



WOODS talk

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

May
June
July
August **2022**

Reaching A New Audience With *Nature in Your Neighborhood*



June will bring the launch of another new initiative, *Nature in Your Neighborhood*. Thanks to a sponsorship from the Erie Community Foundation, Asbury Woods can pilot this new program to connect with kids close to their homes.

Nature In Your Neighborhood will take Asbury Woods science and nature programming on the road to various locations in the City of Erie during the summer. This free program will encourage family participation in various hands-on activities each week. The

program's goal is to ignite a curiosity about nature through engaging themes and to provide unique learning experiences in an open and accessible format.

A core tenet of our vision is to educate people of all ages about northwest Pennsylvania's unique and diverse habitats and native wildlife. Research shows that environmental education helps build creative thinking and relationship skills, fosters leadership qualities, and makes school subjects rich and relevant. *Nature in Your Neighborhood* will take science concepts and real-life environmental examples to help influence the way youth think about the world and their connection to it.

"Fostering diversity of our visitors and program participants is a goal of our strategic plan and taking our show on the road is one way to achieve that. We look forward to welcoming families in each neighborhood to stop in for these hands-on, minds-on, staff-facilitated educational activities. Each week offers a unique experience to discover and encourages family participation," says Jennifer Farrar, Asbury Woods Executive Director.

"We support the *Nature in Your Neighborhood* program because it aligns with the goals of the City of Erie to create welcoming and vibrant neighborhoods that provide excellent amenities for all residents, high quality of life, and community pride. This family-friendly, free programming will offer residents educational opportunities in local public spaces within their neighborhoods during summer months," says Chuck Zysk, Director, Department of Public Works, City of Erie.

Every Thursday, June 16 – August 18, 2022 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at various public parks in The City of Erie. See schedule, location and theme details on page 6.

**Monday Music
in the Woods**
June 6 – July 25

**5 Mile
Trail Run**
June 11

**Lake Erie
Cyclefest**
July 28 – 31

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Family
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Eyes**

**Exhibit and
Programs**

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Summer in the woods!

Asbury Woods will be bursting with activity as we move into the summer months! More than 400 summer campers ages 4-13 will descend upon the property during the height of our season. We love the excitement they bring and hope they relish their experiences here as they get outside, make new friends, learn about nature, stomp in the creek and have fun!

Of course, Asbury Woods isn't just for the kids! We have a variety of adult programs lined up as well including hikes with various topic experts, our weekly Monday Music series, our photography exhibit and a range of education programs.

If you're a frequent visitor on our trail network, this summer you'll likely notice work that is scheduled to start in June on the Brown's Farm parcel. Significant work will be undertaken to restore a meadow habitat in areas where woody plants, shrubs, saplings and several invasive species have taken hold. A meadow provides important habitat for birds and pollinators. This multi-year plan will include removal of invasive species and plants not conducive to meadow settings, then reseeding the site with the preferred seed mix. There will be some short-term disruption and the site might not look as aesthetically pleasing for some time but the long-term outcome will be a sustainable meadow.

This summer we will also kick-off a year-long project of a new master site plan. With the pending acquisition of the 40 acre James Preserve from Mercyhurst University and the April 2021 acquisition of 11 acres, the time is right for a comprehensive and long-term site plan to carry us forward. We are excited to be working with Pashek MTR, a firm which has undertaken other large-scale projects in our area such as the Wintergreen Gorge development with Penn State Behrend and work at Erie Bluffs State Park.

I can't wait to see you on the trails, in the Woods and at the Nature Center this summer!



Jennifer Farrar, CFRE
Executive Director



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

asburywoods.org | 814.835.5356

Vision Statement: Asbury Woods strives to realize a future for Northwestern Pennsylvania where appreciation for and protection of natural places is a deeply held personal and community value.

The mission of Asbury Woods is to inspire a greater connection to the natural world by protecting, managing and interpreting our property; providing outdoor recreational opportunities; and offering environmental education experiences.

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 and Community Programs

Anush Dulgaryan Bruno
Visitor Services Associate

Sharon Burton
Visitor Services Associate

Michael Grandinetti
Facilities and Grounds Manager

Dakota Holmes
Grants & Sponsorship Coordinator

Andrea Krivak
Marketing Coordinator

Emma Mader
Environmental Educator

Valerie Niebling
Visitor Services Associate

Erin Paquette
Environmental Educator

Carissa Snarski
Director of Development & Marketing

Jessica Stefano
Interpretive Naturalist

Jeanine Timon
Gift Shop and Rental Coordinator

Sheila Walmer
Constituent Relations Coordinator

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MTSD Environmental Education Coordinator

Asbury Woods Board of Directors

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Monday Music in the Woods

Mondays • June 6 through July 25

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. • Free

Register online: www.asburywoods.org/mondaymusic

Grab your lawn chair 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. Snack on dinner from an on-site food truck or pack your meal for a picnic.

Enjoy a craft beer or glass of wine from two of our locally owned businesses, Lavery Brewing Company and Pisano Family Wine Cellar. \$1 from each drink sold will be donated to Asbury Woods.

The Nature Center hours will be extended on Monday Music in the Woods concert evenings. Guest can enjoy the show and explore the Nature Center, the animal exhibit, and browse the gift shop.

Presented by:



Bock Insurance Agency



Additional support from:



5 Mile Trail Run

June 11

The 5th annual Into the Woods 5 Miler will kick your Asbury as you test your mettle on the trails. This highly competitive five-mile race is the anchor event, but participants can choose a non-competitive two-mile walk. Childcare and a youth fun-run round out this family-friendly event.

Register Online: www.asburywoods.org/trailrun

Presented by:

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Sponsored by:

Wegmans

Additional support from:



Lake Erie Cyclefest

July 28-31, 2022

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. This dynamic partnership helps showcase the beauty of Erie County while helping to drive tourism and raise money for nonprofits doing important work.

Visit www.lakeeriecyclofest.com for all the details and to register.

Presented by:



Sponsored by:



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

YOUTH



Summer Sprouts

Dates: Fridays, June 10 – August 12
Time: 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
OR 11:00 – 11:45 a.m.
Age: 2 – 5 years old
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$7
Program Fee: \$9

Outdoor adventures await young explorers this summer! Through hands-on activities, nature play, movement, and science discovery your child will grow their connection to the natural world. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for outdoor fun.



Nature Safari

Date: Wednesdays, June 22 – August 17
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Age: Children accompanied by an adult
FREE, registration required

Discover the wild world outside the Nature Center at Asbury Woods. Your wildlife explorers will discover something new every week. This program will be delivered rain or shine, so be sure to dress for an outdoor adventure.



Homeschool Summer Series

Dates: Fridays May 20, June 24, July 29, and August 5
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Age: Children 5 – 8 years old accompanied by an adult, children ages 9 – 12 may attend unaccompanied
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$8
Program Fee: \$10

Homeschoolers can plug into nature all summer long at Asbury Woods! Descriptions of learning activities and certificates of completion for portfolio inclusion will be provided at the end of the session.

May 20: Pond Safari – What is that green stuff on the pond? Who lives under the surface of the pond? Join us for our pond safari to find out. Dress for wet and muddy learning.

June 24: Art & Nature Journaling – Do you love to draw, color, and paint? Do you find nature inspiring? This art and nature journaling program is for you! Dress for easy hiking and outdoor art creation.

July 29: Insect Hike – Do you love to explore the outdoors? Are you fascinated by all things that creep and crawl? Spend some time learning about some of the smaller creatures that live near Asbury Woods.

August 5: Children's Yoga and Relaxation Hike – Have you heard about the health benefits of spending some quiet time in nature? Join us as we practice mindfulness while connecting to nature. This program includes a 30 minute nature yoga session followed by a relaxation hike on the trails.

Homeschool Hiking Club

Dates: Fridays May 6, June 10, July 15, and August 26
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Age: Children 5 – 8 years old accompanied by an adult, children 9 – 12 may attend unaccompanied
Location: Nature Center
Program Fee: \$5

The homeschool hiking club continues each month this summer. Explore Asbury Woods' beautiful trail system and learn about nature while you go! Appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy walking shoes or boots are a must.



Drop-in and Discover NATURE CENTER

Dates: Saturdays, May 7 – August 27
NEW Summer Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Age: Children, accompanied by an adult
Location: Nature Center
FREE

Looking for something wild to do? Stop in each Saturday to discover something new about the natural world. Each week, Asbury Woods will offer a new experience that could include an animal meet-and-greet, a science experiment, a nature art project, a guided hike, and more. Check our website for upcoming themes www.asburywoods.org/programs/program-schedule/
No pre-registration required.

Drop-in and Discover is presented by
UPMC HEALTH PLAN

ALL AGES



Wildlife Moms

Date: Saturday, May 7
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Age: Female caregivers and children ages 4 and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$10
Program Fee: \$12

Every year around Mother's Day, wildlife mothers of all types are busy feeding, sheltering, and caring for their animal babies. Learn about and celebrate some of the weirdest, strongest, and most loving wildlife moms from around the world with your favorite mother figure. Light snacks will be provided and a digital photo of each family group will be emailed to each registrant following the program.



Pond Safari

Date: Wednesday, May 11
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Age: All ages
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

This program will explore the animals that start their lives in the watery habitats at Asbury Woods. During a guided hike participants will listen for frogs and toads calling near the water's edge and roll over logs to find salamanders and insects hiding below. Bug boxes, nets, and microscopes will be available to borrow to take a closer look at the amazing animals we find. Please dress for possible muddy conditions. Rain boots and coats are encouraged.

Family Owl Prowl

Date: Tuesday, May 24
Time: 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.
Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

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. Bring your flashlight!



Full Moon Hikes

Dates: June 14, July 13, and August 11
Time: 10:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up
Location: Brown's Farm
Supporting Donor Fee: \$7
Program Fee: \$9

Have some nocturnal fun at Asbury Woods this summer with each full moon. Join us as we transition from light to dark with our senses and learn how full moons got their names: June – Strawberry Moon; July – Buck Moon; August – Sturgeon Moon. Comfortable shoes and outdoor clothes are a must. If you wear bug spray, please spray before joining the group. Note: In the event of rain, this program will move indoors.

Nature Dads

Date: Saturday, June 18
Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Age: Male caregivers and children ages 4 and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$10
Program Fee: \$12

How does your dad, grandad, uncle, or other male grown up compare to animal dads in nature? Bring your favorite father figure to Asbury Woods to find out! Join us as we learn about the best, worst, weirdest, and most remarkable wildlife dads from around the world. Light snacks will be provided and a digital photo of each family group will be emailed to each registrant following the program.



Nature Journaling

Date: Saturday, July 23
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Age: Adults and children ages 13 and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$6
Program Fee: \$8

Nature journaling provides a creative outlet, hones observation skills, and creates lasting memories of our connection to the natural world. Learn how to start your own nature journal, common ways to organize nature journal pages, and some tips and techniques for making nature journaling an enjoyable and relaxing experience. Paper will be provided but you're welcome to bring your own journal.

Falling for the Stars

Date: Thursday, August 18
Time: 9:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Age: Adults and children ages 10 and up
Location: Brown's Farm
Supporting Donor Fee: \$5
Program Fee: \$7

Enjoy an evening of fun and learning about our constellations. Bring your blankets and binoculars and enjoy the beauty of our nighttime sky!

Wallflowers Nature Art

Date: Thursday, Aug. 25
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Age: Adults and children 12 years and up
Location: Nature Center
Supporting Donor Fee: \$13
Program Fee: \$15

Create a beautiful piece of artwork for your home using natural materials. Each registrant will create their own unique wall canvas using stencils, paint, ink, and pounded wildflowers. Feel free to bring snacks and drinks to enjoy during the program!

ADULTS



Dog Days of Summer

Date: Tuesdays May 17, June 21, July 19, and August 16

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: May 17 Nature Center, June 21 Brown's Farm, July 19 Nature Center, August 16 Brown's Farm

FREE, registration required

Join Asbury Woods educator Jessica Stefano and ABC Certified Dog Trainer Lynn Yusz on the third Tuesday of the month for a guided hike with your four-legged companion through the beautiful Asbury Woods trail system. We request that participants limit to one dog per person.



Rain Barrel Program

Date: Saturday, May 21

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Brown's Farm Barn

Supporting Donor Fee: \$55

Program Fee: \$65

Installing a rain barrel at your home is an easy way to reduce your water footprint and conserve water. Water from rain barrels can be used to water your grass or gardens around your home. Participants will construct a rain barrel from a 55-gallon food grade container and learn about proper installation, maintenance, and use of the barrel. All supplies are included in the cost. Participants must have an accessible unburied downspout to attach the rain barrel to. Register in advance, space is limited.

Outdoor Yoga

Date: Wednesday, May 25

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$6

Program Fee: \$8

Join Jeanine Timon, certified yoga instructor, for an introductory outdoor yoga session. Beginners are welcome. Please bring your own mat, water bottle, bug spray, and extra blanket to put on the ground, if desired.

Frisky Fauna

Date: Thursday, July 21

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$8

Program Fee: \$10

Are you looking for an unusual, interesting, and adults-only way to spend a happy hour at the Woods? Join us for a fun, comical, and slightly off-color learning experience where we'll address more about the wild mating game than just the birds and the bees. Part adult story time, part trivia night, this program is sure to result in a blushed cheek or two, fits of giggles, and a few exclamations of "No way!" Feel free to bring snacks and drinks to enjoy during the program!



Happy Hour Hike

Date: Friday, August 19

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Age: Adults 21 and up

Location: Nature Center

Supporting Donor Fee: \$10

Program Fee: \$12

Enjoy a beautiful guided hike through the forest, meadows, and wetlands of Asbury Woods. Feel free to work up a thirst because a refreshing beer or seltzer awaits you after the hike! Please have footwear appropriate for an up to 2 mile hike.



Nature in Your Neighborhood

Every Thursday,
June 16 – August 18, 2022
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

FREE

June 16: Wayne Park

Movement in Nature: The story of seeds

June 23: Perry Square

Insides and Outsides: Explore animal pelts and skulls

June 30: Gridley Park

Movement in Nature: The story of seeds

July 7: Bayview Park

Insides and Outsides: Explore animal pelts and skulls

July 14: John E. Horan Apartments

Movement in Nature: The story of seeds

July 21: Wayne Park

Taking Flight: The wonderful world of birds

July 28: Perry Square

I Spy: Nature scavenger hunt

August 4: Gridley Park

Taking Flight: The wonderful world of birds

August 11: Bayview Park

I Spy: Nature scavenger hunt

August 18: John E. Horan Apartments

Monarch Madness: Butterfly life cycles

Presented by:



The Erie
Community
Foundation

Helping today... Shaping tomorrow.



Through Your Eyes

June 17 – August 13, 2022

Continuing our tradition of a summer exhibit, *Through Your Eyes* will be a photography exhibit featuring images submitted by the Erie community, showing their favorite locations, features, plants, animals and activities at Asbury Woods.

Local photographers of all ages have been submitting their images since December to help us show Asbury Woods through the eyes of our visitors. We hope that by showing the multitude of ways the community sees, appreciates, uses and engages with Asbury Woods we can inspire a continued appreciation for natural places, environmental stewardship and conservation of public green space. Art has long been used as a way to encourage people to consider new ideas, inspire appreciation

and prompt action. We hope the *Through Your Eyes* exhibition will provide new insights into how Asbury Woods is valued by individuals in our community and inspire others to consider the importance of protecting such places.

Plus, you can get in on the exhibit action by starting to share your Asbury Woods photos, stories and experiences on social media using our hashtag #MyAsburyWoods. During the course of the exhibit we'll be building a dynamic engagement wall sharing even more views of Asbury Woods *Through Your Eyes* with your tagged social media posts.

Exhibit Details:

An opening reception will be held Friday, June 17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Road, Fairview, PA 16415. Exhibit is free and open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 – 8:00 pm., plus Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Programming:

Deepen your experience and gain new insights and perspectives by participating in our special exhibit-related programs all summer long.

Photography Hike Series

Dates and Times:

- Tuesday, June 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 28 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 14 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 6 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 9 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Age: Adults and children ages 12 and up

Location: Brown's Farm

Program Fee: \$7 (each date)

Photographers from the Erie Photography Club and the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania will lead several photography hikes throughout the summer. Amateur and professional photographers alike are invited to bring a camera and a love of nature to connect with other photographers in the area, learn nature photography tips, and capture the beauty of Asbury Woods.

Through Their Eyes Hike Series

Dates and Times:

- Saturday, June 18 from 10:00– 11:30 a.m. (Brown's Farm) Hunt for Mushrooms with Kelly Armor and John Vanco
- Thursday, June 30 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Investigate Insects with Erin Paquette
- Saturday, July 16 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Identify Invasive Species with Natalie Waddell- Rutter
- Wednesday, July 6 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Brown's Farm) Talk Trees with Mark Spitulski and Jess Stefano
- Wednesday, July 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (Nature Center) Explore the History of Asbury Woods with Jennifer Farrar

Age: Adults and children ages 12 and up

Location: Brown's Farm/Nature Center

Program Fee: \$7 (each date)

Explore Asbury Woods through the eyes of local naturalists, educators, and experts during this hiking series. Each hike will focus on different organisms, issues, and information found on the Asbury property. Watch for additional hikes to be added to this series!

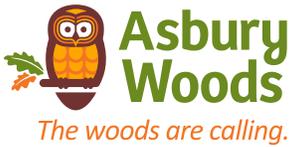
Sponsored by:



Support for this program is provided in part by
the United Arts Fund of the Erie Arts Endowment.



Erie Arts & Culture



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

4105 Asbury Road
Erie, Pennsylvania 16506
asburywoods.org



Donate Cryptocurrency

Asbury Woods now accepts cryptocurrency donations! Inspire a greater connection to the natural world with your gift of cryptocurrency. Donating cryptocurrency is a non-taxable event, meaning you do not owe capital gains tax on the appreciated amount and can deduct it on your taxes. This makes Bitcoin and other cryptocurrency donations one of the most tax-efficient ways to support Asbury Woods.

Donate your cryptocurrency:
www.asburywoods.org/crypto

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, 2022.
- Grandfather Tree Society, donors who have donated \$1,000 or more this fiscal year are invited to an evening of celebration and insights on July 26, 2022.
- Celebration Garden Soiree, donors who have donated to the endowment with a memorial in the Celebration Garden are invited to an evening of honor on August 23, 2022.
- 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 20, 2022.

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:**
Hours same as Nature Center

Trails
Open Dawn to Dusk

