

# Fall 2016

September–October–November

## Nature Center

Monday – Friday  
7:45 am – 4:30 pm

Saturdays  
9 am – 2 pm

Closed Sundays

## Hiking Trails

6 am – 8 pm daily

## Phone

414.527.0232

## Address

6141 N. Hopkins Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
1 block west of  
Sherman Blvd.

## Websites

[dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/  
name/havenwoods/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/havenwoods/)  
[www.friendsofhavenwoods.org](http://www.friendsofhavenwoods.org)

## Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



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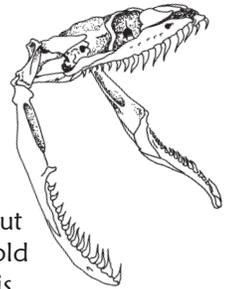
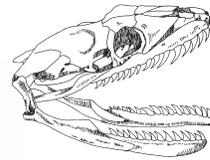
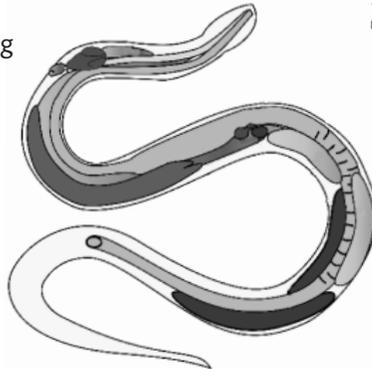
# Havenwoods State Forest

While snakes are active at Havenwoods during the entire “warm” season, there are two times we often encounter them—early spring and late fall. These are the times they are most likely to be basking in the sun and moving to and from their hibernating spots. If you encounter a wild snake at Havenwoods, take a moment to marvel at these amazing critters!

## Long &

## Skinny

Everything about a snake is stretched out to fit in its body—lungs, liver, stomach, and intestines!



## Eating Machines

Imagine eating without arms and hands to hold food! A snake's skull is flexible enough to allow it to “walk” over its food, moving one jaw and then the other. The skull “stretches” so the snake can swallow prey larger than its head.



## Fast with No Feet!

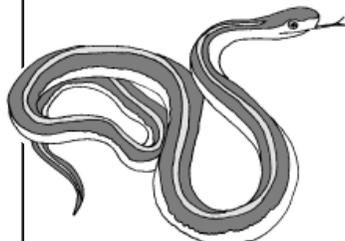
A snake's vertebrae and ribs extend the entire length of its body, allowing for lots of muscle attachments. The snake uses these muscles, its scales, friction, and weight distribution to move quickly through its home.

## Meet Havenwoods' Snakes

### Red-bellied Snake

Lives in moist woodlands and adjacent fields. Eats slugs, earthworms, and beetle larvae.

- 8 – 10”
- Reddish brown to steel gray back and bright red, salmon, or orange belly



### Milksnake

Lives in woods, pastures, and prairies. Eats rodents and small snakes.

- 24 – 36”
- Light gray or brown back with reddish brown to brown blotches outlined in black and black and white checkerboard on belly

### Butler's Gartersnake

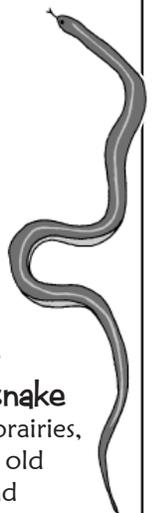
Lives in prairies, marshes, old fields, and vacant lots. Eats earthworms.

- 15 – 20”
- Dark brown to black back with three stripes

### Common Gartersnake

Lives almost everywhere! Eats frogs, toads, fish, earthworms, and occasionally young mice and birds.

- 17 – 26”
- Dark brown to black back with three stripes



# Snake Fest

Free!

Saturday, October 1, 2016

10 am – 4 pm

Join us for a slithery, scaly, special day!

- Get close up and personal with lots of native Wisconsin snakes.
- Meet exotic snakes from Milwaukee County Zoo and the Reptile Education through Contact group.
- Compare snakes with a turtle and a frog.
- Discover snake adaptations through hands-on activities.
- Take a hike with a naturalist to find out how snakes live.
- Fill in a snake passport and earn a prize.
- Make crafts that look like snakes.
- Purchase lunch or snacks.
- Participate in a silent auction to support Havenwoods' education programs.

Snake Fest is for all ages!

Rain or shine!



## Doors Open Milwaukee

September 17 & 18, 10 am - 5 pm  
(Saturday and Sunday)

Take a hike with a naturalist to look for signs of wildlife at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm (45-minute hikes). Meet some reptiles and amphibians throughout the day. Sit back and enjoy photos and stories from Havenwoods' past at 12:30 pm and 2 pm (30-minute program). Get out on your own and find history on a geocaching adventure all day. Create nature crafts on your own all day.



## Havenwoods Run/Walk

September 24, 9 am start (Saturday)

Havenwoods Neighborhood 5k-10k Run/Walk will benefit neighborhood revitalization projects. All ages are welcome, and it is open to residents, businesses, and students! The race starts at Havenwoods! Registration and information at: [havenwoods.org/havenwoods-5k10k-runwalk/](http://havenwoods.org/havenwoods-5k10k-runwalk/)



## Family Nature Hikes

Spend an hour with a naturalist on a family-friendly hike. We'll use magnifiers, binoculars, super-duper outdoor lookers, or other exploring tools to discover what's happening in nature.

### Slime Trails

September 3, 10:30-11:30 am (Saturday)

Slugs, snails, and worms. Slimy, gross, and kind of cool. We'll seek them out in dark, moist places, let them slime across our hands, and learn about their hidden habits.



### Deer Tracking

November 5, 10:30-11:30 am (Saturday)

White-tailed deer are on the move, making it easier for us to find the signs they leave behind. We might even see one or more deer on our hike!

## Adult Hikes & Workshops

Adults and youth over 12 are invited to join a naturalist at these programs.

### Hungry Hikers: Edible Plant Walk

October 8, 10 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Looking for a free meal? A surprising number of wild edible plants exist in the city. Join us as we search for these common plants at Havenwoods and learn how to identify them.

### Willow Plant Tower Workshop

November 12, 9 am – 1 pm (Saturday)

Weave a small conical tower (~1' x 4') for your climbing plants. You'll use willow cut at Havenwoods and learn how and where it grows. The tower is sturdy, functional, and fun to make! To register, call 414-527-0232 or email [judy.klippel@wi.gov](mailto:judy.klippel@wi.gov) by November 4. Cost is \$10.

# GO! Discover

Families, friends, and youth groups are invited to head over to Havenwoods on the second and/or third Saturdays of each month. Drop in any time between 9 am and 2 pm to discover something new about nature.



## Spiders

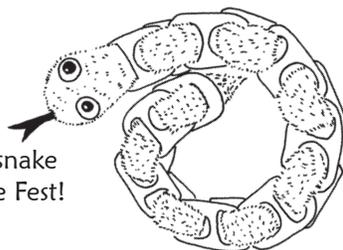
September 10 & 17, 9 am – 2 pm  
(Saturdays)

Late summer is a great time to look for spiders! Drop in and play in a giant web, learn about Wisconsin spiders, and make your own spider web. Then head outside to check out the webs and web spinners at Havenwoods.

## Snakes

October 8 & 15, 9 am – 2 pm  
(Saturdays)

Drop in to learn about Wisconsin snakes, make your own snake to take home with you, and touch some live snakes.



You can make a sizzling snake out of soda tabs at Snake Fest!

## Whitetail Wonders

November 12 & 19, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturdays)

Discover some of the whitetail deer's secrets to survival in the city. Learn how they communicate through senses, sounds, and signs. Get crafty inside, then head outside to search for whitetails and the signs they leave behind.

# Nature Time for Preschoolers

We'll use stories, crafts, and activities to explore a different topic each session. These programs are for preschoolers, ages 3-5, and their parents, grandparents, or other adult. These programs are not for day care centers or organizations.

## Seeds On the Go!

September 13, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Seeds can fly through the air and stick to your clothes. Come learn how seeds move from one place to another.

## Home, Sweet Home

September 27, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

What lives underground? Up in a tree? Under a bush? We'll discover where some animals make their homes.

## High Flying Hawks

October 11, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Join us as we search the sky for soaring hawks. We'll discover what they eat and how they find their food.

## Pumpkins are Golden Treasures

October 25, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Pumpkins aren't just for jack-o'-lanterns and pumpkin pies! Come find out some interesting things about pumpkins.

## Scampering Squirrels

November 8, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Gray squirrels! Red squirrels! Fox squirrels! Squirrels in the park, and squirrels at your bird feeder! Squirrels are fun to watch.

## Rocks in My Pockets

November 22, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Rocks can be smooth, shiny, colorful, and fun to collect. Come ready to be surprised by some very strange rocks.

## Slithering Snakes

December 6, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Could you move without any legs or eat without hands? Come meet some snakes and learn how they survive.

## Animals in Winter

December 20, 9:30 – 10:30 am  
(Tuesday)

Some animals stay active during our long cold winters. How do you think they find food and keep warm?



Paint a round rock to look like a snake at Snake Fest!

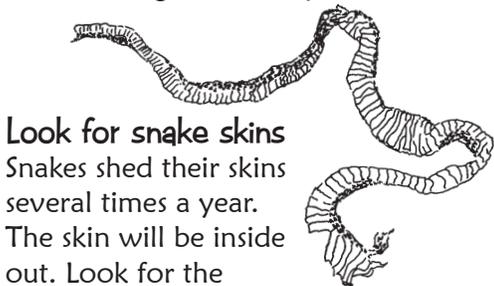
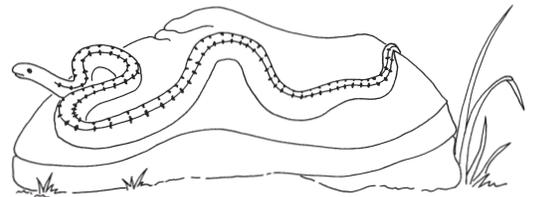


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 WI Dept. of Natural Resources  
 6141 N. Hopkins Street  
 Milwaukee, WI 53209

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## Nature in Your Backyard

Snakes are secretive creatures. Sometimes we don't realize they are living in our yards and parks until we see a shed skin or part of a track. Although they sometimes startle us, they are great predators of slugs, worms, mice, and other animals. If you have garden space, you can watch for signs of their presence and welcome them into your yard.



### Look for snake skins

Snakes shed their skins several times a year. The skin will be inside out. Look for the "contact lens" scales that cover the eyes!

### Make your yard wildlife-friendly

Your yard can be a safer place for wild animals of all kinds if you:

- Avoid using pesticides.
- Offer fresh water.
- Plant a variety of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

### Welcome snakes to your yard

Snakes need lots of good hiding places. Making rock or wood piles provides shelter and places for them to bask in the sun.



### Watch for snake tracks

Snakes can leave snake tracks in sand or mud. They move by pushing off of small irregularities on the ground and leave behind an S-shaped trail.



Don't miss it!

## Snake Fest

October 1  
 10am - 4pm