12 DAYS OF 🌎 DAY

DAY 1: Find signs of wildlife in your backyard

DAY 2: Complete a nature craft

DAY 3: Download a nature identification app

DAY 4: Play a game outside

DAY 5: Take a hike

DAY 6: Plant a native seed

DAY 7: Clean up trash in your neighborhood

DAY 8: Complete a nature bingo card

DAY 9: Explore a new green space

DAY 10: Practice your nature photography

DAY 11: Identify a new species

DAY 12: Log & identify species using iNaturalist

Created by students at Ohio State's School of Environment and Natural Resources
for a Senior Capstone project.

DAY 1: FIND SIGNS OF WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD

Did you know, your backyard can make a great home for local wildlife? Look for these signs that someone else is enjoying your yard...

Find a nest, who lives here?

Look below, who's walking near?

Use your ears, what do you hear?

DAY 2: COMPLETE A NATURE CRAFT

Make a "Nature's Paintbrush" out of twigs, leaves and pine needles, or a "Nature Weave" out of yarn and natural materials, or even create your own field guide for your backyard.

For more ideas, visit our resource library. (Hyperlink).

DAY 3: DOWNLOAD A NATURE ID APP

seek by iNaturalist

iNaturalist

eBird

From the creators of iNaturalist, Seek is a bit more family-friendly. Earn badges, learn fun facts, and progress from tadpole to expert.

iNaturalist is the most popular nature ID and citizen science app. With help from scientists and members of the community, you can identify a wide range of plants and animals.

eBird uses citizen science and observations to provide scientists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance.

DAY 4: PLAY A GAME OUTSIDE

Try out "Meet a Tree", a game that only needs two players!

- Blindfold Player 1, and have Player 2 guide them to meet a tree!
- Player 2 will place their hands on Player 1's shoulders and spin them in a circle, and then guide them to a tree.
- Player 1 can feel the tree's texture, size, and even smell.
- Player 2 will guide Player 1 back to the starting place, remove their blindfold, and have them guess which tree they got to meet.

For more games, visit our Resource Library (hyperlink)

DAY 5: TAKE A HIKE
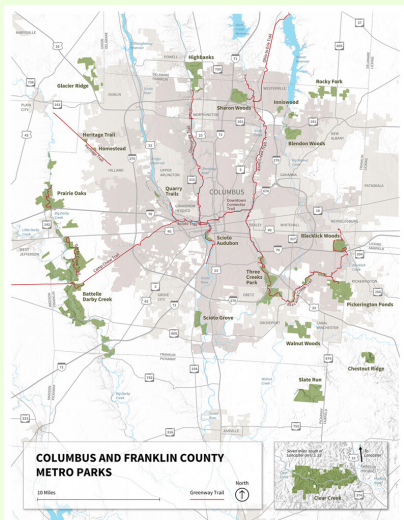
Columbus Metroparks offer some awesome trails around greater Columbus. Explore a new one, and take the trail less traveled to practice social distancing.

COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

Help us keep your Metro Parks open!

Do your part
STAY
6 FEET
APART

DAY 6: PLANT A NATIVE SEED

Native Plants

Support pollinators and other wildlife

Naturally adapted to the environment

Not only do native plants support our local pollinators, they grow easily in Ohio's environment. No green thumb required! Consider adding these to your garden or backyard:

- Purple coneflowers
- Goldenrod
- Black-eyed susan
- Milkweed
- Violets
- Hackberry
- Buttonbush

DAY 7: CLEAN UP TRASH IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We all play a part in keeping our communities clean & green. On your next stroll through the neighborhood or a park, bring a bag to collect litter.
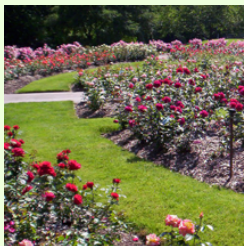

DAY 8: COMPLETE A NATURE BINGO CARD

Using a Bingo card from a local agency, like the Ohio State Wetlands, see how many species you can find and identify in order to get a Bingo!

DAY 9: EXPLORE A NEW GREEN SPACE

Besides just the Columbus Metroparks, our city has so much to explore!

Whetstone Park of Roses

Ohio State's Olentangy River Wetlands Research Park

The Scioto Mile

DAY 10: PRACTICE YOUR NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Have dreams of being a National Geographic photographer, or just looking for a fun activity? Brush up on your nature photography skills, in your own backyard or at a local park. No fancy camera required!

DAY 11: IDENTIFY A NEW SPECIES

SPRING WILDFLOWERS OF OHIO field guide
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Using your new nature ID apps or any of ODNR's field guides, see if you can identify some new species.

MAMMALS OF OHIO field guide
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Get to know your local flora and fauna!

DAY 12: LOG & IDENTIFY YOUR SPECIES USING INATURALIST

By recording and sharing your observations, you'll create research quality data for scientists working to better understand and protect nature. If possible, visit the OSU Wetlands and log species throughout the month of April to participate in our citizen science project, Bioblitz at the Wetlands.

iNaturalist   Explore   Community ⌄   More ⌄

EVENT IN PROGRESS

BioBlitz at the Wetlands
APR 1, 2020 - APR 30, 2020