



Newsletter for the Friends of the LaPorte County Parks. Winter 2011-2012

Administrative Office
Red Mill County Park
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350
(219) 325-8315
Fax (219) 325-8317
E-Mail lcparcs@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

Naturalist Office
Luhr County Park
3178 S. 150 West
LaPorte, IN 46350
(219) 324-5855
E-Mail natureniki@csinet.net
rangerlaura@csinet.net
www.laportecountyparks.org

Luhr Park Maintenance Facility
(219) 326-0524

Creek Ridge County Park
7943 W. 400 North
Michigan City, IN 46360

Bluhm County Park
3855 S. 1100 West
Westville, IN 46391

Foundation Properties:
(undeveloped)

Kankakee Property
Kankakee Township

Sebert Property
Springfield Township

George R. Menkes Nature Preserve
Galena Township

Environmental Education Center Opens Available for Rentals June 1st



2 level Rental facility perfect for
bridal and baby showers, meetings,
birthday parties, etc.

Seating 50 per level maximum



Stove, Refrigerator, Microwave

No Alcohol, no indoor smoking
\$120.00 Saturday and Sunday + tax \$8.40
\$50.00 Monday - Thursday + tax \$3.50
Friday \$80.00 + tax \$5.60
Refundable Cleaning Deposit:
Mon-Fri. \$50.00; Sat.-Sun \$100.00
Available June 1 - October 31
Limited Parking Available - 26 Spaces

The mission of the LaPorte County Parks and Recreation Board and Department is to preserve, protect and manage natural, cultural and recreational resources within a diverse and balanced park system. We will provide educational opportunities through facilities and programs for all citizens of LaPorte County to further their awareness and enjoyment of those resources. ❄️

LaPorte County Parks Staff

Tim Morgan - Superintendent
 Jean Lawson-Office & Finance Manager
 "Nature" Niki Schmutte - Chief Naturalist
 "Ranger" Laura Moyer - Rec. and Ed. Programmer
 Roger Grove - Maintenance Supervisor
 Boyd Lomow - Maintenance Technician
 Barb Janeczko - Maintenance Technician

Seasonal Staff / Part-time

Jim Simon - Naturalist Assistant
 Joanne Janisch - Naturalist Assistant
 Sharon Bonner - Office
 Donna Doms- Programs / Maintenance
 Jim Janeczko - Maintenance
 Richard Walker - Maintenance
 Nick Harvey- Maintenance
 Jimmie Tanner- Maintenance
 Ken Havlin - Gate Keeper
 Al Radke - Gate Keeper ❄️

Park Board

Kate Ardissono - President
 Ronald Knickrehm- Vice President
 Hugh Tonagel
 Erin Lozano
 Shelly Kiger
 Jim Holfield
 Brian Root ❄️

Luhr Park Nature Center

Closed
 November - February

Open
 Tuesday - Thursday
 and Saturday- Sunday 1-4 pm
 March - October

All the Parks are
 Open 7 am to
 sunset daily.

Free Hunter Education

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division Certified.

March 26,28,29
 6 pm to 9 pm
 Red Mill County Park
 Pat Smith Hall



This course is co-sponsored by the LaPorte County Parks.

Pre-Registration is required.

You must attend all three nights to graduate.

For information or to register call:
 (219) 325-8315

WINTER WORD SEARCH



W	E	A	T	H	E	R	W	G	S	F	P	S	F	M
O	H	J	V	O	L	J	O	N	J	V	H	N	J	J
K	F	R	A	C	S	M	E	O	K	O	L	O	M	G
D	R	H	B	P	T	T	D	P	V	B	P	W	W	N
I	E	L	J	Q	T	O	I	E	L	J	Q	F	O	I
W	E	P	N	I	W	K	L	I	P	N	S	L	K	T
S	Z	Q	M	W	Q	D	S	D	Q	M	F	A	D	A
N	I	A	K	S	B	I	U	W	A	K	F	K	I	K
A	N	S	L	I	D	E	I	S	S	L	U	E	W	S
M	G	W	J	C	D	L	L	A	W	J	M	D	S	W
W	W	X	I	D	S	N	O	W	X	I	R	B	U	X
O	C	C	U	F	D	D	P	C	C	U	A	D	D	C
N	V	D	O	M	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	D
S	B	E	P	I	C	C	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
F	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	R	T	A	H	H	R

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Snow | 5. Shovel | 9. Slippery | 13. Scarf |
| 2. Snowman | 6. Cold | 10. Slide | 14. Hat |
| 3. Winter | 7. Freezing | 11. Sledding | 15. Earmuffs |
| 4. Weather | 8. Snowflake | 12. Skating | 16. Mittens |



LaPorte County Park Foundation

Donation and Membership Levels

\$30 Basic
\$100 Butterfly
\$250 Wildflower
\$500 Sycamore

The **mission** of the **LaPorte County Park Foundation Inc.** is to provide the LaPorte County Parks Department with public support, to expand and enhance opportunities for park development, programs and preservation, both now and in the future, for all to enjoy.

Foundation Board

Jim Jessup, President

Janet Foglesong,
Secretary

Stephanie Oberlie,
Treasurer

Doug Buell
Bill Hedge
Cheryl Reinhart
Ed Merrion
Tom Thode
Judy Jacobi

Another eventful year closes as the Foundation and Park Team assess 2011 and look forward to an exciting future for the La Porte County Parks. The Foundation received a \$25,000 grant from La Porte Alcoa/Howmet and the Alcoa Foundation, which our Foundation will match to install a PlayTrail at Luhr Park. Watch for construction next Spring. The Foundation continues to manage the Bluhm Endowment which contributes about \$25,000 each year to maintenance and improvements to Bluhm County Park. The Foundation participated in the dedication of the Don & Phyliss Benn trail at Bluhm County Park. Both were ardent park advocates, and Phyliss was a founding Board member of the Foundation. The Foundation continues to offer named park benches and bricks to donors who make a contribution to the Foundation and want to memorialize their, or another, name. The Foundation also has unique posters for sale, depicting the 4 parks and seasons. Contact the park office for details. They are just \$20 and can be framed beautifully.

In 2011 the major wetland renovation at Red Mill was completed and dedicated. The dam is gone and the results are amazing. The Foundation played a major role in the project. The park now has a babbling brook, a beautiful bridge, and a wetland full of native plants. It is a wonderful transformation; so amazing that the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators recognized the Park Team with an award for innovation for the project. The results are not only beautiful, but will also protect the environment of the park, as well as the upstream and downstream neighbors for years to come. Please visit Red Mill any time.



The Foundation has been informed that it will receive a major gift from an estate of a La Porte County couple who died recently. The funds will be dedicated to Luhr Park and the Nature Center there. The Foundation will be the trustees of the funds and will work with the Park Department staff and board to use the funds wisely. This is a major step toward the Foundation's goal of having each county park endowed—both Bluhm and Luhr will now have an endowment fund. Leaving a legacy for the parks in La Porte County is a powerful tool to ensure that our key lands, environment, and wildlife are protected for public use and enjoyment forever.

The Board members of the Foundation thank you for your continued support of the County Parks. Contact us through the County Park office at 219-325-8315 or lcparcs@csinet.net.



Park Programs



Parent and Child Discovery Days



6-7:15 pm Luhr Park
Ages 3-8

\$5.00 A Child / Per Program
An adult is required to participate.

The program includes arts & crafts, games, snack, and more. All activities are related to the program topic.

January 25- Winter Delights
February 8-Terrific Turtles
February 15-Fantastic Fish
February 29-1 Bird, 2 Bird
March 7- Blowing In The Wind
March 21-It's Planting Time

Pre-Registration is required one week before each program. See page 5 for details.

Teachers Groups Scout Leaders

Free Environmental Education Programs are offered to groups throughout the year. The programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age.

Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge Park, Luhr Park, Bluhm Park or Red Mill Park. Call the Nature Center at (219) 324-5855 for information or to make reservations.



Daddy/Daughter Dance "Princess Style"

February 24 or 25
Red Mill County Park
Pat Smith Hall
6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
\$10.00 per couple, \$5.00 for each additional daughter.

Get all dressed up and come out to Red Mill County Park to enjoy an evening of dancing. Pictures will be taken of all couples to take home. Refreshments will be served. Fill out the form and mail it in with payment. Hurry this will fill up fast!

Pre-registration is required on or before February 16. No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. See page 5 for registration information.

The Stroller, Baby, and You program will continue sometime in late March when Ranger Laura Returns from medical leave after receiving a kidney transplant.



The Spa Day program and the Mom/Son Dance have been moved to the Fall.





❄️ **LaPorte County Park Programs**
2011-2012 Winter Registration Forms

Please Print



Name of Person filling out registration: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent/ Child Discovery Days
(Ages 3-8)

Wednesday nights 6:00 - 7:15pm at Luhr Park
 Registration due one week before program.

Name of child: _____

Age: _____

Check the program(s) you wish to attend.

\$5 A Child / Per Program

January 25 February 8 February 15
 February 29 March 7 March 21

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Daddy / Daughter Dance

February 24 or 25 6:30- 8:30 pm at Red Mill
 \$10 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter
 Registration due February 16.

Name of Adult Male: _____

Name of Daughter: _____

Daughter's Age: _____

Name of additional Daughters: _____

Want to attend February 24____or February 25____

_____ Total Amount Due (no refunds)

Registration Information

No day-of program registrations or payments will be accepted.

Registrations are due in advance.

Make Checks Payable to:
 LaPorte County Parks Dept.

Mail this form and payment to:
 LaPorte County Parks Dept.
 Program Registration
 0185 South Holmesville Road
 LaPorte, IN 46350

No registrations will be accepted after the due date or when the program is filled whichever comes first. If you are interested in a program, avoid disappointment and sign up right away. Space is limited for most programs, and registration is first-come, first-served. Also, most programs require a minimum number of participants. So, failure to sign up early may mean your program will be cancelled.



www.laportecountyparks.org



Regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility; or who desires further information regarding Title VI or subtitle A of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Pub. L. 101-336, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities should write to:

LaPorte County Parks
Attn: Superintendent
0185 S. Holmesville Rd.
LaPorte, IN 46350

National Park Service
Attn.: Director Equal
Opportunity Program
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C.
20013-7127

Receive this newsletter by email

To receive this newsletter by email send us a message at natureniki@csinet.net. Please include Naturally Speaking in your subject. In the message please include your full name and email address you would like to receive the newsletter at.

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