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Friends of the Parks, 1175 Hilltop Road, Indiana, PA 15701

You may also submit your membership by scanning the QR code to the right or by going online to the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies at:



https://cfalleghenies.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1464

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Friends of the Parks 2025 Programs

This schedule available on-line at www.indianacountyparks.org by clicking on the Friends of the Parks link.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
1/18/2025 Saturday 10:30 AM	Indiana County Conservation District Meeting Rm. 405 435 Hamill Rd. Indiana, PA	Jump Start This Year's Garden With Winter Sowing - <i>Theresa McDevitt</i> - If you are itching to start gardening now, you may want to try winter sowing. Join Penn State Master Gardeners to learn about this easy, cost-effective way to start plants outdoors in winter in recycled plastic containers. Discover how, when, and why winter sowing can be a great way to start native plants and other perennials, as well as many vegetables and annuals. Take home some seeds so you can start planting right away! Please pre-register by emailing Theresa at mcdevitt@iup.edu by 1/13/2025.
2/8/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM	Blue Spruce Park Pavilion #1	Hot Chocolate Walk - <i>Barb Hauge & Ray Winstead</i> - Join us as we kickoff the 2025 Indiana County Decathlon series with a winter walk led by Barb Hauge or hand feeding the chickadees with Ray Winstead. Warm up with a complimentary cup of Hot Chocolate. An easy walk on paved area and/or moderate walk on trails. Please dress appropriately for the winter weather.
2/15/2025 Saturday Luncheon: 12:00 PM Program: 1:00 PM	St. Andrew's Village: Conference Room, First Floor	Member Luncheon and Ultimate Africa - <i>Rebecca Sterley & Cindy Rogers</i> - Enjoy a visual safari under African winter blue skies (July/August) and enjoy close encounters with 26 species of animals and 28 species of birds. Four countries and great wonders: Chobe National Park & Okavango Delta in Botswana; Kafue National Park in Zambia; Hwange National Park & Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe; bits of South Africa. Outside of our tents - Lions, Hyenas, Cheetahs, and Elephants share night calls. An awesome adventure! This presentation will be in conjunction with the annual Members' Luncheon, sponsored by InFirst Bank, Indiana, PA. Additional information about the luncheon will be provided in the FOP newsletter. Space will be limited and pre-registration will be required by calling 724-463-8636 before 2/6/2025.
2/28/2025 Friday 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lodge	Photos in Indiana County Parks - <i>Ray Winstead & Photographers</i> - Slide show of photos of a wide variety of subjects taken in the parks of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. This will include the county parks making up Indiana County Parks & Trails (e.g., Blue Spruce Park) or Yellow Creek State Park. A series of invited photographers will present their photos while giving their remarks about the photos.
3/1/2025 Saturday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lodge	From Sea to Shining Sea - <i>Tom Betts</i> - Take a photographic tour to some of North America's most spectacular natural places. Enjoy waterfalls, mountain summit views, meadows of delicate wildflowers, towering redwoods, and much more in this photographic journey to some very special natural places. A bit of history, geology, ecology, and other background information will accompany the photographs.
3/8/2025 Saturday 8:00 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Park Office	Migrating Water Birds With the Todd Bird Club - <i>Roger & Margaret Higbee</i> - Yellow Creek State Park is one of the top five birding destinations in Pennsylvania because of the variety of migrating water birds. Todd Bird Club will take us to some of the best vantage points in the park during the peak of migration season. We will meet at the park office and drive to several locations near the lake for short walks. Bring binoculars, a spotting scope, and a bird ID guide if you have them, or use ours.
3/8/2025 Saturday 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Park Office at Loyalhanna Dam 440 Loyalhanna Dam Rd. Saltsburg, PA	Eagle Watch at Loyalhanna Dam - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Come and join us to check out the Bald Eagles at Loyalhanna Dam. We will provide binoculars or bring your own to watch the eagles hanging out in the area. Come for a few minutes or stay the whole time. We will meet by the park office at Loyalhanna Dam. This is a weather dependent event, so if raining steadily or snowing or below 32 degrees, this event will be cancelled. Best suited for adults, teens, & school age children, age 6 & up. Watch the Yellow Creek State Park Official DCNR Facebook page for the latest updates.
3/22/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Nature Photography From a Different Perspective - <i>Herman Carl</i> - Do you have a passion for Photography? We would like you to join us for a presentation on this topic. Herman Carl is well known for his nature/wildlife photography at Yellow Creek, Prince Gallitzin, and surrounding parks. The presenter has a slight mobility issue which does not allow him to hike the trails, climb hills, or wade in streams to capture an image. Yet you can get some great images from your vehicle or sitting on a park bench. This is not a Photography workshop, but a suggested way to enjoy photography.
4/1/2025 Tuesday 8:00 AM	On-Line	FOP & Penguin Court Native Plant Fundraiser - Our website is anticipated to be live today for ordering native plants: https://friends-of-the-parks-plant-sale.square.site . This site will be open for ordering through 5/4/2025. Plant pick-up will be Saturday, 5/10/2025 from 9 AM-12 PM at the Blue Spruce Lodge. More info about the plant sale will be in the FOP Spring Newsletter.
4/10/2025 Thursday 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Skydance: The Dance of the Woodcock - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Spring is in the air for one of PA's most unusual birds as the woodcock starts its fascinating mating ritual by performing aerial acrobatics. Come join us for a short discussion and then a wildlife hike (up to 1 mile) to check out the amazing woodcock at Yellow Creek State Park. Please wear hiking shoes, long pants, and dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. This program is recommended for ages 8 & up. Program is weather dependent with a back up date of 4/17/2025. Please see the Yellow Creek State Park Official DCNR Facebook page for the latest updates for weather changes.
4/12/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM	Blue Spruce Park Pavilion #2	Invasive Plants: Identification and Treatment - <i>Ed Donley, Barb Hauge, Cindy Rogers, & Ellen Yerger</i> - Join members of the Indiana County volunteer group, Plant Patrol, as we walk the trails, identify invasive plant species, describe the harm that they cause, and relate methods to remove them. We may have to venture a few feet off the trail to get a close look at some of these species. This event will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain or a thunderstorm.
4/25/2025 Friday 2:00 PM	Vintondale, PA (Directions will be provided upon registration)	Blacklick Creek Treatment Plant Tour - Join the Bureau of Mine Reclamation for this tour of the new \$27M treatment plant used to clean up the the iron, aluminum, and acidity from Blacklick Creek. We will tour the outside treatment areas and some indoor areas of the plant and hear about this great environmental clean up facility. Space is limited and registration is required by calling the County Park Office at 724-463-8636 by 4/23/2025.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
5/3/2025 Saturday 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Fat Radish Farms 5021 Purchase Line Rd. Commodore, PA	Getting the Most Out of Your Garden - <i>Alexis Shank</i> - Join local farmer Alexis Shank at her veggie farm for a fun, hands-on workshop on making the most of your gardening space! Whether you have a sprawling yard or just a small plot, Alexis will show you how to start seeds like a pro, use planting schedules, and master plant spacing. Discover clever small-scale solutions like layering with companion planting and vertical growing to boost your productivity and harvest more from less. Come ready to dig in, learn some expert tips, and leave inspired to grow your own thriving garden – no matter the size! Please pre-register by emailing: b.mauthe@iccdpa.org or calling 724-471-4751 ext. 8 with your name, number of attendees, phone number, and email by 5/1/2025.
5/3/2025 Saturday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion	Orienteering - <i>Jim Wolfe</i> - This program teaches orienteering, map reading, basic compass use, and the sport of orienteering. This will be followed by an exercise in which participants get to use their new skills in finding marked locations in the park. Program is weather dependent and geared for ages 10 - Adult. Please wear long pants, hiking shoes, and bring water. Bug spray recommended. Pre-registration is required. Registrations will be taken after 4/3/2025. Please email Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov to register with names, number of participants, phone number, and email.
5/11/2025 Sunday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lodge	Mother's Day Walk and Tea - <i>Cindy Rogers</i> - Take a stroll to learn about local flowers and “weeds” and their edible and medicinal uses. Then enjoy some of those “weeds” in tasty treats. Dress for the weather: if raining hard it will be an indoor slide show; if light drizzle we will do the walk. Please pre-register by emailing Cindy at rogers944@comcast.net by 5/5/2025.
5/15/2025 Thursday 6:00 PM	1665 Auen Road Saltsburg, PA	Tunnelview Walk - <i>Indiana County WalkWorks</i> - In this Indiana County WalkWorks program we will explore the significant remnants of our transportation history and famous travelers who passed through this site during the height of the canal era. The West Penn Trail, operated by the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy, passes through this site from Saltsburg to Newport Road near Blairsville. Directions: The entrance to the Conemaugh Dam will be on the left, travel 7/10 mile through the day use picnic area to the Tunnelview Historic Site.
5/24/2025 Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Park Office	Salamander Safari - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Join the Park Educator, Lisa Meadows, to explore Laurel Run for salamanders and other critters. Wear shoes that can get wet. It's great fun for the whole family. Program is weather dependent and space is limited. Pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa Meadows after 5/1/2025 at limeadows@pa.gov with name, phone number, email, and number of participants. (Limit 5 per Group). Please check the Yellow Creek Facebook page for updates if there are weather concerns.
5/31/2025 Saturday 5:00 PM	Chevy Chase Food Forest 643 Fairview Ave. Indiana, PA	Edible Landscape - <i>Marie Olson</i> - Wander in the Chevy Chase Food Forest and discover the various elements that constitute one. You will learn how to integrate fruit trees, berry bushes, flowers, and herbs to create a balanced ecosystem that provides food and resources for people and wildlife helpers. Please follow the signs to the location.
6/7/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park (Activities Throughout the Park)	Family Nature Palooza Day - The Children's Advisory Commission is sponsoring a fun day at Blue Spruce Park. Entire families are welcome: outside hiking & biking, kites, games, fishing, chances to win prizes, and many more outside activities. Food vendors and live entertainment. Pre-registration is encouraged. To register go to: www.childrensadvisorycommission.org or call 724-463-8200 ext. 8.
6/14/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Indiana County Conservation District 435 Hamill Rd. Indiana, PA	Walk & Talk at the Conservation District Gardens - <i>Blake Mauthe</i> - Join District Educator Blake Mauthe for a hands-on exploration of the Indiana County Conservation District! Get an insider's look at our thriving greenhouses, buzzing pollinator gardens, and beautiful outdoor spaces. Along the way, you'll discover the rich history of conservation districts and the exciting projects shaping the future of our community. Whether you're a nature lover, a curious gardener, or just looking for a fun way to connect with the environment, this tour has something for everyone! Come explore, learn, and get inspired by all the ways we're working to protect and grow the natural world right here in Indiana County!
6/21/2025 Saturday 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Spectacular Slithers - <i>Jessica Marron</i> - Curious about PA Snakes and Reptiles? Learn all about PA snakes, turtles, and lizards from the Penn's Manor Ag Teacher, Jess Marron, through this interactive presentation with her pet reptiles. She will compare and contrast her reptiles with PA reptiles. This is your opportunity to see and touch snakes and other reptiles up close and personal. This program is geared for school age children and families, as well as individuals interested in learning more about our reptile friends. Pre-registration required by emailing Lisa Meadows after 5/25/2025 at limeadows@pa.gov with your name, email, phone number, and number of attendees. Group size is limited to 4.
7/9/2025 Wednesday 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Turtle Talk - <i>Blake Mauthe</i> - Join ICCD Educator, Blake Mauthe, to learn about our native turtles! Not only is this event informative, but we will also bring out a few turtle friends & more to join this talk. We hope you join us to get up close and personal with some species that are native and species closely related! Recommended for school age children and up.
7/12/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM	Donley Property 1243 Five Points Rd. Indiana, PA	Landscaping for Wildlife With Native Plants - <i>Ed Donley</i> - Experience a home landscape that is designed to benefit wildlife, including ponds, meadows, flower beds, and a bog garden. Learn how native plants support pollinators, caterpillars, birds, and small mammals. Discover ways to make your own suburban or rural landscape an integral part of nature's food web. Take home some free native flower seedlings to enhance your own garden. Please pre-register by emailing Ed at hedonley2@gmail.com or calling the County Park Office at 724-463-8636.
7/14/2025 Monday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Blue Spruce Park Pavilion #2	Summer Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - <i>Dana Driscoll</i> - Join us on an interactive walk to learn about 15-20 edible and medicinal plants that are in-season during the summer months. The plant walk will include the ethics, best practices, and tools of wild food and medicine foraging. The walk will also cover plant identification practices, botany, and plant and local ecology. We will place a special emphasis on harvesting invasive plants, as well as reciprocating care for the local ecosystem. Plants covered in this walk include monarda, willow, hawthorn, wood nettle, elderberry, mayapple, jewelweed, spruce, plantain, and many more! Please have appropriate footwear for light hiking and bring bug spray. The walk will be cancelled in the event of an active thunderstorm.

Date / Time	Location	Program Title / Speaker / Description
7/19/2025 Saturday <i>See description for time slots</i>	Yellow Creek State Park Woodland Pavilion	Intro to Archery at Yellow Creek - <i>Leo Magulick</i> - Come learn the basics of archery with Park Educator, Leo Magulick! Learn how to do archery and follow safety rules. Afterwards, participants will have the opportunity to try archery. This activity is suitable for beginners of ages 9 through Adult. Children must be accompanied by a guardian/parent if under the age of 18. Please wear covered shoes (no sandals or flip-flops). Pre-registration is required by emailing Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov by 7/16/2025. Provide your name, how many people (limit 3 per registration), phone number, and email. Please select a time slot: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM; or 12:45 PM- 1:45 PM in email. Registration will begin around 6/15/2025.
8/5/2025 Tuesday 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Indiana Community Garden at Mack Park	How to Grow, Harvest & Use Elderberries - <i>Barbara Nist</i> - American Black Elderberry is a common native shrub growing wild throughout Indiana County, but its delicious fruit is underutilized by most people. Using the elderberry bushes in the Indiana Community Garden’s food forest, Barb will show participants how to identify ripe elderberries and how to harvest them. She will share some popular recipes that highlight these flavorful berries and will describe how to grow elderberry shrubs in your own yard.
8/9/2025 Saturday 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Fat Radish Farms 5021 Purchase Line Road Commodore, PA	Fall Gardening & Season Extension - <i>Alexis Shank</i> - Get ready to keep your garden growing even as the seasons change! Join local farmer Alexis Shank for an interactive workshop on fall gardening techniques and extending your growing season. Discover the best crops to plant for fall, how to prepare your garden for cooler weather, and tips for using hardy crops, row covers, and hoop houses to protect your plants. Please pre-register by emailing: b.mauthe@iccdpa.org or calling 724-472-4752 ext. 8 with name, email, phone number, and number in party by 8/7/2025.
8/13/2025 Wednesday 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Blue Spruce Park Lakeside Center	Creatures of the Nights: Bats - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - PA is home to some of the most amazing flying mammals in the world: BATS! Join us for a fun presentation to learn all about PA Bats and their fascinating ways. Learn about their similarities to people, as well as their interesting adaptations. After our presentation, we will head outside to go look for bats! This program is geared for ages 6 - Adult. Please bring a flashlight, lawn chair, and dress for the weather. We will also take a short stroll at Blue Spruce to look for our tree roosting bats.
8/21/2025 Thursday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion	Fall Edible and Medicinal Plant Walk - <i>Dana Driscoll</i> - Join us on an interactive walk to learn about 15-20 edible and medicinal plants that are in-season during the fall months. The plant walk will include the ethics, best practices, and tools of wild food and medicine foraging. The walk will also cover plant identification practices, botany, and plant and local ecology. We will place a special emphasis on harvesting invasive plants, as well as reciprocating care for the local ecosystem. Plants covered in this walk include oak (acorns), hickory, spicebush, and many more! Please have appropriate footwear for light hiking and bring bug spray. The walk will be cancelled in the event of an active thunderstorm.
8/23/2025 Saturday 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Indiana County Conservation District 435 Hamill Road Indiana, PA	Hop into Harvest - <i>Blake Mauthe</i> - Join us for a fun-filled day in the hop demo plot, where you’ll get a crash course on how hops grow and what makes them essential for brewing. Learn the basics of hop cultivation, then roll up your sleeves and help with the harvest! Feel the satisfaction of picking fresh hops right from the vine and discover how these fragrant cones play a key role in your favorite brews. Come for the hops, stay for the good vibes—and leave with newfound knowledge to impress at your next brewery visit! Lunch will be provided. Please bring gloves and pre-register by emailing: b.mauthe@iccdpa.org or calling 724-471-4751 ext. 8 by 8/21/2025. Recommended for ages 8 & up.
9/17/2025 Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Indiana Community Garden at Mack Park	Pick, Press, and Drink: Apple Cider Making - <i>Jean-Yves Boulard</i> - This is a hands-on workshop designed to show the participants the successive tasks of cider making. The participants will pick apples from the trees in the community garden, wash, crush, and press them using modern versions of traditional tools (a fruit crusher, a hand press). The participants will be invited to taste the product of their work and take it home (please bring a sealable bottle or container). During the process, I will deliver information regarding cider pressing (my family history, cultural history of cider, the rebirth of cider pressing in the US). Please pre-register by emailing: icg15701@gmail.com or calling 724-840-3360.
9/18/2025 Thursday 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	Virtual Program	Virtual Geology of Indiana County - <i>Lisa Woodward</i> - Do you love geology? Do you wonder what kind of history may be in those rocks you find around Indiana County? Join Lisa Woodward, Geologist for PA State Government, in this virtual program to learn all about the fascinating history and geology of Indiana County. After the program, Lisa will be happy to answer your questions. This is a virtual program where we will email you a link to join us after you register for the program. You can pre-register after 8/24/2025 by emailing Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov. Please list your email address.
9/25/2025 Thursday 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM	Yellow Creek State Park Lakeview Pavilion Day Use Area	Whose That Hoots? Owl Prowl at Blue Spruce Park - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Curious about owls? join Park Educator, Lisa Meadows, to learn all about owls of Southwestern PA. After a short program on owls, we will head out into the park to look and listen for owls that live around Blue Spruce Park. Please dress to be outside and bring a flashlight. This is a general public program for adults, teens, and children, ages 7 & up. If it is raining steadily, this program will be cancelled and rescheduled. Check the Yellow Creek State Park Facebook page for the latest updates.
10/4/2025 Saturday 11:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Indiana County Conservation District 435 Hamill Road Indiana, PA	Apple Festival at ICCD - Get ready for a day of autumn fun with the Indiana County Conservation District at the Apple Festival! Dive into the fall spirit with live cider-making demos—roll up your sleeves, join in, and sample fresh cider, with half-gallons available while supplies last. Enjoy toe-tapping tunes by Mountains Meet the Moon Band, visit a petting zoo, and check out a fantastic lineup of food trucks, craft vendors, and nonprofits with activities just for kids! Bring your friends and family for a day of delicious sips, lively music, and family-friendly fun.
10/11/2025 Saturday 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Yellow Creek State Park Environmental Learning Center	Leaf Rubbings and Prints - <i>Lisa Meadows</i> - Join the Park Educator, Lisa Meadows, for a relaxing morning of Nature Crafts. We will go out and find leaves and ferns to use to make leaf prints and rubbings near the center. After we find our leaves and ferns, we will return to the ELC and make nature prints of our finds using acrylic paints. This program is designed for adults, teens, and school age children, ages 9 & up. You’re welcome to bring your dry leaves and ferns for this activity. Please pre-register after 9/13/2025 by emailing Lisa Meadows at limeadows@pa.gov with your name, number of participants, phone, and email. Groups are limited to 4.

Information About the Programs

Who can attend the programs? We welcome both families and individuals.

Must I pre-register? Yes, due to restrictions on group size, some 2025 programs have pre-registration requirements. Please email the address or call the number indicated in the program description to pre-register. If a program is cancelled, we will make every effort to contact those registered. Since most programs will be smaller, if you can’t attend after pre-registering, please contact us so that we can give your space to someone else.

How long are the programs and how should I dress? Programs usually last from 1 to 2 hours, unless noted. Dress appropriately for the outdoors and for walking. Most programs are held regardless of the weather.

Is there a fee? Programs are offered free of charge unless otherwise indicated.

How do I get there? Directions to various program locations are available at indianacountyparks.org. Follow the link to Friends of the Parks or get directions to program sites by calling 724-463-8636.

Want to receive program reminders throughout the year?
Register at: <https://www.plantpatrol.org/friendsoftheparks>

Friends of the Parks is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality environmental education programs in the Indiana County Parks & Trails and Yellow Creek State Park.

For additional information about a program, contact:

For Yellow Creek State Park Programs:
limeadows@pa.gov


Additional program listings for Yellow Creek can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/yellowcreekSP>

For Indiana County Parks & Trails Programs:
(724) 463-8636 indparks@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Friends-of-the-Parks-100064881660015>

Our newsletters and schedule are available under “Friends of the Parks” at www.indianacountyparks.org or by scanning this code:

Support for Friends of the Parks comes from organizations, businesses, and individuals like yourself who care about quality environmental programming for Indiana County. Your support is vital to helping us accomplish our goal.

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FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

www.indianacountyparks.org

Indiana County ParksYellow Creek State Park

2025 Program Schedule



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS
1128 Blue Spruce Road
Indiana, PA 15701