



Park Programs 2017

June-July

Chester Woods Park

8378 Highway 14 E Eyota, MN 55934
(507)-287-2624 or email - chesterwoods@co.olmsted.mn.us

Saturday, June 3 at 8:30 p.m. – Night Hike

Meet at the Kisrow classroom located in the campground for a staff led hike through the park after sunset. This is a great way to discover which critters go to sleep and which come “alive” when the sun goes down!

Saturday, June 10 at 1:00 p.m. – Fishing Basics

Meet park staff by the boat ramp kiosk to learn a few basic tips on fishing for the beginner. This is a great program for children who have limited fishing experience. Thanks to the State of Minnesota, June 9-11 is “Take A Kid Fishing Weekend” in Minnesota, adults fishing with children under 15 do not need a fishing license during this weekend.

Saturday, June 10 at 8:45 p.m. – Moonlight Paddle/Hike

Meet at the boat ramp kiosk with your canoe or kayak for an evening paddle on Chester Lake guided by the light of the moon. For those that do not have their own watercraft, do not worry, you can also meet there to enjoy a guided hike to the dam.

Saturday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m. – Build a Bug Box

Call 287-2624 to reserve a spot for this fun activity. Kids love to catch little bugs outside, now they can build their own little box to capture them for observation. There are a limited number of kits so reserve a spot soon! (Ages 4-8 with adult)

Monday, June 19 at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 p.m. – Rochesterfest Wagon Rides

Enjoy an early summer wagon ride through the prairies and out to the Dam Overlook of Chester Woods Park. **Space is limited so call 287-2624 to reserve a spot on the wagon!**

Saturday, July 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Reptiles

Meet in the Kisrow Classroom as Chester Woods staff present a couple reptiles. This is a great program for learning interesting reptile facts as well as the opportunity to touch a couple, if you desire.

Saturday, July 8 at 1:00 p.m. – Nature Sun catchers

This is a fun summer craft for the kids. We will hike around the park briefly collecting items to place on our sun catchers and then meet back at a picnic shelter to put them all together. Shelter meeting location will be posted at the gatehouse on day of event. (Ages 4-8)

Saturday, July 8 at 1:00 p.m. – Moonlight Paddle/Hike 8:45 p.m.

(See above description)

Saturday, July 15 at 8:45 p.m. – Fireflies

Meet at the Kisrow classroom to learn about these amazing nighttime insects. We will share a story and then proceed to the prairie to attempt to catch a few of these bugs!

Saturday, July 29 at 7:00 p.m. – Reptiles

(See Above Description)

Root River Park

4012 80th ST SE, Rochester, MN 55904

Saturday, June 24 at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. – Rochesterfest Wagon Rides

If you have not yet seen Olmsted County’s newest park, this is your opportunity, or if you have and you know just how beautiful this park is, call 507-287-2624 to reserve your spot on the ADA wagon! Meet at the Root River Park parking lot.



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June - July

Oxbow Park

5731 County Road 105 NW, Byron, MN 55920
(507)-775-2541 or email - oxbow@co.olmsted.mn.us

Saturday, June 3rd at 7:00 p.m. – Fireflys

Meet at the campground restroom building to learn about the interesting insect that produces its own light. Wait until dark and watch the fireflys light up the night.

Saturday, June 10th at 10:00 a.m. – Wildcats

Cougars, bobcats, and lynx, OH MY! These aren't your tame little house cats! We'll talk about hunting, physical adaptations, and many other characteristics of these amazing predators.

Saturday, June 17th – Rochesterfest

10:00 a.m. – Feed the Bear – Watch as staff hide a variety of fruits, vegetables and other foods black bears eat.

1:00 p.m. – Feed the Otters – See our naturally curious river otters as they eat, swim and play.

3:00 p.m. – Feed the Raptors – Observe these amazingly strong birds as they tear into their food.

Saturday, June 24th at 1:00 p.m. – Feed the Bison

Bring the entire family out for a closer look at the majestic Plains Bison. You'll learn interesting facts about these marvelous creatures and get a close-up look as we feed them. A short hike is involved and accommodations can be made for folks needing to drive to the bison pen.

Saturday, July 1st at 1:00 p.m. – Ice Cream Making

Get ready for the heat of summer as we teach you how to make your own ice cream and eat it too!

Saturday, July 8th at 6:00 p.m. – Campfire Cooking

Learn how to build the appropriate type of fire to cook an entire meal. A naturalist will show ingredients, meal preparation, cooking technique, and taste testing a campfire meal.

Saturday, July 15th at 11:00 a.m. – Butterfly Hike

Explore the beautiful butterflies of Minnesota. Learn the life cycle of butterflies and their diets. Learn different ways butterflies survive Minnesota's cold winters. Bug nets will be provided or bring your own.

Saturday, July 22nd at 11:00 a.m. – Exhibit Construction Update

The Zollman Zoo is building a new exhibit for the badger and prairie dogs. Listen to Olmsted County Park's Construction Foreman explain the status of construction and upcoming features to best see these animals once the project is complete.

Saturday, July 29th at 1:00 p.m. – Popsicle Enrichment

July is typically one of the hottest months of the summer, and as humans we enjoy popsicles to cool down. The zoo animals enjoy cool treats as well! Park staff will provide some of the animals with their own unique kinds of "popsicles." Come see what hidden surprises are frozen into their popsicles.