

Spring 2016

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

Friends of Havenwoods

Become a member!



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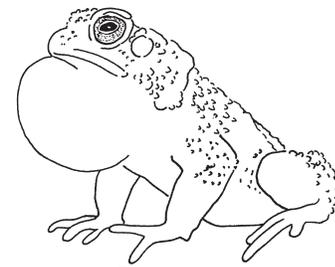
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Havenwoods State Forest

While you are still walking around in your parka, amazing animals are waking up and announcing that spring is coming.

Zombie Frogs

Aquatic frogs spend the winter at the bottom of the pond. Toads burrow down on land below the frostline. But treefrogs freeze! Ice crystals form in the body cavity and under the skin. Vital organs stop working, but glucose keeps them from freezing. When spring warmth comes, the frogs thaw out and get back to the business of living!



Marketing Strategies

Male frogs arrive at the pond first and set up their noisy territories. Frogs call by forcing air over their vocal chords. In all our species, the air inflates vocal sacs that look like balloons. The sacs amplify the sound.

Egg Hunt

Soon after you hear males calling, head to the pond to look for eggs. Toads lay strings of eggs. Frogs lay clumps.



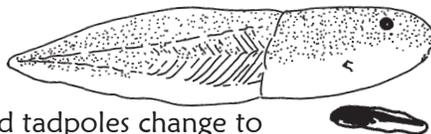
Toad Invasion

Some time in late June or early July, the newly-metamorphosed toadlets will leave the pond en masse. They are less than 1/2" long. Watch where you step!



Tail of Two Tads

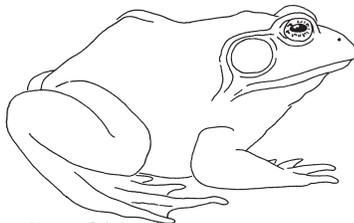
While toad tadpoles change to toadlets quickly, bullfrogs remain in the tadpole stage for a couple of years. Toads can take advantage of temporary pools, but bullfrogs need permanent ponds.



Security System

If you are walking near the pond and you hear an "erp" and a splash, you just triggered one of many pond security alarms. Wait quietly and you may see the eyes of a bullfrog appear out in the water.

Meet Havenwoods' Frogs



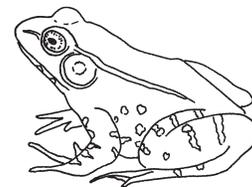
Frog Kings

Bullfrogs are the biggest frogs at Havenwoods, growing up to 7" long.



Bumpy Cousins

Toads hop and have dry, warty skin.



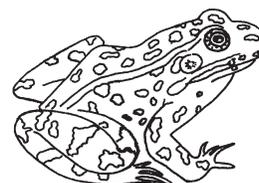
Not-so-green Frogs

Green frogs are often brown, but they always have two ridges down their backs.



Color Changers

Tiny treefrogs change color from green to gray depending on temperature and habitat.



Spotted Snorers

The calls of leopard frogs sound like people snoring.

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 23, 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 21st annual spring event and clean up Lincoln Creek at Havenwoods.

Great American Cleanup

April 30, 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 7, 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.



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.

Mud March

March 5, 10:30 – 11:30 am
(Saturday)

It's that time of year! Put on boots or shoes that can get wet and muddy and head over to Havenwoods. We'll check out the ponds to see who is waking up out of the mud and walk the paths looking for tracks.

Snipe Hunt!

April 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
(Saturday evening)

We'll head out in search of oddly-shaped birds that dance and peent and sound like whirligigs in the sky. This is not a joke! If we don't find any woodcocks, we'll just enjoy the early spring evening! If weather is questionable, call before coming.



Bird Walk

May 7, 8 – 9 am (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.

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.

All Things Wet & Squishy

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

Does painting with mud, creating art by hammering leaves, or digging for worms appeal to you? If so, drop by the nature center to enjoy the wetness and squishiness of spring.

Our Home Planet

April 9 & 16, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

Come enjoy our planet! Drop in to plant some trees, create with recycled materials, go on an Earth Day photo/art scavenger hunt, and learn how to help the Earth!

Nature's Transformers

May 14 & 21, 9 am – 2 pm
(Saturdays)

Imagine if your body could change its shape, what it eats, and how it moves! Drop in to find out what frogs, butterflies, ladybugs, and slime mold have in common.

Adult Hikes & Workshops

Adults and youth over 12 are invited to join a naturalist on these spring walks!

Willow Plant Tower Workshop

March 26, 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 by March 18. Cost is \$10.

Wildflower Walk & Garlic Mustard Patrol

April 30, 10 – 11:30 am (Saturday)

We will patrol some of the best spots at Havenwoods in search of early spring wildflowers. While we will spend most of the time enjoying the flowers, we will carry garbage bags to remove garlic mustard threatening their livelihoods.

Spring Migrant Bird Walk

May 14, 8 – 10 am (Saturday)

We'll hike through the fields, forests, and wetlands in search of the spring migratory birds. No experience is necessary. We have binoculars and field guides you can borrow for the hike.



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. They are not for day care centers or organizations.

Nature's Treat, Something Sweet

March 1, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Have you ever eaten maple syrup on your pancakes and wondered where the syrup comes from? Come learn about maple trees and taste this natural treat.

You Don't Look Like Your Mother!

March 15, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Some baby animals don't look anything like their parents! We'll explore the different ways that animals grow up.

Robins' Nests

March 29, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Robins are back and ready to raise their families. Find out how you can help birds as they build their nests!

Spring Showers

April 12, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

We'll enjoy the raindrops and find out how spring showers help plants and animals.

Recycled Art

April 26, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Let's use leftovers and throw-a-ways to create art projects.

Duck, Duck, Quack

May 10, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Have you seen any baby ducks in your neighborhood? Join us to learn how web-footed waddlers grow up.

Bird Songs

May 24, 9:30 am – 10:30 am (Tuesday)

Come listen to the birds and find out what they might be "talking" about!

To Burn or Not to Burn

April 16 & 23 (Saturday)
10 am program

April 16 (alternate date April 23)
10:30 am prescribed burn

Discover why controlled burns are an important tool for management, how they are conducted, and what safety measures are followed. Weather permitting, you will witness an actual burn conducted by a DNR fire crew.

Call before coming! Wind direction, moisture levels, and temperature determine whether a burn can take place.

Save the Date!

Shakespeare in the Park

July 29 (Friday)
5:30 pm workshop (~45 min)
7 pm performance

They're back! Join the Summit Players as they perform a mini-version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Their "play out of a trunk" will run a little over an hour and will include mayhem, character switches, and hilarity. Free!

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WI Dept. of Natural Resources
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Nature in Your Backyard

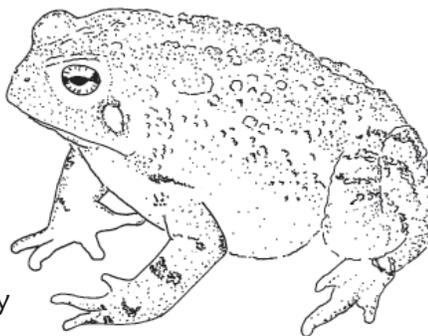
Toads can be found in parks and backyards all over the city. Listen for their trill-like call in the spring, watch for them in your garden, and do what you can to keep them healthy.

Moisture + Hiding Places - Pesticides = Toads

Toads don't need much to be happy in your yard. While forgotten leaf piles provide hiding places and moisture, you might want to build a special Toad Abode out of flower pots, rocks, or branches. A quick search on the web will inspire you!

More important than what you do is what you don't do. Toads and other amphibians are extremely sensitive to chemicals in their environment. Their

thin, permeable skin allows them to absorb moisture and oxygen. Unfortunately, it also allows them to absorb pollutants. Avoid using chemicals in your toad-friendly yard.



Myth Busters

Even though it appears that toads have warts, toads do not give people warts. However, if you handle a toad, wash your hands before you rub your eyes or pick your nose! They do secrete irritating substances through their skin and from the large parotid glands behind their eyes.

While You Wait . . .

Here are a few good reads to pass the time until your toads arrive:

Amphibians of Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gives natural history details for all of Wisconsin's salamanders and frogs. *Toad By the Road* by Joanne Ryder is a series of poems written by a toad for the young and young at heart. *Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel tells the silly adventures of two friends.