SUMMER 2024 PARKS PLAYBOOK
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)

**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

**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 248th 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

Grapes & Grooves
A showcase of Michigan Wineries and Breweries with a street fair atmosphere along with groovy musical entertainment and food pairings. 300 tickets will be available at $40 each and will include 12 drink tickets; each worth one pour of 3oz beer or 1-2oz wine. Additional drink sample tickets will be available for purchase on site. Advance reservations required.

July 19
6-9pm

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

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

Train Times for Crossroads Village:
11am, 1pm, & 3pm.
(unless otherwise specified).

Opera House Show Times:
12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm.
(unless otherwise specified).
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.

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.

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.

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

Butterfly Hike
July 6 @ For-Mar
10 - 12pm  FREE

Frog & Toad Night Hike
June 15 @ For-Mar
9 - 10pm  $5 per person

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 – Dewater 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 repellant 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.

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.

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.
SPECIAL EVENTS

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.

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.

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.

Mud Day Playdate!
It’s oooey and gooey 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 is required by the day before the program.

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.

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.

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 is required by 6/13/24.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**2nd 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 or Duane Ballard at local659fin@comcast.net

Scan or visit geneseeountyparks.org for updates and our full Summer Calendar!

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**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.*