



2026 Outdoor Hiking Challenge

September 8 - November 30, 2026



The Challenge

The 2026 Outdoor Hiking Challenge pays homage to our American spirit of independence and exploration, and celebrates what gives Ottawa County its grit and glory. Each distinct in their own right, the following 14 Destinations showcase Ottawa County's varied geography and provide the Trailblazer with different ways to explore - by foot, by bike, or by paddle. Explore 9 out of 14 Ottawa County Destinations and earn a pair of logoed Merino Wool Socks - the perfect companion for trekking this great land.

The Details

Partnering Agencies

Record your adventures on the log sheet (reverse side). Completed log sheets must be received by December 1, 2026, to earn your Merino Wool Socks. One entry per person. Socks will be distributed December 8-10, 2026, from 9am-2pm 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 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

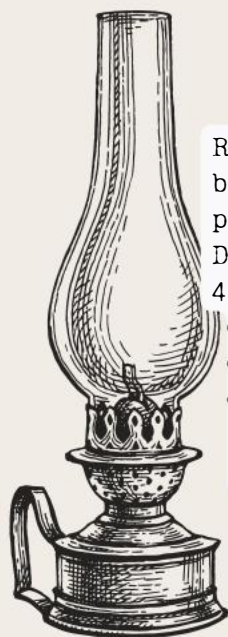
The Destinations (Self-Guided):

1. Islander Woods and Trailhead - Park District of Ottawa County
2. John Gallagher Memorial Birding Trail - Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Ottawa NWR
3. Ohio's Most Beautiful Mile (TM) - Lakeside Chautauqua
4. North Coast Inland Trail, Elmore, Genoa - Park District of Ottawa County
5. Portage River Water Trail - Park District of Ottawa County
6. Lakeside Daisy State Nature Preserve - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
7. Marblehead Lighthouse State Park - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
8. Magee Marsh Boardwalk Bird Trail (Closes mid-November) - Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife
9. Dieperink Tract Trail in Middle Bass Island Forested Wetlands Preserve - Put-in-Bay Township Park District
10. Clay Center Village Park - Village of Clay Center
11. Meadowbrook Marsh - Danbury Township
12. East Harbor State Park - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
13. Dr. Robert L. Nehls Memorial Nature Preserve - Black Swamp Conservancy, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
14. Duff Homestead, Vineyard and Bayfront Preserve - Put-in-Bay Township Park District

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

Take the Challenge up a notch and join Guided Adventures throughout the fall season! Each Guided Adventures can be logged on hike sheet (see schedule on reverse side).

See reverse side for Log Sheet and Guided Adventures Schedule!



Look for the icons -



and choose your own adventure!



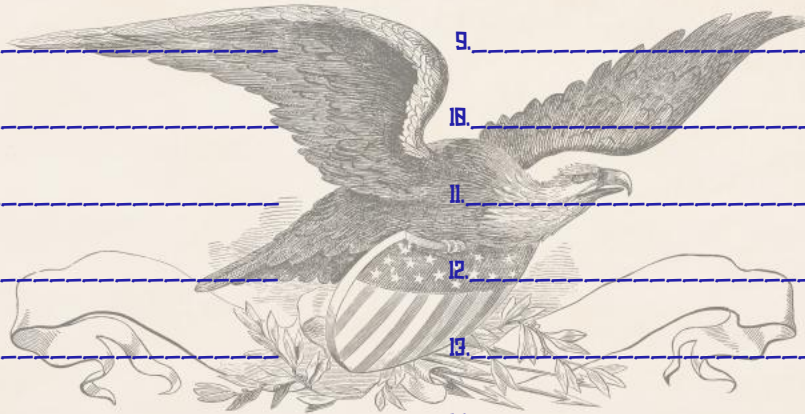


ADVENTURES LOG SHEET



NAME OF LOCATION AND DATE

1. _____	8. _____
2. _____	9. _____
3. _____	10. _____
4. _____	11. _____
5. _____	12. _____
6. _____	13. _____
7. _____	14. _____



John Hancock (Your Signature): _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guided Adventures can
be recorded
on the Log Sheet above.
Free, open to all ages.

Huzzah!



**⚠ Please read each description
carefully to learn more about
each Guided Adventure.**

Perplexed? Contact the
Park District of
Ottawa County at
(419) 707-4051



**Wednesday, September 9, September 23,
October 14, October 28, 10-11am
Tuesday, September 15, 9-10:30am (also part
of Creating Healthy Communities 2026
Recreation Mix fall program series)
Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, 13229 W. State
Route 2, Oak Harbor, 43449**

Join the Division of Wildlife for a short hike in search of birds on their fall migration. We will be on the lookout for migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl on their way south. Fall migration adds a different challenge compared to the spring, though the number and diversity of birds can still be incredible! Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair. Suitable for all experience levels. Meet in the parking lot in front of the west entrance to the Magee Marsh Boardwalk. GPS Coordinates: 41.62994, -83.19338

**Friday, September 11, Guided Portage River
Paddle, 9am-12pm or 1-4pm, 7870 W State
Route 163 Oak Harbor, 43449 (Fairgrounds
Kayak Launch)**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED, PADDLING
EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Link for more information and registration -
<https://tinyurl.com/2u6uktk5>

**Saturday, September 26, 10:45am
Dieperink Tract Trail, Middle Bass Island.
Ferry travel required.**

Join us for a guided walk through the woods at the NEW Dieperink Tract Trail in Middle Bass Island Forested Wetland Preserve. The half-mile trail leads through a regenerating wet forest of Silver Maple, American Elm and young Green Ash, to higher drier forest of Black Walnut and Common Hackberry. Spot migrant songbirds enjoying fruits and insects as they stop for rest and refueling. Take the 9:15am Miller Ferry from Catawba. Middle Bass Island golf cart rental available at J.F. Walleyes; bicycle rental available at Middle Bass Island State Park. *From the Middle Bass Ferry Dock, head north on Fox Rd. There is a small parking lot for golf carts and a bicycle rack at the trailhead-between Mueller Rd. and Deist Rd. on the right side of Fox Rd. just before the Middle Bass Island Airport. Questions, call or text 419-366-2087.*

**Saturday, September 26, 2-3pm, Wolcott
Family Cemetery Walk, Meet at 9999 E.
Bayshore Rd. in Danbury Township.**

Join Doug and Linda Huber of the Ottawa County Historical Society for a one-hour cemetery walk. The cemetery is located about ¼ mile from the Wolcott Keeper's House at 9999 E. Bayshore Road in Danbury Township. We'll gather at the house and walk the short distance to the cemetery. Wear comfortable shoes.

**Thursday, October 29, 4-5pm, Fall Foliage
Walk, Islander Woods and Trailhead, 3655
NW Catawba Rd., Port Clinton, 43452**

Observe the vibrant fall colors at the Park District of Ottawa County's newest public park. Executive Director Jannah Wilson will lead a short walk discussing the seasonal changes at this serene, 7.6-acre park.

**Wednesday, November 25, 10-11am, Veterans
Park, 600 Washington St., Genoa, 43430**

Choose your own adventure at Veterans Park! Upon arrival, select from three choices - pickleball, disc golf, or a guided quarry trail walk with Park District staff. All equipment provided.

