

Volume 17

Issue 1

Spring/Summer

2020

Kingfisher

City of Edinburg Parks & Recreation Department
Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center Programs & Events



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And much more...

Message from the Manager

While looking back through photos for this newsletter, I revisited the past three years through the adventures of my children and of the children who have visited, played and explored the nooks and crannies of the Edinburg World Birding Center (EWBC). As the days blur into one another, perusing these photos brought me back to moments filled with smiles, laughter, and discovery created on these very grounds. Memories we hope will be created anew for all those who step into the wonderland that is EWBC. You see, the gardens here are more than an oasis and respite for people, feathered beast or furry friend. It is a place where tiny critters loom large and the world is brought in close. Where fears are faced and overcome and imaginations soar. Our goal from the beginning has been to help our visitors, especially youth, to connect with nature. To help budding naturalists grow into stewards who preserve, conserve, and restore the natural world. However, more than that is happening here. With every interaction, children and adults are gaining something in return. Confidence, strength, passion and vitality are just a few of the characteristics we see develop in people and our community as they connect and care for this world and each other. It may take years to develop, but it starts in those little moments of play and discovery. Those magical moments where persons, big and small, can pretend they are a fairy or a pirate, become entranced with the movements of tiny insect or fluttering bird, or connect to their past through a scent or story. There are so many moments of discovery awaiting you here at EWBC this Spring and Summer. Take time to connect, explore, grow, and most of all, make memories with us.



~ Marisa Oliva ~

Nature Notes: Citizen Science at EWBC



Have you ever wanted to make a contribution to science but didn't know how? Consider becoming a citizen scientist. It's an easy way for ordinary folks to help scientists by collecting and reporting data. From searching for tags on monarch butterflies to exploring distant galaxies from your computer at home, there are citizen science projects for nearly any



science and nature-based hobby or interest you could think of. Even kids are able to get in on the action!

This spring and summer, the EWBC is offering numerous ways to become a citizen scientist. **Project Martin Watch** offers visitors the chance to help monitor the Center's Purple Martin colony and help keep track of the birds' reproductive success. The **2020 City Nature Challenge** is a competition to document all species in cities across the globe. The EWBC is jumping in on the competition and inviting the public to help. So become a citizen scientist. You never know, the next big scientific discovery could be yours!

Creature Feature: White Peacock Butterfly (*Anartia jatrophae*)



On a warm sunny day, the **White Peacock Butterfly** (*Anartia jatrophae*) can be seen fluttering erratically among the flowers. In flight, all that can be seen are plain white wings. However, once it stops and lands to bask in the sun or feed on nectar, its details can be admired. With a 2 - 2.8 inch wingspan, the upper side of the forewings are mostly silvery white with a solid black spot and orange to brown wing margins. The hind wings have two smaller black spots and brighter orange margins.

During mating season, males become territorial and try to protect host plants for the female to lay her eggs. In the U.S., it is found mainly in South Texas and southern Florida. The White Peacock Butterfly is usually seen in open, weedy areas in gardens or in parks with ponds or streams nearby. The EWBC provides a perfect habitat for these neotropical butterflies, and summer is a great time to view these understated beauties.

Spring Break Adventures

KICK-OFF TO SPRING BREAK

Start spring break off right with a day of outdoor family fun at the EWBC! Dig into fossils, explore the children's garden, have a bubble dance party and more!

Saturday, March 14
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free with paid admission.

Spring Break Week

March 16 - 20

Monday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Self-led explorations

Tuesday, 10 - 11 a.m. & 2 - 3 p.m.

Knot Tying Basics

Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Beginner Fishing Workshop

Thursday, 10 - 11 a.m. & 2 - 3 p.m.

Kayaking

Friday, 2 - 3 p.m.

Geocaching

Registration required for all Tue - Fri programs as space is limited.

Free with paid admission.

FAMILY SLEEP UNDER

Cap off the week with a family sleep UNDER. It's all the fun of a sleepover without actually sleeping over! We'll have pretend camping, pizza dinner, s'mores, games and more!

Saturday, March 21
5 - 9 p.m.

Member: \$5/person
Non-member: \$7/person

Registration is required by Thursday, March 19.

SUMMER EVENINGS AT EWBC

Creatures of the Night

Have you ever wondered what animals might be wandering around the EWBC gardens after the sun has set? Join us on a fun night hike to see what creatures are lurking on the trails.

Date: Thursday, June 11

Time: 8 - 9:30 p.m.

Fee: Members free, \$2 non-members



Spiders, the All-Nighters

With their unique webs and feeding habits, spiders are pretty incredible critters. Join us as we discuss their intriguing world, then go out "spider sniffing" with us as we hunt for them.

Date: Thursday, June 25

Time: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Fee: Members free, \$2 non-members



Owls

Owls are fascinating birds. Because owls are active only at night, they are often a mystery. Join us as we discuss commonly seen owls and their amazing adaptations for hunting at night.

Date: Thursday, July 9

Time: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Fee: Members free, \$2 non-members



Starry Night

Explore the night sky with us. Find out what stars you can expect to see through a short presentation, then go out with us as we search the skies with telescopes.

Date: Thursday, Aug. 6

Time: 8:45 - 10 p.m.

Fee: \$3 members, \$5 non-members



SPECTACULAR SATURDAYS

On the last Saturday of every month, join us for free, family-friendly activities.

ENTRY IS FREE ALL DAY!

(Free entry does not include fee for concurring programs and does not apply to portrait photography groups.)

DATES & THEMES:

March 28: Plant Something, 2 - 4 p.m.

April 25: Trash or Treasure?, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 30: Puzzles & Games, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

June 27: Oh My Mud!, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

July 25: Fairy Fest, 6 - 10 p.m.

Aug. 29: Water Play, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

EWBC grounds are open 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Interpretive Center is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



FAIRY HOUSE BUILDING

BUILD A FAIRY OR GNOME HOME FOR
FAIRY FEST!

LEAVE IT IN OUR FAIRY GARDEN FOR ALL TO SEE DURING FAIRY FEST, AND ENTER IT IN OUR FAIRY HOME BUILDING CONTEST.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

6 - 8 P.M.

\$5 PER SET OF BUILDING MATERIALS

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

2020 FAIRY FEST

*Spend an evening in our enchanted gardens,
where joy, wonder and magic await.*

*Build fairy and gnome homes, dress up in whimsical themes
for our children's costume contest, enjoy enchanting crafts,
activities, and more!*

Saturday, July 25

6 - 10 p.m.

Free Admission



*\$3 Fee for Fairy Home
Building Materials &
Other Crafts*

Bird Walks



Join us for a walk around our grounds as we introduce you to the birds that make our gardens and wetlands home. Binoculars and spotting scope provided. Can't make the tour this time? Call Becky at (956) 381-9922 to schedule a tour, Tuesday - Saturday, 8:30 am to 4 pm (dependent on Naturalist availability).

Date: Every Tuesday, March - May 5

Time: 8:30 - 10 a.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free

Let's Go Urban Birding

Birds often show up in surprising places, including urban areas. Meet the EWBC Naturalist team on Thursdays in April at a location in the city of Edinburg to go birding in some often overlooked areas. Binoculars, checklist, and field guides will be provided.



Dates & Locations:

April 2: Edinburg Municipal Park

April 9: Edinburg Retention Ponds on Chapin & Jackson

April 16: Edinburg Bicentennial Park

April 23: Freddy Gonzalez Memorial Park

Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Birds, Bikes, & BBQ



Dust off your bikes and join EWBC staff for a birding-by-bike adventure in their efforts to win the "Texas Birding Classic" Green Powered competition. We will be visiting locations in Edinburg to count as many bird species as we can see by bike. Afterward, the EWBC will have a BBQ for registered participants. To join the team, please contact Becky at (956) 381-9922 by April 11. Space is limited. **RR.**

Date: Saturday, April 18

Time: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fee: \$10 adults, \$8 children

Project Martin Watch Training

Become a citizen scientist and help us keep track of the EWBC purple martin colony. Join the Purple Martin Task Force and count nests, eggs, and young and report the data to a nationwide scientific research project. Task force members will collect data Tuesdays and Saturdays, April - July, and must be at least 16 years old to join. **RR.**

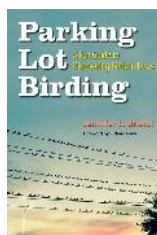
Date: Saturday, April 4

Time: 2 - 3 p.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free



Parking Lot Birding Book Signing



Birding on the beaten path is the theme for a new book written by Jennifer Bristol. *Parking Lot Birding* speaks to people who would love to observe a wide variety of birds in easy to access locations that don't require arduous hikes or a degree in ornithology. Join us for a meet and greet with the author, book signing, and a little birding "on the beaten path." *Books will be available for purchase during the program.*

Date: Tuesday, April 21

Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Fee: Free

Project Aquatic WILD Workshop



ATTENTION EDUCATORS! Help your students explore and discover the fascinating world of aquatic wildlife and ecosystems using fun, hands-on activities, by becoming a certified Aquatic WILD instructor.

During the workshop you will experience engaging, developmentally appropriate, TEKS-aligned activities while earning six hours of CPE and TEEAC credit. You will also receive a curriculum guide. Teachers, home-schoolers, informal educators, and scout leaders are welcome. Registration and payment is due by July 29.

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 5

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: \$40 (Snacks provided)

Trek and Sketch



Nature has been the muse for the creators of many of the aliens made popular in books and films. Learn about some real-life, alien-looking animals, and then take a fun walk with us to sketch what we find and see what kind of “aliens” we can turn them in to. **RR.**

Date: Saturday, March 7

Time: 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Fee: \$2 members, \$3 non-members

Volunteer Day



The EWBC is seeking energetic, earth loving individuals to help with gardening projects and maintenance, construction projects, and more. Water and tools will be provided, or volunteers may bring their own. For more information or to sign up, call Becky at (956) 381-9922.

Date: Wednesday, April 1

Time: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Geocache



Go on a geocaching Easter egg treasure hunt with us. Learn what geocaching is and how to use a GPS receiver, and then use your new-found skills to create some Easter egg caches and to find others' caches on the grounds. **RR.**

Dates: Saturday, April 11

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$2 members, \$4 non-members

Who Lives in Your Backyard?



Insects, reptiles and birds, oh my! The RGV is home to a multitude of animals, some found nowhere else in the country. Visit with us to learn about some of these animals during an interactive show and tell, and then join us on a walk of the gardens to see what we can find. **RR.**

Date: Monday, April 13

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free

YOUTH NATURE PHOTO WORKSHOP

RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Experience the beauty of nature
at Edinburg Scenic Wetlands.

Saturday, March 28, 2020
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

\$10 Workshop

REGISTER at: valleylandfund.com/workshops



Help your toddler discover the fun of nature. Toddler Play Dates are a great way to introduce your tot to the outdoors and to other kids through interactive play, learning, & creativity. Join us for an hour of guided activities including songs, crafts and nature walks, followed by optional free play. For children 18 months to 4 years old. Registration is required as space is limited.

Program Dates and Themes:

March 7: Nature's Sounds

April 4: Happy Birthday Earth!

May 9: Mommy Animals

June 13: Worms & Mud

July 11: Splash Party



Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$3 per toddler with one free guardian



Take the City Nature Challenge 2020 April 24-26



EDINBURG DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Join in on the action and be a part of a global challenge to see which cities are the wildest. Join our event, events around the RGV, or record you observations on iNaturalist. For more information and to get involved in Texas, go to TPWD.TEXAS.GOV/NATURECHALLENGE.

How to Use iNaturalist



iNaturalist is a citizen science platform where experts can help you identify what you see. Learn how to use this app to record what you see and to see what others are observing. Participants will also learn about the City Nature Challenge 2020 and how to participate. **RR.**

Date: Friday, April 24

Time: 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free

iNaturalist Day



Help us as we take part in the City Nature Challenge. The EWBC naturalist team will be out observing all of the plants and animals on the EWBC grounds. Help us keep track of our progress with the iNaturalist app. Learn how to use the app more effectively to keep track of the critters and plants in your back yard and places you visit. Join in on the fun and count with us. No experience is needed.

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free

Visit us
online at: WWW.EDINBURGWBC.ORG

Nature Picnic with Mom



This Mother's Day weekend, take the celebration outdoors with a family picnic. Pack up her favorite goodies and show her how much you care. We'll start with a stroll through the gardens, and cap off with family (or mommy) time at the picnic pergola. Free entry for all moms. **RR**

Date: Saturday, May 9

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members & moms free

Kids to Parks Day

Join a national day of outdoor play celebrated by parks, cities, and towns nationwide! Celebrate the day by bringing your kids to the EWBC for a day of outdoor fun. Both guided and self-led activities will be available throughout the day. Entry is free for children all day.



Date: Saturday, May 16

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members & children free

Wetland Walk



Come join us on a family-friendly walk around the wetlands and observe the diversity of flora and fauna in the gardens. This is a guided hike in search of critters large and small throughout the grounds.

Date: Saturday, May 23

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Fee: Regular admission, members free

RR: Reservations Required

Please make reservations at least two days in advance, unless otherwise noted, by calling us at (956) 381-9922. Member price is for EWBC family members only.

Beginner Fishing Workshop



Beginning anglers ages 6 and up will enjoy this fun, hands-on training course. Learn basic fishing skills like fishing knots, baits and lures, fish ID, and fishing regulations. Practice casting with a rod-and-reel combo. Upon completion of the course, students will receive a Basic Angler Certification and fish recognition pin. Registration is required at least one week prior to course.

Dates: Saturday, June 6

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fee: Free

Rocks Rock!



Rocks come in many different colors, shapes, and sizes. Visit us to inspect different types of rocks under a microscope, and then have fun painting your own pet rocks or story stones to take home with you. Activities available 10 am - 12 pm

Dates: Saturday, June 20

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fee: \$2 members, \$4 non-members

Girl Scout Trail Adventures



Girl Scouts, join us on a trail adventure at the EWBC. Learn how to plan and prepare for an adventure, including ways to reduce your impact when you're outdoors. So get ready to have fun in nature and challenge yourself learning new skills. Fun Patch is included. Girl Scouts must be accompanied by a troop leader or other guardian. Registration and payment is due by August 5.

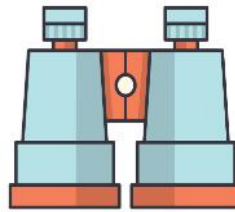
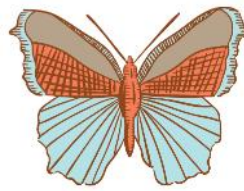
Dates: Saturday, Aug. 8

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fee: \$6 per girl scout

A new source for outdoor happenings in the RGV

www.NatureRocksRGV.org



Junior Ranger Field Packs

If you love exploring nature, then this field pack is for you! Go on a wild adventure and discover amazing wildlife around every corner. Packs include ID guides, magnifying lenses, activity sheets, collection trays and more.

Rentals are free of charge with a valid ID. Limited to one field pack rental per family.

Toddler Play Sets

- Gardening
- Music Makers
- Fairies & Gnomes
- Digging & Trucks
- Kitchen & Cooking
- Explorers & Dinosaurs



Rentals can be checked out in our Gift Shop.

Have a **PLAY-DATE** at our Children's Garden while exploring your surroundings through imaginative play. Ten play sets available, along with a chair, wagon & backpack. Rentals are FREE with a valid ID. Limited to one play set per family.



EWBC Spring/Summer HOURS

OFFICE: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)

GROUND: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Mon.)

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Tue.-Sat.)

CLOSED SUNDAYS

****South Pond Open Sunrise to Sunset****



Nature camps

POLLIWOGS

Nurture and inspire your child's love and fascination of nature!



AGES: 4 - 6
DATES: JUNE 9 - 12
TIME: 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
FEE: \$28 MEMBERS, \$32 NON-MEMBERS

eco-explorers

Explore the days away and discover the wonderful outdoor world!



AGES: 6 - 9
DATES: JUNE 16 - 19
TIME: 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
FEE: \$28 MEMBERS, \$32 NON-MEMBERS

aquanauts

Get wet & wild as you learn about wetland critters and coastal ecology.



AGES: 9 - 12
DATES: JUNE 23 - 26
TIME: 8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
FEE: \$70 MEMBERS, \$78 NON-MEMBERS
***CAMP INCLUDES A TRIP TO SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

TOTS NATURE CAMP

Parents, introduce your tot to the great outdoors and explore nature together!



AGES: 18 MO - 3 YR
DATES: JUNE 30 - JULY 2
TIME: 9:30 - 11 A.M.
FEE: \$10 MEMBERS, \$14 NON-MEMBERS

Nature PHOTO CAMP

Join professional photographer Ruth Hoyt in this fun photo camp for kids!



AGES: 9 - 13
DATES: JULY 6 - 10
TIME: 8:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.
FEE: \$150 (CAMERAS PROVIDED DURING CAMP)

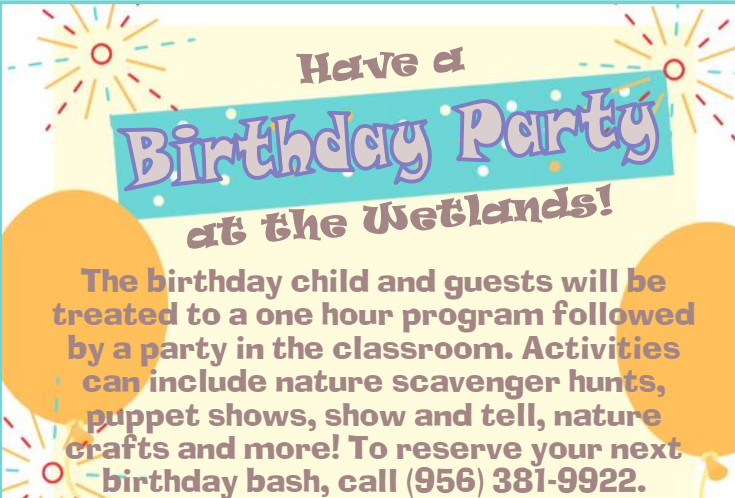
Participants will learn about animals, plants, and the outdoor world through hands-on activities, explorations, arts & crafts and more!

For all camps, registration deadline is one week prior to camp start date. Full payment is due two days prior to camp start date. Space is limited, so register your child today! Please call us at (956) 381-9922 for more information or to register.



LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP?

The EWBC offers internships for college students and career explorers. If you are interested in gaining real-world experience in marketing, public outreach, wildlife/habitat conservation or environmental education, contact Becky Reyes at (956) 381-9922 or breyes@cityofedinburg.com



Have a Birthday Party at the Wetlands!

The birthday child and guests will be treated to a one hour program followed by a party in the classroom. Activities can include nature scavenger hunts, puppet shows, show and tell, nature crafts and more! To reserve your next birthday bash, call (956) 381-9922.



SCOUTS

Let us help you earn your badges!

From conservation to outdoor survival skills, we are flexible in our ability to customize a variety of programs to meet your needs. Call us to schedule your individualized program.

Looking to earn the rank of **Eagle Scout**? We have many opportunities to complete your service project at the EWBC! Call us for details.

Visit the city's website at:

WWW.CITYOFEDINBURG.COM

The Feathered Nest

Looking for a unique gift for that special someone?

Visit *The Feathered Nest*, the EWBC's gift shop.

From educational items for adults and children to nature-inspired toys and games, you're sure to find something to meet your needs.

The Feathered Nest is open

Mon - Sat, 8 am - 4:30 pm



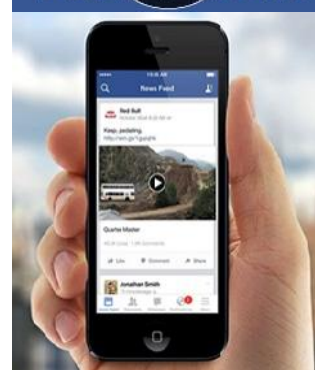

Facility Rental

Host your next business meeting, party, or wedding ceremony at the Edinburg World Birding Center. We have a variety of options available both indoors and out.

For more information, visit us at www.EdinburgWBC.org or call (956) 381-9922.

Catch up with us on Facebook every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, March - May, at 2 pm. EWBC staff will be presenting information on upcoming programs and other interesting happenings in the nature world. Videos will be live, so have your nature questions ready!

facebook



Like Us On
Facebook



EWBC Family Membership

Become a member of the Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center. Receive great benefits as you support our educational programs and habitat conservation efforts.

Benefits Include:

- 2019-2020 Orchard Oriole Patch
- Free entrance for up to 8 family members
- 10% to 20% discount on most merchandise
- Discounts on programs
- Biannual newsletter mailed to you
- Free binocular use while on grounds

The Family Membership is \$25 and runs from June 2019 through July 2020.

PHOTOGRAPHY PASS

For portrait photographers,
\$150 yearly pass includes:

- 12 month access (from purchase date)
- Free entry for photographer and up to 15 clients per photo session
- No limit on number of photo shoots per year
- Opportunity of reserving site for an after-hours photo shoot (Tues-Sat), up to two hours after closing, at \$50 an hour

Reservations for all portrait photography sessions (including pass holders and non-pass holders) must be made at least one day in advance. Please call (956) 381-9922 for more information or to make a reservation.



FIELD TRIPS

Providing education and fun for
Pre-K - 12th grades.



Topics include:

- Whose Habitat
- Soil Sense
- Birding Mania
- Insect Investigations
- Wetland Explorations
- Reptile Mania



And more!



Program length & prices vary.

Please call us in advance at (956) 381-9922
to schedule your school.

HOLIDAY & STAFF CLOSINGS

The EWBC will be closed for the following
staff days and national holidays:



April 10	Good Friday
April 29-30	Staff Development
May 25	Memorial Day
July 3-4	Independence Day

Outreach Opportunities



*Can't make it to us? We will
come to you and deliver a
program to a single class or
your whole school!*

PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Birds/Wildlife of the RGV Nature Careers
Nature Puppet Shows and More!

Minimum fee is \$50 for a one hour program.



Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center

714 Raul Longoria RD

PO BOX 1079

Edinburg, TX 78540

www.EdinburgWBC.org

*Spring/Summer
2020*

*Programs &
Events*

SPRING / SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 7 Toddler Play Dates
- 7 Trek and Sketch
- 14 Kick-off to Spring Break
- 16-20 Spring Break Adventures
- 21 Family Sleep Under
- 28 Youth Nature Photo Workshop
- 28 Spectacular Saturday

APRIL

- 1 Volunteer Day
- 4 Toddler Play Date
- 4 Project Martin Watch Training
- 11 Easter Egg Geocache
- 13 Who Lives in Your Backyard?
- 18 Birds, Bikes, and BBQ
- 21 Parking Lot Birding
- 24 How to Use iNaturalist
- 24-26 City Nature Challenge
- 25 iNaturalist Day
- 25 Spectacular Saturday

MAY

- 9 Toddler Play Date
- 9 Nature Picnic with Mom
- 16 Kids to Parks Day
- 23 Wetland Walk
- 30 Spectacular Saturday

JUNE

- 6 Beginner Fishing
- 9-12 Polliwogs Nature Camp
- 11 Creatures of the Night
- 13 Toddler Play Date
- 16-19 Eco-Explorers Nature Camp
- 20 Rocks Rock
- 23-26 Aquanauts Nature Camp
- 25 Spiders the All-Nighters
- 27 Spectacular Saturday
- 30-2 Tots Nature Camp

JULY

- 6-10 Ruth Hoyt Photography Camp
- 9 Owls
- 11 Toddler Play Date
- 23 Fairy House Building
- 25 Fairy Fest

AUGUST

- 5 Project Aquatic WILD Workshop
- 6 Starry Night
- 8 Girl Scout Trail Adventures
- 29 Spectacular Saturday

Facebook Videos: 1st & 3rd Thu, March - May

Bird Walks: Every Tuesday, March - May 5

Project Martin Watch: Tue & Sat, April-July

Urban Birding: April 2, 9, 16, 23



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT