

Parks & Preserves



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V Taste of Mansfield: Ways to Enjoy Fresh Food and Support Local Farms in Mansfield

Registration Deadline Aug. 31



Mansfield residents are very fortunate to have a year-round farmers market, farm stand, and several farms in the area that offer CSA memberships. Join Jiff Martin to talk about the many options to buy local nearby, what's a CSA, and some of the events in our community where we come together to celebrate local food and farms. This seminar is sponsored by Taste of Mansfield.

- Instructor:** Jiff Martin, UConn Extension Educator in Sustainable Food Systems
- Location:** Virtual Program –Registrants will be sent access information prior to event
- Date:** Wed., Sept. 2
- Time:** 7-8 p.m.
- Fee:** FREE (Registration by 8/31 is mandatory)
- Activity #:** 211001-A

The Bats of the Moss Sanctuary

Registration Deadline Sept. 21

Bring your headlamps and insect repellent and survey bats around Moss Sanctuary's Tift Pond. Using portable acoustic monitoring devices, we will learn about bat echolocation calls, which can tell us what species are present, their activity patterns within a particular habitat, and characteristics of their foraging behavior. Dress for the weather. Participants over 2 years of age are required to wear a mask. Heavy rain cancels.

- Instructor:** Laura Cisneros, Ecologist
- Location:** Moss Sanctuary
Park in the Mansfield Community Center Parking lot and Meet in front of the Mansfield Community Center, 10 South Eagleville Road.
- Date:** Fri., Sept. 25
- Time:** 7-8:30 p.m.
- Fee:** FREE
(Limited to 15 participants. Registration by 9/21 is mandatory)
- Activity #:** 211002-A



Keeping you safe while you are on the trail...

Mansfield's parks, preserves, and trails have been getting a lot of use during the COVID-19 public health crisis. With over 55-miles of trails in Mansfield, there are plenty of places to enjoy and maintain a safe, physical distance. Please follow the guidelines below before heading out! Before you head out, download a trail guide at www.Mansfieldct.gov/trailguides.

nrpa.org/coronavirus

COVID-19: PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN PUBLIC PARKS AND TRAILS

Do not use parks or trails if you are exhibiting symptoms.

Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.

Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass.

Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails.

Observe CDC's minimum recommended physical distancing of 6' from other persons at all times.

Plein Air Painting in the Parks

Looking for additional opportunities to paint with your peers, and get outdoors? It's season 2 of Plein Air Painting in the Parks! How have the views changed? View the location schedule below; meeting time is 10 a.m. on Thursdays this fall. Bring your own supplies, easels, chairs/stools, and paint (or draw, or sketch, whatever your fancy!). No instruction or supervision provided. Inclement weather cancels. All skill levels welcome.

Sept. 10 – Merrow Meadow Park

Sept. 24 – Bicentennial Pond

Oct. 8 – Mt. Hope Park

Oct. 22 – Eagleville Dam



GET INVOLVED

with your parks and preserves

Do like to build things? Like to be outside? Parks and Recreation is looking for people of all ages who are independent workers interested in building bridges, wildlife observation decks and more in town-owned parks and preserves. Town staff will work with you on a design, getting the necessary permitting. We also have a small fund available for supplies directly related to the project. If you have a project in mind or would like a suggestion, please contact Jennifer Kaufman, at KaufmanJS@MansfieldCT.org or 860-429-3015 Ext. 6204.

WALKTOBER

Celebrate Walktober! Enjoy the many free, guided walks and experience the natural, historical and cultural treasures of The Last Green Valley. The complete walk schedule, with directions and descriptions, is available at the Mansfield Community Center and is posted on www.thelastgreenvalley.org. This year, to slow the spread of COVID-19, preregistration is required for walks co-sponsored by Mansfield Parks and Recreation. All participants over 2 years of age will be required to wear a mask.

Over in the (Merrow) Meadow

Registration Deadline Sept. 29

Join us for some family fun at Merrow Meadow along the Willimantic River! In a scavenger hunt, objects will be "hidden" in plain sight along the trail and our young sleuths will have to find them as they hike this fully accessible trail. Learn a little about camouflage along the way. There will be prizes. Most of the path is paved and flat, easily accessible by wheelchair or stroller. All ages welcome. Participants over 2 years of age are required to wear a mask. Heavy rain cancels.

Walk Leaders: Naturalists *Sue and Tom Harrington*

Location: Merrow Meadow Park

From the intersection of Route 195 and Route 32, head south on Route 32 for .83 miles. Turn right onto Merrow Road and travel for 0.1 miles. Parking area entrance is on the left.

Date: Sat., Oct. 3

Time: 10-11 a.m.

Fee: FREE (Limited to 20 participants. Registration by 9/29 is mandatory)

Activity #: 211003-A

50 Foot with a View

Registration Deadline Oct. 6

What better place to go on a beautiful fall day than a place with a great view, led by naturalists that can answer questions about what we see! We will take a casual walk through the forest, looking at whatever interests us

along the way and be rewarded with an opening at the top of a cliff where we can see most of southern Storrs and beyond. Participants over 2 years of age are required to wear a mask. Heavy rain cancels.

Walk Leaders: Naturalists *Sue and Tom Harrington*

Location: Fifty-foot Cliff Preserve

From Storrs Center, head south on Rt. 195. About a mile south of campus, look for the Mansfield Historical Society building on the left (across from the Spring Hill Inn). The parking lot for the trail is behind the building.

Date: Sun., Oct. 11

Time: 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Fee: FREE (Limited to 15 participants. Registration by 10/6 is mandatory)

Activity #: 211004-A

GUIDED HIKE at Simpson-Wood Preserve

Registration Deadline Oct. 13

Celebrate Walktober with a guided hike at Simpson-Wood Preserve, Mansfield's newest preserve! We will begin with a ribbon cutting to celebrate the official opening. A short, steep climb (on a good wide trail) brings us up to the quiet ridge top flats that feel much more remote than they really are. We will see ledges and interesting rock features as well as a diversity of pine and hardwood forests. With luck, we will hear the raven call. Participants over 2 years of age are required to wear a mask. Heavy rain cancels.

Instructor: *Charlotte Pyle and Jim Morrow*

Location: Simpson-Wood Preserve

Meet at Mt Hope Park, Rte 89 (From the intersection of Rte., 195 and Rte 89, head north on Rte 89 for 3.4 miles, parking is on right).

Date: Sun., October 18

Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Fee: FREE (Limited to 15 participants. Registration by 10/13 is mandatory)

Activity #: 211005-A