

# 2025 Ottawa County Outdoor Hiking CHALLENGE

September 2 - November 30, 2025



## The Challenge



Complete 9 out of 12 Ottawa County hiking destinations to earn a cozy Roll-Up Camping Blanket perfect for those cold days to come (and those spring and summer picnics to look forward to!).

## The Details



Record your hikes on the log sheet (reverse side). Completed log sheets must be received by December 1, 2025, to earn your Roll-Up Camping Blanket. One entry per person. Roll-Up Camping Blankets will be distributed December 9-11, 2025, from 9am-Noon and 1-4pm at the Park District of Ottawa County Office located at 770 S.E. Catawba Rd., Port Clinton, 43452, inside the Shores & Islands Ohio Welcome Center. Submit your log sheet by:

- texting a photo to (419) 635-8212 OR
- emailing a photo to [shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org](mailto:shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org) OR
- returning completed log sheet to the Park District of Ottawa County Office located at 770 S.E. Catawba Rd., Port Clinton 43452. Office hours Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1-4pm

## The Destinations (Self-Guided):

1. Duff Homestead and Bayfront Preserve, Duff Vineyard Preserve - Put-in-Bay Township Park District
2. Meadowbrook Marsh - Danbury Township
3. Great Egret Marsh Nature Preserve - The Nature Conservancy
4. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Grimm Prairie - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5. Allen Township Park - Allen Township
6. North Coast Inland Trail - Park District, Elmore, Genoa
7. Veterans Memorial Park - Village of Oak Harbor
8. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Marinewood Unit - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9. Magee Marsh Walking Trail - Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife
10. Dr. Robert L. Nehls Memorial Nature Preserve - Black Swamp Conservancy
11. Waterworks Park - City of Port Clinton
12. Marblehead Lighthouse State Park - Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Please check rules and regulations at each destination regarding opening/closing times, pets, and trail adherence. Find detailed destination information on our website - [www.ottawacountyparksoh.org](http://www.ottawacountyparksoh.org)  
Take the Challenge up a notch and join Guided Walks throughout the fall season! Each Guided Walk can be logged on hike sheet (see schedule on reverse side).

### Partnering Agencies



## Questions?

Contact Administrative Specialist Sara Hill at [shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org](mailto:shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org) and (419) 635-8212. Visit [ottawacountyparksoh.org](http://ottawacountyparksoh.org) for additional Hiking Log Sheets. Follow the Park District of Ottawa County on Facebook for Challenge updates & news. [#outdoorhikingchallenge](https://www.facebook.com/ottawacountyparksoh)

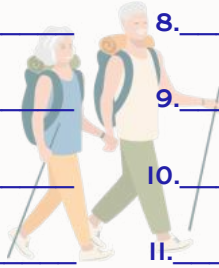
See reverse side for Hiking Log Sheet and Guided Walk Schedule!



# HIKING LOG SHEET

## NAME OF LOCATION AND DATE

1. _____	7. _____
2. _____	8. _____
3. _____	9. _____
4. _____	10. _____
5. _____	11. _____
6. _____	12. _____



**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



Would you like to receive Park District E-Newsletters? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in volunteering? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



## GUIDED WALKS



*All are welcome to attend. Guided Walks can be recorded on your Hiking Log Sheet! Registration required only where indicated.*

**Saturday, September 13**  
2 - 3 p.m.

**Marinewood Unit, 4640 W Harbor Rd (SR 163), Port Clinton 43452**

Join Park Ranger Basia Gawin from the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for a 1-mile, family-friendly guided hike to learn about monarch butterflies and their migration, and maybe even see one up close!

**Saturday, October 4**  
10 - 11 a.m.

**Duff Homestead and Vineyard, 630 Bayview Ave, Put-in-Bay 43456, Meet in the parking lot.**

Join Lisa Brohl of the Put-in-Bay Township Park District for a fragrant walk among grape vines and fruit trees, discussing the fascinating history, and future plans, of this bayfront preserve. Walk the adjoining birding trail to search for migrant songbirds.

**Monday, October 6**  
6:45 - 8 p.m.

**Dr. Robert L. Nehls Memorial Nature Preserve, 4400 Muggy Rd, Port Clinton 43452**

Join Black Swamp Conservancy for a unique opportunity to explore Nehls' natural beauty under the glow of the October full moon. This guided hike will allow you to experience the nighttime sights and sounds of the trails and of West Harbor in a completely new light and connect with nature in a rare and amazing way!

**⚠ Registration required by contacting Laura Rodriguez at lrodriguezeblackswamp.org or (419) 833-1025. Limited to 15 participants.**

**Sunday, October 12**  
2 - 3 p.m.

**Meadowbrook Marsh, 8577 E Bayshore Rd, Marblehead 43440**

Join Danbury Township Trustee Dianne Rozak for a low-impact 1-mile walk on paved trails throughout Meadowbrook Marsh. Meadowbrook is a State designated birding site and exhibits its own special beauty during every season of the year. Overflow parking is available on the grass at the main entrance. The walk will begin at the bottom of the main drive by the yellow information sign. Binoculars are recommended.

**Thursday, October 30**  
10 - 11 a.m.

**Spooky Stories Walk, Depot Park, on the North Coast Inland Trail, 353 Ottawa St, Elmore 43416**

Join a guided walk along the North Coast Inland Trail and enjoy spooky train stories and other local lore with staff of the Park District of Ottawa County.

**Thursday, November 13**  
10 - 11 a.m.

**Veterans Memorial Park, 600 Washington St, Genoa 43430**

Explore all the North Coast Inland Trail has to offer through a guided walk in Veterans Memorial Park and the newly completed portions of the North Coast Inland Trail.

## Interesting Facts about Ottawa County

- It is the largest county in Ohio due to its borders extending out into Lake Erie.
- The western end of Ottawa County was the last area to be settled due to the almost uninhabitable Great Black Swamp.
- Ottawa County was settled by various immigration groups, including the French, Danish, and German.

Source: The Ottawa County Ohio Genealogical Society