

Spring 2015

March–April–May

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

Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



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Havenwoods State Forest

The days are getting longer. Warmth and spring breezes are on the way. The fields, woods, and wetlands at Havenwoods will wake up, and many of the animals living here will give birth.

Exploring Nature in the City

The increasing day length and warmth of spring influences animal behavior. As you hike this spring, watch for animals mating, giving birth, tending their young, and growing up.

Numbers Game

Humans might plan how many babies they will bring into the world, but not animals. There are two main strategies with variations in between. On one extreme, you will find animals like mosquitoes that lay hundreds of tiny eggs, few of which survive to adulthood. The other extreme is animals like bears that produce a small number of large young, with a much greater chance of surviving.



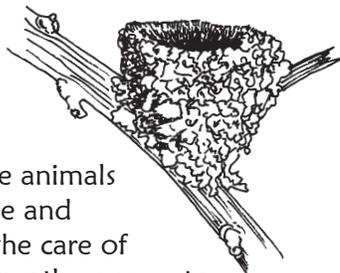
To Hover or Not to Hover

Some animal parents are “helicopter parents.”

Mother and father robins bring food to their needy nestlings every 15 to 30 minutes. On the other hand, you will rarely see a mother rabbit with her kits. She visits the nest only at dawn and dusk to nurse them. This is why people often assume that baby rabbits have been abandoned.

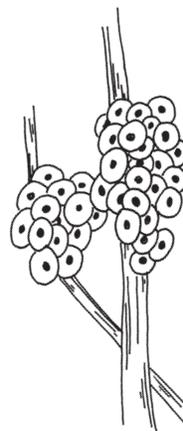
To Care or Not to Care

While some animals devote time and energy to the care of their young, others seem to abandon their eggs as soon as they can. Animals that care for their young, tend to have fewer babies and a higher success rate.



Born Ready

Animals like snakes, ducks, and slugs are born physically able at birth. Baby snakes and slugs get no parental help navigating life's dangers. While it will be a challenge to find these small, secretive babies, it will be easy to spot some ducklings. With their mothers to lead them to food and teach them about predators, they don't have to hide to survive.

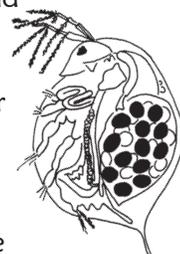


The Call of the Wild

Birds aren't the only ones that sing to attract a mate. When amphibians that have been sleeping all winter awaken, they head to the nearest pond and begin calling. When you hear them, peek in the ponds for strands and globs of eggs.

Who Needs Parents!

Not all animals arrive in this world as the result of “normal” mating. Some animals, like female water fleas, can make exact copies of themselves. Stop by the nature center and pick up a pond net and a hand lens. Then head down to the pond to look for tiny animals the size of periods. Now, look for “fat” periods. Chances are pretty good that these are the pregnant females—ready to give birth to clones!



Take Care of Planet Earth

Spring brings new life, Earth Day celebrations, and opportunities for you to get some exercise and help take care of the planet!



Milwaukee Riverkeeper

April 18, 9 am – noon (Saturday)

Each year Milwaukee Riverkeeper mobilizes thousands of volunteers who work to remove several tons of trash from rivers in the Milwaukee River Basin. Come be a part of the 20th annual spring event and clean up Lincoln Creek at Havenwoods.

Great American Clean-up

April 25, 9 am – noon (Saturday)

Make your part of the earth a little cleaner this spring by picking up litter on streets, in parks, and along waterways. Join us to clean up Havenwoods! We'll provide garbage bags and work gloves. Litter picker-uppers will receive gift certificates from local sponsors! Registration is requested for groups.



Work Play Earth Day

May 2, 9 am – 2 pm (Saturday)

Looking for a way to celebrate Earth Day and give back to your favorite Wisconsin state park property? Join Friends of Havenwoods, staff, and other volunteers to plant trees, repair trails, and pull invasives. After work, stick around for a guided nature hike. Call 414.527.0232 to join us and reserve your appreciation gift.



Adult Hikes & Workshops

Learn to Geocache

May 30, 10:00 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

Are you looking for a new way to relax, enjoy the outdoors, visit interesting destinations, and spend time with friends and family? Geocaching uses GPS units, maps, and clues to locate hidden caches all over the world. Adults and youth over 12 are invited to learn how to use a GPS unit to find several caches at Havenwoods. We have units to lend.

Willow Plant Tower Workshop

March 28, 9:00 -1:00

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 by March 20. Cost is \$5. Make check out to Friends of Havenwoods.

Family Nature Hikes

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



Nature Magnified

March 7, 10:30 – 11:30 am (Sat.)

Beneath our feet, up in the sky, and just out of sight, a hidden world waits to be explored. We will use magnifying lenses, binoculars, and microscopes to explore miniature worlds and discover amazing patterns. Bring your camera to capture the magic.

Planet Trek

April 4, 10:30 – 11:30 (Saturday)

Get ready to celebrate our great planet by hiking around Havenwoods' urban greenspace with a naturalist. We'll check out sprouting plants, nesting birds, bubbling ponds, and scampering wildlife as we look for signs of spring.

Bird Walk

May 2, 10:30 – 11:30 (Saturday)

Warblers, kingbirds, herons, and woodcocks are returning to Havenwoods. We'll head out with binoculars and welcome them back. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet or muddy.

Save the Date!

Shakespeare in the Park

June 26, 6 pm (Friday)

Join Marquette University's Summit Players as they perform a mini-version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Their "play out of a trunk" version will run a little over an hour and will include mayhem, character switches, and hilarity. Watch for details. Free!

Harvest Fest

September 26, 9 am – 4 pm (Sat)

Stay in touch for more information about this community event.

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.



Rocks

March 14 & 21, 9 – 2 (Saturdays)

Have you ever picked up a rock and wondered just what type it was? Discover the stories that rocks tell about the past, conduct experiments, and check out fossils. Come have a rockin' time.

Celebrate the Earth

April 11 & 18, 9 – 2 (Saturdays)

Come enjoy our planet! Drop in to plant some trees, create with recycled materials, go on a

scavenger hunt, and learn how to help the Earth!

Turtles

May 9 & 16, 9 – 2 (Saturdays)

As warm weather returns, our turtles will be more active. Drop in to meet some live turtles, make racing turtles, and turn a dollar into a turtle! Younger kids will enjoy the chance to pretend to be a turtle. On a sunny day, take a hike out to the ponds to look for turtles basking in the sun.

Preschool Storytimes

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

Opossums

March 3, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

What do you keep in your pockets? We'll discover a pink-toed mammal with a very strange pocket.

Spring to Life

March 17, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Here comes spring! The browns of winter are turning green, yellow, pink, and white. Join us as we celebrate the colors, smells, and sounds of spring.

Run, Rabbit, Run

March 31, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Cottontail rabbits might be hiding in your backyard. Come explore their swift feet, alert ears, and twitchy noses.

This Pretty Planet

April 14, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Earth is our beautiful blue and green home! Find out why it is the perfect place for us to live and how we can keep it a safe and healthy planet.

Boom! Bang! Thunder!

April 28, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Do you like storms? Listen to the raindrops fall and the wind blow. Come to Havenwoods to create a thunderstorm and discover the magic.

Meet Frog & Toad

May 12, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

From eggs to tadpoles to grown-ups, frogs and toads are cool animals! Come meet a frog and a toad and find out how they are the same and different.

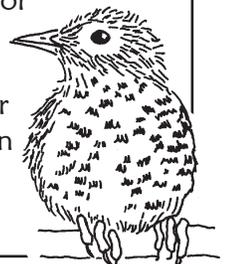
Grow Your Own Lunch

May 26, 9:30 – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Could you grow vegetable soup or a tasty summer salad? Come to start some seeds and discover fun things you can do with garden veggies—like eat them!

Keep Wildlife Wild

If you find a wild baby this spring, assume that it is being cared for by its wild parents. Wild parents often leave their young unattended for hours at a time. If you know that the baby is injured/sick or the parents are dead, contact a wildlife rehabilitator or call the Wisconsin Humane Society at 414-431-6204.



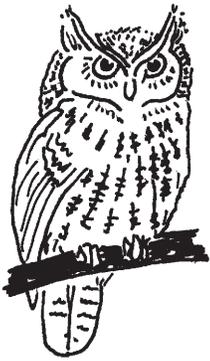


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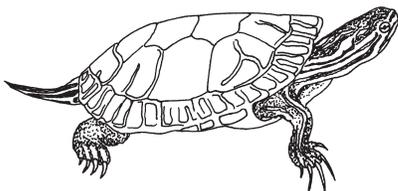
Nature in Your Backyard

As you enjoy your backyard and neighborhood parks, look for signs of how nature is connected. Remember that timing is everything!



Owls mate in the bleak midwinter and brood their eggs during snowstorms. By the time the owlets hatch, the snow is melting and exposed mice are easier to catch.

Turtles dig nesting holes and lay their eggs in midsummer. If the hatchlings hatch in fall, they often stay in the nest until spring.

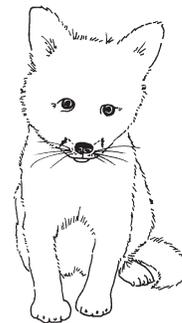
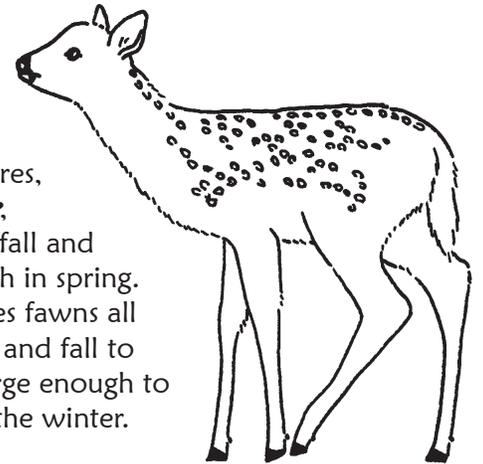


Goldfinches are one of the few birds that feed their young seeds. Watch for them to begin nesting about the time the thistles bloom. They use thistle fluff to build their nests and feed the seeds to their young.



Caterpillars hatch out just in time to eat the tender new leaves of their host plants.

Herbivores, like **deer**, mate in fall and give birth in spring. This gives fawns all summer and fall to grow large enough to survive the winter.



Most predators, like **foxes** and coyotes, time their births to follow the patterns of the animals they eat.