Learn about their amazing migration and how scientists try to learn about their journey.

*For all ages, of all abilities.*

**August 31** @ For-Mar

**Two time slots (10 – 12pm & 1– 3pm)**

**\$10 per car**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



### Honeybee Hive Inspection

Join the For-Mar beekeeper as she opens up our learning hives to check on our busy bee friends. Meet at the apiary in the Arboretum, this program is weather permitting.

*All ages, of all abilities.*

**June 20, July 13, & August 6**

@ For-Mar

**9:30 - 10:30am Free**

*Pre-registration is not required.*

### Live Animals with Science Alive – ASL interpreted

The Science Alive Team is here for a live animal show that the whole family will love. Meet different LIVE animals up-close and learn fun facts about each of them.

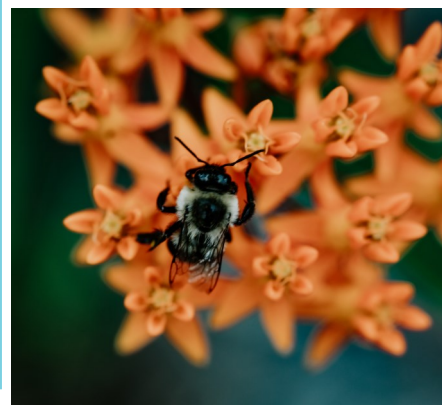
*For families, of all abilities.*

**August 24** @ For-Mar

**10-11:30am & 12-1:30pm**

**\$8 per person**

*Pre-registration is required by the day before the program.*



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Get Youth Outdoors Event

Bring the kids (ages 8+) for a fun day outdoors. Local union volunteers will provide hands-on introductions to fishing (including fly fishing), and other exciting outdoor activities such as kayaking, ice cream and more. All registered participants will receive a fishing rod and reel to keep. Organized by the Union Sportsmen's Alliance, UAW Local 659 and Genesee County Parks, this event is free and open to the public. Everyone is invited to enjoy a free lunch, while supplies last.

*All youth participants must be accompanied by an adult chaperone.*

**June 8** @ Bluegill Boat Launch

**9:30am–12pm & 1pm–3:30pm**

**FREE**

*Pre-registration required by 6/7/24.*

*For More information, contact Cody Campbell at [codyc@unionsportsmen.org](mailto:codyc@unionsportsmen.org) or Duane Ballard at [local659fin@comcast.net](mailto:local659fin@comcast.net)*



Scan or visit [geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org) for updates and our full Summer Calendar!



## Mott Lake Regatta

It's time to wake the lake! This thrilling, family-friendly event is set to rev up Genesee County with the adrenaline-pumping speed of Inboard Hydroplane Boat Racing.

Head to Bluebell Beach for front-row seats to all the action, where you can enjoy delicious fare from food trucks and kick back in the Beer Garden. Don't miss out on the epic showdown known as the War of the Wake—make your way to Mott Lake and experience the thrill firsthand!

**August 10-11** @ Bluebell Beach

**10am-5pm \$20 a day per vehicle or \$30 for both days per vehicle.**

*Tickets available onsite the days of the race.*



**KEEP GENESSEE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL**  
KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

**THOMAS & FRIENDS DAY OUT WITH THOMAS**

**POP ON BOARD!**  
**AUGUST 16-18 & 23-25**  
**CROSSROADS VILLAGE & HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD**  
**FLINT, MI**

TICKETS:  
[DayOutWithThomas.com](http://DayOutWithThomas.com)

**2024 HALLOWEEN GHOSTS & GOODIES**

**DATES & TIMES**  
5–9 pm Weekdays | Noon–9 pm Weekends  
October 5–6, 11–13, 18–20, 23–27 and 30–31, 2024

[geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org) | 800.648.PARK



**2024 CHRISTMAS AT CROSSROADS HOLIDAY MAGIC**

**DATES & TIMES**  
4–9 pm | November 29–30, 2024  
December 1, 6–8, 13–15, 18–22 and 26–29, 2024  
Drive Through Only Nights  
5–9 pm | December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 24

[geneseecountyparks.org](http://geneseecountyparks.org) | 800.648.PARK

