

Exploring Springfield Township's Natural Heritage:

GUIDED FIELD TOURS



WILDFLOWER HIKE

Springfield Township's system of Parks and Preserves offer excellent opportunities to explore the quintessential lands and waters of northern Oakland County. Join staff from the Natural Resources Program to learn more about our natural heritage and what actions we take to protect and preserve it. Participants are strongly encouraged to wear sturdy hiking footwear, bring extra water, snacks, insect repellent and rain gear (if necessary). Cameras, binoculars, and a sense of adventure are also highly recommended. Contact Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager at 248-846-6508 or mlosey@springfield-twp.us for more information or to register for these events. Registration encouraged but not required.

Hiking the Trails Less Traveled **Saturday May 21st, 9:30am-12:30pm**

Experience a rigorous hike totaling approximately 2 miles of established and unimproved rustic trails through the varied habitats and terrain of the Shiawassee Basin Preserve. This moderate intensity hike will begin at the Davis Lake Overlook and reach a scenic overlook offering one of the best views of Long Lake and the wetland natural area that surrounds it. Meet at the Davis Lake Overlook parking lot (8371 Eaton Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350).

Summer Evening Hike **(Part of Pollinator Week Event, see page 16)** **Tuesday June 21, 6:00-7:30pm**

Join us for a family-friendly guided evening hike of 1.5 miles at the Shiawassee Basin Preserve, beginning at the Township's Civic Center. As part of the pollinator week series of events, we will explore the wildflower plantings and prairie fen that create perfect habitat for numerous pollinating insects. The prairie restoration areas surrounding the Civic Center will be approaching peak bloom and evenings offer the best relief from the heat to enjoy them. Participants will also get an early look at a recently acquired inholding on the north side of the railroad offering a different perspective on Davis Lake and the Shiawassee River. Meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center's lower parking area (12000 Davisburg Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350).

Wildflower Hike **Sunday, August 7, 10am- 12pm**

August is peak wildflower season and participants on this hike will have special access to explore the interior of the preserve on the north side of Long Lake. This moderate intensity hiking route is approximately 1 mile in length and covers the varied glacial topography and wetlands adjacent to Long Lake, so expect to traverse some elevation gains and declines while hiking on potentially uneven terrain in an off-trail area of the preserve. Prepare to get muddy but expect to see some of the most interesting areas of the preserve as a reward! Meet at the Northern Shiawassee Basin Preserve parking lot (8757 Eaton Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350) and we will caravan into the preserve using a service driveway .1 mile south on Eaton Rd.

Autumn Splendor **Saturday, October 1, 10am- 12pm**

As the growing season winds down, participants will explore portions of the Davis Lake Overlook including the prairie fen during a 1-mile hike along family friendly and low intensity trail network. Expect to see showy late blooming wildflowers including fringed gentians and fall asters as well as a host of migrating bird species. Meet at the Davis Lake Overlook parking lot (8371 Eaton Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350).

Self-paced trail tours

Can't make one of the Guided Field Tours? Would you like to learn more about the plants and animals of the Shiawassee Basin Preserve at your own pace? Visit the Davis Lake Overlook between May and October and hike the family friendly and low intensity trail loop to experience nature and review interpretive kiosks and signs along the pathway which contain seasonally appropriate information to complement your visit.