

WOODS talk



Asbury Woods

ANDREW J. CONNER
NATURE CENTER
BROWN'S FARM
GREENWAY TRAIL



ASBURY WOODS Little Woods Nature Play Area

On November 8, 2011, after nearly two-years of fundraising, planning, and building, the "Little Woods" nature play area was dedicated with the message of "Get Outside and Play." After more than a decade and tens of thousands of children, the Little Woods area is ready for an update.

Located behind the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center, the space dedicated to the Little Woods will nearly double in size with the entire area reimagined with new elements to allow children to explore independently within a defined space. The benefits of nature play are well-documented for its positive effects on children's feelings of independence, connection to the outdoors and helping them develop their decision-making and risk-tolerance skills. The conceptual design for the enhanced Little Woods was completed by Rusty Keeler, author of "Adventures in Risky Play" and owner of Earth Play, a design firm which specializes in creating master plans for nature play areas.

The master plan for the redesigned Little Woods calls for lots of loose pieces for building and manipulating, logs to balance on, a play hut, bridges to skip across and plenty of nooks and crannies for exploration, creativity, and imagination. Jennifer Farrar, Executive Director, notes, "The Little Woods has created countless ways for youngsters to explore, build a connection to the outdoors and build self-assurance over the past decade. We are thrilled that funding from Erie Insurance and Penelec is allowing us to complete a much-needed update and expansion for the next generation of kids in our community."

The new Little Woods will also include an exciting way for individuals to be part of this renovation and rebirth through the purchase of fence pickets! A portion of the Little Woods will be enclosed with a colorful picket fence. This "Pickets for Play" fundraiser is a chance to buy and personalize the pickets used in the construction of the new fence. Available for \$100 each, 2 for \$175, or 3 for \$250, once purchased, you and your family will have the opportunity to truly make them your own by painting them in your own special way. Add your family names, initials, handprints or special designs to your sponsored pickets to commemorate your connection to Asbury Woods and your belief in the power of nature to shape our children.

Only 220 fence pickets are available so don't delay!
Simply complete and return the enclosed envelope or visit
<https://www.asburywoods.org/donate/ways-to-give/> to secure yours today.

MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
2023

THE YEAR OF WATER 

– Page 3 –
Monday Music
June 5 – July 31

5 Mile Trail Run
June 10

Cyclefest
July 27 – 30

Fish Field Day
August 26

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**PROGRAMS
for Youth
and Adults**

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**Water Systems
TOURS**

– Back Cover –
**Upcoming
DONOR EVENTS**

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Summer!

As the temperatures rise, Asbury Woods is ready for a summer full of awesome activities for all ages. As we continue with the Year of Water theme in 2023, we are excited to offer a three-part series for adults that will provide unique glimpses into our local water systems. Also, going along with the Year of Water, in August, Asbury Woods will host our first Fish Field Day. Learn about the fish that depend on our local waterways, test for water quality, learn about sustainable fishing practices and check out our latest batch of trout in the Trout in the Classroom tank.



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director

Of course, all your favorite Asbury Woods activities are on the docket, as well! Kids and adults alike will delight in adventures such as creek walks, First Friday campfires, and our weekly Nature Safari and Drop In and Discover programs. We are also gearing up to welcome over 400 kids for summer camps! Asbury Woods summer camps provide a classic summer experience of outdoor exploration and adventure, creating positive nature encounters that we hope will last a lifetime!

Summer is also our opportunity to make improvements to the property and this year a signature project is the redesign and expansion of the much-beloved Little Woods. We're excited to bring a fresh take to this creative play space and nearly double the size of the Little Woods. It provides an incredible opportunity to let children have independent, child-guided play in a safe and contained area. Also, our Pickets for Play fundraiser is a fun way to donate to Asbury Woods while adding your personal touch to the new picket fence that will be part of the Little Woods. See the enclosed envelope for pricing or visit our website. We'll have painting parties over the summer where you can personalize your picket! The dollars raised through this project will support our work in environmental education and help us continue to take care of these treasured 216 acres.

Summer is a magnificent time to visit Asbury Woods. I hope you'll take advantage of all we have to offer -- whether you visit the trails, attend a program, hike to the creek, take in the wildflowers or marvel at the variety of habitats, there is something for everyone at Asbury Woods. See you in the Woods this summer!

From the Woods,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer".



ANDREW J. CONNER
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BROWN'S FARM
GREENWAY TRAIL

asburywoods.org | 814.835.5356

The Asbury Woods Partnership is a 5013(C) nonprofit charity registered with the Bureau of Charitable Organizations. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State at 1-800-732-0999. Funding for the Asbury Woods Partnership is provided through grants, program fees and the generosity of our members, donors and patrons.

Asbury Woods Staff

Jennifer Farrar
Executive Director

Sarah Bennett
Director of Education & Community Programs

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Visitor Services Associate

Sharon Burton
Visitor Services Associate

Stephen Engro
Director of Development & Marketing

Anthony Farrar
Visitor Services Associate

Rachel Hull
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Casey Keating
Interpretive Naturalist

Michelle Keck
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Andrea Krivak
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Emma Mader
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Environmental Educator

Amy Shook
Interpretive Naturalist

Jeanine Timon
Gift Shop and Rental Coordinator

Sheila Walmer
Constituent Relations Manager

Steve Wasiesky
MTSD Environmental Education Coordinator

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday Music in the Woods

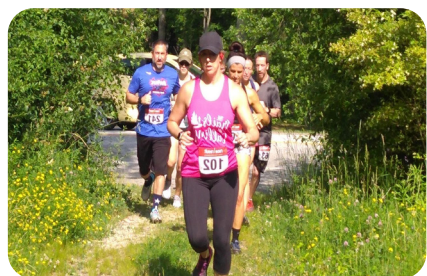
Mondays, June 5 through July 31 (no music July 3)

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FREE, no registration required

Grab your lawn chair, bring a cooler, and enjoy the beautiful setting of the Celebration Garden at the Andrew J. Conner Nature Center while listening to local acts performing folk, bluegrass, classic rock, and other favorites. To learn more visit: <https://www.asburywoods.org/events/monday-music-in-the-woods/>

Sponsored by:



5 Mile Trail Run | Into the Woods

June 10, 2023

Registration required

The 5th annual Into the Woods 5 Miler will kick your Asbury as you test your mettle on the trails. This competitive race course includes a mix of boardwalks, packed dirt trails and single track loops. Childcare and a youth fun-run round out this family-friendly event. To learn more visit: www.asburywoods.org/events/trail-run-series/

Sponsored by:



Lake Erie Cyclefest

July 27 - 30, 2023

Registration required

Lake Erie Cyclefest is a four-day celebration of all things bike! Six unique riding events will be offered at locations across Erie County and will benefit several local nonprofit organizations, including Asbury Woods. To learn more visit: www.asburywoods.org/events/cyclefest/

Tour de West County | Saturday, July 29, 8 a.m.

Asbury Woods is thrilled to be carrying forward the ride tradition of Tour de West County, a mix of routes that utilize portions of the original rides while mixing in new sights, roads, and challenges. Tour de West County offers choices of 12, 25, or 50-mile ride routes and will feature a post-ride picnic for registered cyclists.

Sponsored by:



Fish Field Day

August 26, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

FREE, open to the public

Join Asbury Woods and local partners for this fun-filled day exploring fish! Get up close and personal with our resident trout through our Trout in the Classroom program. Meet living creatures that are on a trout's menu, test water quality to see if fish can survive, and learn all about tying flies and fly fishing. Families are sure to have a swimming good time!

SUMMER PROGRAMS: May - August 2023

Supported through the generosity of **A.J. Grack Business Interiors**

YOUTH



EcoExplorers Club for Middle Schoolers

Dates: June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, and August 17

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: 6th – 8th grade beginning Fall 2023

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$25

Program Fee: \$30

Come join us as we continue the fun of exploring nature, science, and the outdoors! This summer we will learn how to use a compass, dive deeper into our local watershed, try our hands at wilderness survival skills, and much more!

Summer Sprouts

Dates: Fridays, June 16 – August 18

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Age: 2 – 5 years old, accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$7

Program Fee: \$9

Little explorers and their favorite grown-up will experience hands-on nature exploration, crafts, and guided outdoor play.

Nature Safari

Dates: Wednesdays, June 21 – August 16

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: All ages, children accompanied by an adult

Location: Nature Center

Free, no pre-registration required

Explore the ecosystems at Asbury Woods with a different theme each week, rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure.

Homeschool Summer Series

Dates: June 14, July 25, August 15

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Age: Ages 5 – 7 accompanied by an adult, Ages 8 – 14 may attend unaccompanied.

Location: June & August at Nature Center, July at Brown's Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

June 14– Pond Safari

Explore the living things in our wetlands

July 25 – Kid's Creek Walk

Hike to the creek and explore the critters living there.

August 15 – Children's Yoga and Relaxation Hike

Take a mental health day and enjoy yoga and a relaxation hike in nature.



Veterinary Medicine 101 Day Camp

Dates: Thursday, July 6

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Age: 12 – 16 years

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$75

Program Fee: \$90

Are you interested in a career in veterinary medicine? Join certified veterinary technician, Patti Cioccio, for this day full of lessons and activities designed to teach you about this career field. Topics will include general wellness exams, bandaging, suturing, anatomy, CPR practice, and much more. This is a great starting point for anyone wanting to learn more about the field of veterinary medicine.

Preschool Outdoor Yoga with Abi

Dates: Wednesdays

Session 1: June 7 – 28

Session 2: July 5 – 26 (not July 12)

Session 3: August 9 – 30

Time: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Age: 2 – 5 years with an adult

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$45 per session

Program Fee: \$60 per session

Join your child in a relaxing, fun, bonding, and balancing yoga class! This class will teach your child to be calm, meditate, be silly, and be peaceful! Please bring a yoga mat or towel, water, sunglasses, SPF, bug spray, and weather appropriate clothing. The class will take place indoors during inclement weather.

Drop-in and Discover



Dates: May 6 – August 19 (no drop-in Aug. 26)

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Age: All ages

Location: Nature Center

FREE

No pre-registration required.

Looking for something wild to do? Stop in each Saturday to discover something new about the natural world. No pre-registration required. Check our website for upcoming themes www.asburywoods.org/programs/program-schedule/

Drop-in and Discover is presented by



National Fuel®

ALL AGES



Family Owl Prowl

Date: Wednesday, June 7
Time: 8:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$6
Program Fee: \$8

Kids and adults alike will delight in this unique evening learning about owls and attempting to get them to answer our calls. The program includes a brief indoor portion followed by a hike on the trails.

Wildflower Walk

Date: Saturday, May 6
Time: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$3
Program Fee: \$5

Experience the magic of Asbury Woods' spring wildflowers on this hike through our property with a Naturalist.

Pond Safari

Date: Saturday, May 27
Time: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

What animals will you find as you explore the watery habitats at Asbury Woods? We will provide the equipment to explore these wetland habitats.

First Friday Campfires

Date: Fridays, June 2, July 7, August 4
Time: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Nature Center
Free, no pre-registration required

Bring your chairs and hangout by the campfire behind the Nature Center on the first Friday of every month throughout the summer. S'mores ingredients will be available for purchase in our gift shop.

Twilight Treks

Dates: Tuesdays June 13, July 11, August 29
Time: 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$3
Program Fee: \$5

Enjoy the beauty of Asbury Woods as the sun dips below the horizon on this guided hike with a Naturalist.

Summer Solstice Hike

Date: Wednesday, June 21
Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Age: All Ages
Location: Brown's Farm
Supporting Donor Fee: \$3
Program Fee: \$5

Celebrate the official start of summer with a guided hike at Brown's Farm.

Creek Walk

Date: Saturday, July 29
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

or

Date: Tuesday, August 22
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Age: Adults and children 8 years and up
Location: Brown's Farm
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

Come with us on a hike to Walnut Creek from Brown's Farm and learn all about the impact of this important water resource.



Family Geocaching

Date: Saturday, July 15
Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Age: Adults and children 8 years and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

Participate in the world's largest treasure hunt! Learn how to use a handheld GPS and find geocaches in the woods using our "practice" cache course. Then, set out on your own to find official geocaches at Asbury Woods, in Erie County, and around the world!



Nature in Your Neighborhood

Every Thursday, June 15 – August 17
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

All Ages

FREE, open to the public

Join Asbury Woods for hands-on, minds-on nature and science-based activities every Thursday at different city parks throughout the summer. Hooked on Books for Kids will be partnering with Asbury Woods to hand out a nature-themed book to each child attending.

June 15: Bayview Park
Underwater Creatures, Find Creatures Big and Small

June 22: Rodger Young Park
I Spy! Nature Scavenger Hunt

June 29: Perry Square
Insides & Outsides, Explore Animal Pelts & Skulls

July 6: Washington Park
What's in My Water? Testing Water Quality

July 13: McKinley Park
Bees & Butterflies, All About Pollinators

July 20: Bayview Park
I Spy! Nature Scavenger Hunt

July 27: Rodger Young Park
Underwater Creatures, Find Creatures Big and Small

August 3: Perry Square
Bees & Butterflies, All About Pollinators

August 10: McKinley Park
Insides & Outsides, Explore Animal Pelts & Skulls

August 17: Washington Park
What's in My Water? Testing Water Quality

Sponsored by

H. Richard Obermanns



The Erie
Community
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Helping today...Shaping tomorrow.

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Family Compass Course

Date: Saturday, August 12

Time: 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Age: Adults and children 8 years and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Work together and with a compass to find your way through our compass courses. This guided program will take place on our trails so be sure to dress for the weather.



Asbury Woods provides a natural setting that makes a perfect backdrop to any special occasion. We have several unique and beautiful rooms and areas on the grounds that would make your special occasion a memorable experience for you and your guests.

Visit our website to see spaces and pricing asburywoods.org/rentals/

ADULTS



Mushroom Discovery Hikes

Dates: Sunday, April 30

Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

or

Dates: Saturday, June 24

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Age: Adults and Teens

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$5

Program Fee: \$7

Join local mushroom hunters as they share how to identify a wide range of fungi while strolling the Asbury Woods property. April 30 will be led by Dr. Matthew Gacura from Gannon University and June 24 will be led by John Vanco and Kelly Armor, avid amateur mycologists. Asbury Woods does not allow harvesting, so be ready to enjoy the hunt and take home only memories and photos.



Dog Days of Summer

Dates: Mondays, May 8, June 19, July 10, and August 14

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center May and August, Brown's Farm June and July

FREE, registration required

Dog Days are back! Join ABC Certified Dog Trainer Lynn Yusz for a guided hike with your four-legged companion through the beautiful Asbury Woods trail system. Please only one dog per person.

Happy Hour Hikes

Dates: Fridays, May 19, June 30, July 28, and August 25

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults 21 years and older

Location: May and June at Nature Center, July and August at Brown's Farm

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

Unwind each month this summer as you enjoy a beautiful, guided hike through Asbury Woods followed by a refreshing beer or seltzer after the hike.

Cold Process Soap Making

Date: Thursday, May 25

Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$28

Program Fee: \$32

Includes all supplies.

Experience the magic of soapmaking using regular kitchen equipment and inexpensive ingredients. Each attendee will make 2 bars of soap from natural ingredients. This class will be taught by an experienced soap maker and all safety equipment will be provided.

Outdoor Yoga with Abi

Dates: Thursdays

Session 1: June 8 – 29

Session 2: July 6 – 27 (not July 13)

Session 3: August 10 – 31

Time: 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Age: Ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$50 per session

Program Fee: \$65 per session

A yoga program where classes take place in the beautiful outdoors! Students learn body movements, breathing, and mental relaxation while relieving stress and maintaining health and well-being. Please bring a yoga mat or towel, water, sunglasses, SPF, bug spray, and weather appropriate clothing. The class will take place indoors during inclement weather.

ADULTS

Flower Pressing

Date: Tuesday, June 27

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Summer is a wonderful time to take in all the wildflowers at Asbury Woods. During this program you will collect and press wildflowers. *Note: flowers take time to dry after being pressed and can be picked up after July 24.*



Scarf Painting

Date: Friday, August 4

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$45

Program Fee: \$55

Does your wardrobe need a lift? Join PAWilds teaching artist Julie Mader for a beginner-friendly silk painting workshop. Participants will use dyes formulated for silk fibers to turn a blank scarf into wearable art. Students are encouraged to have a color palette in mind or bring along an inspirational photo. *Note: Dyes will be steam-set by Julie in her studio after the workshop and will be available for pickup 2 weeks after the workshop date.*

Pressed Flower Craft

Date: Tuesday, August 8

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Ages 16 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$15

Program Fee: \$18

Use pressed flowers to create a unique glass candle jar. All materials will be provided but you are welcome to also bring your own pressed and dried flowers.

**Pre-registration is required
for all programs,
unless otherwise noted**



Water Systems Tours

For our Year of Water, Asbury Woods is taking you on a summer-long tour of our local water systems. Join us as we explore freshwater conservation at Headwaters Park, drinking water at Erie Water Works, and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.



Water Conservation at Headwaters Park

Date: Tuesday, June 6

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Road

Program Fee: FREE, registration required

Join us at Headwaters Park with the Erie County Conservation District to learn about protecting our local freshwater ecosystems.



Water Testing at Tom Ridge Environmental Center

Date: Thursday, July 13

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Drive

Program Fee: FREE, registration required

Meet us at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center to learn how the Regional Science Consortium tests local freshwater to make sure the public stays safe. We will also see a tour of the testing laboratory.



Drinking Water at Erie Water Works

Date: Wednesday, August 9

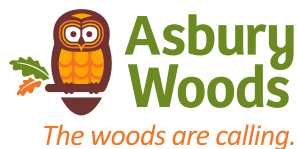
Time: 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: The foot of Sommerheim Drive in Millcreek Township

Program Fee: FREE, registration required

Let's go to Erie Water Works' Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant to tour their newly renovated facility and learn about the state of the art filtration system EWW uses to treat drinking water.



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4105 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506
asburywoods.org



Try our Low Ropes Experience!

Our low ropes course is a great team building experience for work colleagues, college clubs, and families! With the help of a trained program facilitator, groups grow their skills in team building, communication, problem-solving, risk-taking and leadership in an outdoor setting. The Asbury Woods Low Ropes Course is a positive, physically active experience that invites participants to challenge themselves in new ways.

To schedule your low ropes experience contact Sarah Bennett at (814) 836-6178 or sbennett@asburywoods.org.



Upcoming Donor Events

Generous donors are the foundation of our ability to fulfill our mission. Throughout the year, we schedule events to gather with donors to celebrate shared success, offer insights into strategic planning initiatives, update on behind-the-scenes plans, and more. Save the date for the following events:

- Director's Breakfast, donors who have donated \$500 or more this fiscal year are invited to breakfast with Jennifer Farrar on June 14, 2023.
- Annual Meeting, donors who have given \$250 or more this fiscal year are invited to attend the celebration of success and gratitude, along with a short business meeting with the board of directors on September 19, 2023.

Invitations to follow.



Nature Center

Monday – Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m

The Squeaky Frog Gift Shop:

Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 p.m

Trails

Open Dawn to Dusk

