



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Jeff Baudry  
(414) 257-4575  
[Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

For immediate release

## **Parks Department Offers Natural-Areas Field Trips** *First Program: April 24*

Milwaukee, WI (April. 15, 2015) – Natural Areas staff of the Milwaukee County Parks will be leading a series of field trips exploring the park system from April–November. Through the series, participants will have the opportunity to accompany staff along the Forked Aster Hiking Trail System, through hotspots for warblers and wildflowers, and off the beaten path to discover the ecology of natural areas. Participants will also have the opportunity to work alongside staff on wildlife research projects.

The first two programs, offered Friday, April 24 and Tuesday, May 5 from 8-10 a.m., will focus on ephemeral wetland surveys in Falk Park. Ephemeral ponds exist for only a portion of the year, giving a limited window of opportunity to search for their unique wildlife inhabitants. The park is located at 2013 W. Rawson Ave.

“The ecological diversity of urban natural areas far exceeds all expectations,” said Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator. “Whether people want to come out and observe or want to dig in and get their hands dirty, we welcome them to join us on the field trips without worry of stepping too far out of their comfort zones.”

In the first field trip, participants will immerse themselves in an ephemeral-pond “safari,” filled with salamanders, frogs, and aquatic invertebrates such as fairy shrimp. In the second field trip, the search will be for salamander larva and crayfish. Because trails in Falk Park are unpaved and sometimes muddy, participants are encouraged to wear hiking shoes.

-more-



ADDRESS  
9480 Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX  
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)  
fax: 414 / 257 6466

EMAIL  
[parks@milwcnty.com](mailto:parks@milwcnty.com)

WEBSITE  
[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

### Upcoming Field Trips

Wednesday, May 13	Migratory Birds and Spring Wildflowers, Jacobus Park 5-6 p.m.
Saturday, May 16	Reptile Discovery Day, Grobschmidt Park 10-11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 19	Exploring the Forked Aster Hiking Trail System, Warnimont Park 9-11 a.m.
Saturday, May 30	Invasive Species Workshop, Brown Deer Park 9-11 a.m.
Tuesday, June 2	Summer Birds and Blooming Prairies, Rainbow Airport Park 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Saturday, June 13	Reptile Discovery Day, Grobschmidt Park 10-11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 16	Exploring the Forked Aster Hiking Trail System, Cudahy Nature Preserve 9-10:30 a.m.
Friday, July 10	Exploring the Forked Aster Hiking Trails System, Bender Park 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 11	Walk on a Secluded Urban Beach, Warnimont Park 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Thursday, Sept. 3	Exploring the Forked Aster Hiking Trail System, Mangan Woods (near Whitnall Park) 5-6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Autumn Birding, Greenfield Park 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Exploring the Forked Aster hiking Trail System, Franklin Savanna in Franklin Park 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 17	Autumn Birding, Grobschmidt Park 9-11 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31	Invasive Species Workshop, Grant Park 9-11 a.m.

Programs are limited to the first 15-20 people registered. Hiking conditions vary by site, from easy walking to strenuous hiking. Participants should check conditions when registering.

Registration and payment must be received three days before the program date. The program fee is \$15 per person over 12; \$10 per person age 2-12 or 60 and better. Children under 2 are admitted free. Credit card payments may be made by phone at (414) 257-6521 or in person at Parks Administration, 9480 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa. The Public Services Office at Parks Administration will also accept payments of cash or check.

For more information, contact Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator, at (414) 257-6521 or [brian.russart@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:brian.russart@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

###