

# Exploring Springfield Township's Natural Heritage:

## GUIDED TOURS IN 2024



Springfield Township boasts numerous Parks and Preserves that offer excellent opportunities to explore the quintessential lands and waters of northern Oakland County. Join staff from the Natural Resources Program and other Subject Experts to learn more about our natural heritage and what actions we can take to protect and preserve it. Participants for field events are strongly encouraged to bring sturdy hiking footwear, extra water, snacks, insect repellent and rain gear (if necessary). Cameras, binoculars, and a sense of adventure are also highly recommended. (Registration encouraged but not required.)

Contact Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager at 248-846-6508 or [mlosey@springfield-twp.us](mailto:mlosey@springfield-twp.us) for more information or to register for these events.

### Indoor Events:

#### Protect Your Oak Trees: Oak Wilt, an Invasive Fungus

Wednesday, March 27 | 6:30pm at Springfield Township Civic Center, Large Meeting Room Across from the Library (12000 Davisburg Rd. Davisburg, MI 48350)

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that can be fatal to many species of oak trees. Numerous infestations have been reported in Springfield Township and this tree disease can devastate the oak resources in our shared woodlands and neighborhoods. Property owners are encouraged to attend this presentation and learn more about this disease and current management approaches from our presenter Julie Stachecki, an ISA Certified Arborist and Oak Wilt Qualified Specialist.

#### 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 moderate trail intensity trail loop to experience nature and review interpretive kiosks and signs along the pathway which contain seasonally appropriate information to complement your visit.

### Springfield Township Supervisor's Department

## Prescribed Burn Notice

Dear Resident:

Springfield Township and its private land partners will be conducting prescribed burns this year at several locations within the Township. These prescribed burns are being implemented by trained and experienced personnel to assist with the restoration of wildlife habitat and decrease the presence of invasive plant species.

Safety is the #1 priority when implementing these burns. Visitors hiking the park trails or hunting in the preserve on burn days may encounter temporary closures of trails that lead into burn locations, as well as a total closure of the actual burn unit until completion. Maps of burn units within Township parks will be posted at kiosks or trailheads. Where appropriate, signage will be set up along area roads.

To learn more about prescribed burning in the Township, including burn locations or to subscribe to receive burn alerts via email or text message please scan our QR code above. After registering your email address and/or phone number, scroll down to the Springfield Township section and select "Burn Alerts". Alternatively, feel free to direct any other inquiries to Mike Losey, Natural Resources Manager: [mlosey@springfield-twp.us](mailto:mlosey@springfield-twp.us) or (248)846-6508. Thank you!



### Outdoor Events:

#### Spring Wildflowers and Forested Wetlands

Saturday, May 11 | 10am – 12pm

Our field tour season will kick off at Michigan Nature Association's Timberland Swamp Nature Sanctuary. Join us for an adventurous hike focusing on the spring ephemeral wildflowers that bloom in the hardwood swamp forests at the headwaters of the Huron River. The 2-mile trail loop at this nature sanctuary is rustic and likely to be wet so waterproof boots are recommended. Meet at the Timberland Swamp Nature Sanctuary entrance located at 5950 and 5960 Ware Rd, Springfield Township, MI 48350.

#### Springfield Township's Special Wildlife and Habitats

Wednesday, July 10 | 6:30 – 8pm

The Shiawassee Basin Preserve helps protect habitat for numerous species of plants and animals. Tour participants will learn about the life history and habitat requirements of some of our rarest animals including the federally endangered Poweshiek skipperling butterfly while hiking through the Hartman Meadows property and out to a scenic location overlooking Long Lake. Meet at the Township Civic Center's lower-level parking area, 12000 Davisburg Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350.

#### Exploring the Wild Side of the Shiawassee Basin Preserve

Saturday, August 3 | 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 at the Davis Lake Overlook

Saturday, October 5 | 10am – 11:30am

As the seasons change, the Davis Lake Overlook is an excellent place to view fall colors and the last of the wildflower hike along family friendly and moderate 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).