

Contact Celeste Lewis at 507-775-2451 for program details.

Chester Woods Park

Thursday April 12 - Woodcock Watch at 7:30 p.m.

Join Jim Peterson, member of the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society, on this crisp spring evening as we search for the elusive woodcock and take a closer look at their spring dance during their migration back to Minnesota. Meet at the horse trailer parking lot.

Saturday April 14 - Chester Woods Spring Clean-up Day at 10:30 a.m.

The Friends of Chester Woods invite you to join them in their annual spring clean-up. Take the opportunity to help ready the park for summer and meet some new friends. Friends of Chester Woods will conduct their business meeting from 10:30 - 12:00 at the park office, followed by a wonderful potluck lunch. Clean-up will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday May 22 - Bird Safari at 6:00 p.m. Reservations Required!

Join naturalist Joel Dunnette for a ride on the parks new prairie cruiser. The wagon will take you on a tour through some of Chester's trails while Joel helps you spot and identify some of the resident feathered friends in the park. Meet at Picnic shelter #1. Space is limited so please call 287-2624 to save your seat!

Sunday May 27 - Dam Hike at 11:00 a.m.

Join Chester Woods park staff and volunteers for the best dam hike you will ever take. Learn the history and the facts behind Chester Lake's famous dam. We will be stopping at the scenic dam overlook to enjoy a picnic; park will provide hot dogs, chips and Kool-Aid. It is a two mile round trip hike. Please register with park staff at 287-2624. There is no fee for this event, however donations are greatly appreciated. Meet at the kiosk near the boat ramp.

Oxbow Park

Saturday April 7 - Bison Feeding at 1:00 p.m.

Join park staff for a short hike to our bison paddock. Here you will have the opportunity to view these majestic critters up close as well as learn a little of their natural history.

Saturday April 14 - Raptor Feeding at 3:00 p.m.

Meet staff in front of the raptor exhibit and witness the sometimes ravenous tendencies of these beautiful creatures.

Saturday April 21 - Children's Zoo Time at 10:00 a.m.

Gather in the Nature Center as park staff gives children the opportunity to see a few critters up close, and possibly the chance to touch one!

Saturday April 28 - Feed the Bear at 10:00 a.m.

Our resident black bear is awake and hungry! Gather in front of her exhibit as staff shares a few facts with you about these critters and then witness her sometimes quirky behaviors when fed.

Saturday May 5 - Wildflower Hike from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Join volunteer naturalist John McCormick in the nature center classroom for a short lecture on spring ephemerals, and then it is off through the trails of Oxbow to view some of these gorgeous wildflowers.

Saturday May 12 - Otter Feeding at 1:00 p.m.

The fun begins in front of the otter exhibit where staff will greet you and fill you in on a few interesting facts about these energetic mammals. Then the excitement begins as you watch these critters fight for their dinner!

Saturday May 19 - Spring fest 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(See box below)

Saturday May 26 - Tree I.D. from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Volunteer naturalist John McCormick returns for an informative session on some of Minnesota's native trees. The program begins in the classroom of the nature center and then heads outside for a hike through the Oxbow trails.

****Special Programs****

Root River Park

Saturday May 12 - Prairie Cruiser Rides - 1:00 p.m.

Join Olmsted County Park Staff at your newest county park. Staff and volunteers will be offering wagon rides along the trail allowing visitors the opportunity to become familiarized with this beautiful piece of land. The wagon is ADA accessible. Rides conclude at 3:00 p.m. Meet in the parking lot.

Oxbow Park

Saturday May 19 - Friends of Oxbow's Annual Spring Fest from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bring the entire family out to Oxbow Park's Zollman Zoo for a day of food, fun, and games. This is the Friends of Oxbow's biggest event and you don't want to miss it. There is something for everyone including: animal feedings, kids games and activities, as well as a silent auction.

