

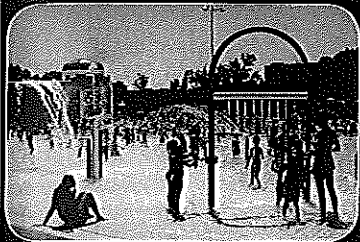
Parks & Recreation

St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA

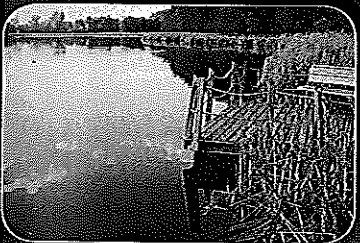
Experience LIFE in the Park.

APRIL-AUGUST 2008

INSIDE...



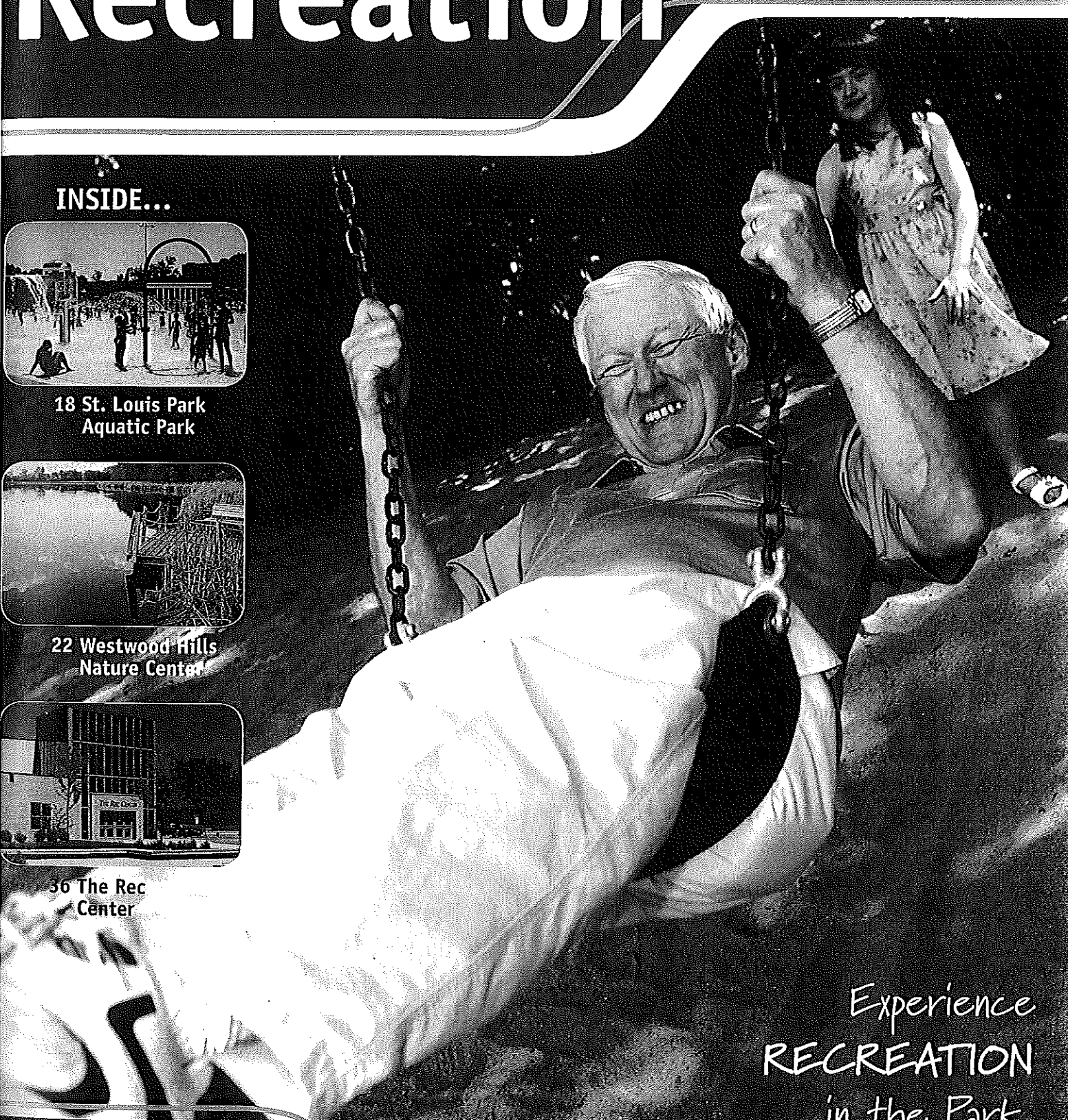
18 St. Louis Park
Aquatic Park



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Nature Center



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Center



*Experience
RECREATION
in the Park.*

Westwood Hills Nature Center is a 150-acre natural area featuring marsh, woods and restored prairie. The preserve is beautiful throughout the seasons and provides homes for many animals including deer, fox, mink and owls. Westwood naturalists conduct year-round programs to increase visitors' understanding and appreciation of our natural world. The nature center is located just south of I-394 and east of Highway 169. Parking and admission are free. Wood-chipped and hard-surface accessible trails are open from dawn to dusk year-round.

About Your Registration

Unless stated otherwise, ALL participants (children age two and older and adults) must register and pay the fee. Online registration is available for all activities unless otherwise noted.

Westwood Birthday Parties

Please refer to the rental section of this brochure (page 34) for information on children's birthday parties.

Gobble Gobble

All ages (children must be accompanied by a paid adult)
Spring is courtship time for most birds. The wild turkey's rituals are quite dramatic and entertaining. Come learn about their displays and calls while hoping our resident flock will make an appearance. We will also hike looking for turkey "signs" and return to the center to construct a twig and turkey feather mobile.

Saturday, April 12, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$4 per person (resident) / \$5 per person (non-resident)
Activity # 3984

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Puppet Show: Jesse's Camping Adventure

All ages (children must be accompanied by a paid adult)
Too early to camp? Jessie the puppet doesn't think so. Enjoy popcorn and watch Jessie's adventure in the spring woods. After the show, seek out your own adventure with a spring woods scavenger hunt.

Sunday, April 13, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$3 per person (resident) / \$4 (non-resident)
Activity # 3985

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Earth Day & Arbor Day Open House

See Special Events on page 2 for more information.

Nature Journaling **NEW**

Teens and Adults

Whether you are an experienced artist or have never drawn before, nature journaling is a fun and relaxing way to connect to nature. Erika Walker, who teaches creative thinking in the graduate school of St. Mary's University, will teach you simple methods of sketching and writing to sharpen your ability to observe and record what you see. Erika has been drawing and writing for many years and enjoys nature journaling because it invites her to slow down and pay attention -- and it's lots of fun!

Awaken your sense of wonder and curiosity as you experience nature in a deeper way and discover things you've never seen before. The journal you create will be a unique record of your memories and discoveries. Journal, pen, and handout materials will be provided.

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. - noon

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$12 resident / \$16 non-resident

Activity # 3986

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Family Fishing

All ages (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Can we catch more fish this year? Join a Westwood naturalist (and fisherman) at Wolfe Lake for our fourth-annual family fishing outing. We will show you how to rig up for sunfish and crappies, what bait to use and even bait your hook. We will provide hooks and bait, and can loan out a limited number of rods and reels. Meet at the fishing dock on Wolfe Lake near The Rec Center. (Minnesota fishing license required for 16 years or older when fishing.)

Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Wolfe Lake, 3700 Monterey Drive
(southwest of The Rec Center)

\$5 per person who fishes (resident) / \$6 (non-resident)

Activity # 3987

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Experience NATURE in the Park.

Mother's Day Open House

See Special Events on page 2 for more information.

Beginning Archery

Ages 7 and up

(children must be accompanied by an adult)

Here's your chance to learn how to shoot a bow and arrow! Instruction will be given on the history of archery, and the proper way to shoot a bow and arrow safely. Bows, arrows and targets will be provided. (There will be a 10-minute hike to get to our archery range and then back to the building again).

Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m. – noon

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$5 per person who shoots (resident) / \$6 (non resident)

Activity # 3988

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Open Range Archery

Ages 7 and up

(children must be accompanied by an adult)

Come and refine your archery technique. Bows, arrows, and targets will be provided as well as an archery safety refresher. Previous registration in a beginning archery class is required.

Sunday, May 4, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$5 per person who shoots (resident) / \$6 (non resident)

Activity # 3989

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Afternoon Family Canoeing

Ages 7 and up

(children must be accompanied by an adult)

Spend a spring afternoon exploring Westwood Lake by canoe. Meet at the nature center building and hike with the naturalist to our canoe launch on the north side of the lake. Instruction in basic canoeing strokes provided for beginners. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided. (1-2 adults with 1-2 children maximum per canoe).

Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$14 per canoe (resident) / \$16 (non-resident)

Activity # 3990

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Beginners' Nature Photography

NEW

(Ages 16 and up)

Do you love to take pictures of nature? Bring your camera (any type will do) and learn basic techniques to capture the essence of nature with professional nature photographer Gordon Dietzman. We'll start with a lecture inside and then take a guided springtime journey through our cameras, framing the active wildlife and colorful scenery of Westwood (weather permitting). Limited space available.

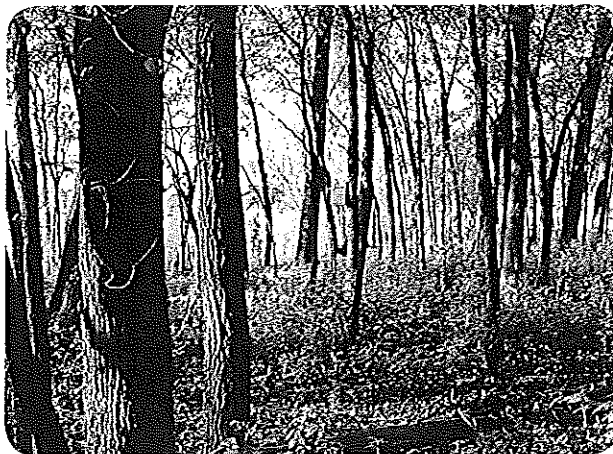
Saturday, May 17, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$14 per person (resident) / \$18 (non resident)

Activity # 3991

Registration deadline: when program is filled



Carolyn Cleland/SLP Friends of the Arts

Monarch Monitoring

Ages 8 and up

(children must be accompanied by a paid adult)

By attending this simple training program, you will be able to join the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project sponsored by the University of Minnesota. Learn basic monarch biology (including their unique life cycle) and how to gather field data. The data aids scientists in international efforts to conserve monarchs and understand their annual migration. After you are trained, you may monitor once a week with a naturalist or on your own. Refreshments provided. Sign up early!

Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$2 per person (resident) / \$3 (non resident)

Activity # 3992

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Puppet Summer Sillies

All ages (children must be accompanied by a paid adult)
The Westwood puppets are up to their usual antics. Their amusing and surprising adventures will make you laugh while you learn. Discover what is happening out in nature this summer by spending a morning with them. Come early or stay late and enjoy one of Westwood's self-guided nature hikes. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, June 3, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$3 per person (resident) / \$4 (non-resident)

Activity # 3993

Registration deadline: when program is filled

HOME SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Ages 4 and up (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Westwood Hills Nature Center has an exciting series of programs for parents who school their children at home. Each month, home-schooled children and their parents join a naturalist for fun, hands-on nature activities focusing on nature, science and outdoor recreation topics. Classes are designed especially for home school groups. Sign up for one activity or the series.

Taxonomy

Thursday, April 24, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Activity # 3994

OR

Decomposers

Thursday, May 15, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Activity # 3995

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$3 per child (resident) / \$4 (non-resident)

Registration deadline: when program is filled

PRESCHOOL AND TOTS

These programs encourage awareness and appreciation for nature through outdoor exploration, stories and hands-on activities. Many of these programs require adult participation. Please read descriptions carefully to determine if you are registering for a drop-off program or one that requires adult participation.

Sharing Nature with your Little One

Ages Birth - 2

(children must be accompanied by an adult)

It's never too early to share nature with your youngest family members. This fun-filled, interactive experience enables families to discover nature together. Each class explores a different theme and includes indoor and outdoor activities. Please dress for the weather. Sign up for one or both sessions. Older siblings are welcome. Please call for more information if you plan to bring along a sibling.

Wednesday, April 2, 11 a.m. - noon

Activity # 3996

AND/OR

Monday, May 12, 11 a.m. - noon

Activity # 3997

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$6 per child (resident) / \$7 (non-resident)

No charge for supervising adult

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Nature for the Very Young (NVY)

These programs encourage awareness and appreciation of nature through outdoor exploration, stories and hands-on activities. Children need to bring along an adult to share the morning. Register for each class individually.

NVY: Spring Surprises!

Ages 3 - 5 (children must be accompanied by an adult)

It is finally spring and Westwood is beginning to bloom! Come and see what is growing and who is singing as we go on a nature scavenger hunt through the woods. The morning will also include stories and a crafty spring surprise!

Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activity # 3998

OR

Monday, April 7, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activity # 3999

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$7 per child (resident) / \$8 (non-resident)

No charge for supervising adult

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Experience **NATURE** in the Park.

Westwood Hills Nature Center

NVY: Hooray for Herps!

Ages 3 - 5 (children must be accompanied by an adult)
We will slither like snakes and hop like frogs as we learn about our reptile and amphibian friends. We will read stories, create a slimy project, and even meet some of Westwood's own slithery and slimy friends!

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activity # 4000

OR

Monday, May 19, from 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activity # 4001

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$7 per child (resident) / \$8 (non-resident)

No charge for supervising adult

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Tuesday Turtles Preschool

Ages 4 - 5 by the start of the session (drop-off program)
Preschoolers will learn lots about nature in a fun, interactive environment. Zany puppets, engaging stories, outdoor discovery hikes, creative arts and nature games are just some of the many ways in which preschoolers stay actively involved from the time they arrive 'til the time they leave! Each class explores a new theme and is led by Westwood's outstanding Naturalists. Sign up for one or both sessions.

Session I: Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 15, 22

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.Activity # 4003

Session II: Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.Activity # 4004

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$36 per child (resident) / \$39 (non-resident)

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Pollywogs Camp: Pokin' Around

Ages 4 - 5 by the start of each session (drop-off program)
We'll poke around and find out what lives in and around Westwood Lake including fish, turtles, dragonflies and ducks! Daily activities will include outdoor hikes, crafts, stories, games and puppet shows. Choose only one session per child.

Mondays - Thursdays, June 9 - 12

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.Activity # 4009

1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.Activity # 4010

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$48 per child (resident) / \$52 (non-resident)

Registration deadline: when program is full

Pollywogs Camp: Natures' Wonders

Ages 4 - 5 by the start of each session (drop-off program)
Ever wonder what lives in a log or what frogs and toads eat? Do you think all spiders make webs? Have you ever met a talking tree? Uncover the answers while experiencing the wonder of nature. Daily activities will include outdoor hikes, crafts, stories, games and puppet shows.

Choose one only one session per child.

Mondays - Thursdays

June 30 - July 3

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.Act. # 4005

1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.Act. # 4006

Aug. 11 - 14

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.Act. # 4007

1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.Act. # 4008

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$48 per child (resident) / \$52 (non-resident)

Registration deadline: when program is filled

YOUTH AND TEENS

The following naturalist-led interactive programs are designed for school-age children.

Bikes, Boats and Bus Adventure Camp

Grades 5 and up (2008 - 2009 school year)

Meet at Westwood for a one-day bike and two-day bus adventure. The first day, we'll bus to Cedar Lake for some canoeing and swimming. The second day, we will take a bus and the light rail to Minnehaha Falls. Finally, we'll bike west to the beach at Shady Oak Lake for swimming. Please bring your own bike, helmet, sunscreen, swimsuit and towel. Beach and transit fees are included. Participants must be able to bike approximately 16 miles round trip.

Tuesday - Thursday, June 24 - 26, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.

\$79 per child (resident) / \$85 (non-resident)

Activity # 4011

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Dragonflies Summer Camp

Grade 1 (2008 – 2009 school year)

In this full-day camp, experience and discover how things grow in the natural world. Investigate flower parts with hand lenses, use nets and bug boxes to catch insects, study bird artifacts and go on a scavenger hunt. Hikes, crafts, games and stories will highlight the concept of how things grow.

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

June 16 – 19 Activity # 4012
OR

July 7 – 10 Activity # 4013
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$79 per child (resident) / \$85 (non-resident)
Registration deadline: when program is filled

Discoverers Summer Camp

Grades 2 & 3 (2008 – 2009 school year)

Get your hands dirty and your feet wet as we get off the beaten path and explore every corner of the nature center. We'll focus on discovery and investigation of the natural world in this camp, letting your interests lead the way.

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

June 23 – 26 Activity # 4014
OR

July 14 – 17 Activity # 4015
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$79 per child (resident) / \$85 (non-resident)
Registration deadline: when program is filled

Outdoor Skills Camp

Grades 5 - 6 (2008 – 2009 school year)

Got any good outdoor skills? After attending this camp you will! We'll spend the week in activities like archery, fire building, orienteering and fishing at Lamplighter Pond. End the week with an overnight campout at Westwood. Tents and food will be provided for the overnight.

Monday-Wednesday, July 21 - 23, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 24, 4 p.m. to Friday, July 25, 9 a.m.
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$90 per child (resident) / \$98 (non-resident)
Activity # 4016

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Buggin Out

Grades 4 – 5 (2008 – 2009 school year)

Do you like bugs? Then this is the camp for you. Here is a sampler of a few of the activities. Learn the basics of beekeeping from our staff beekeeper. Collect, identify and pin insects. Discover some useful and dangerous insects and play an insect trivia game.

Monday - Thursday, July 28 – July 31, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$79 per child (resident) / \$85 (non-resident)
Activity # 4017

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Nature Theater Arts Camp

Grades 1 and up (2008 – 2009 school year)

“To bee, or not to bee?” is the question answered at Westwood’s theater camp. We’re combining nature-themed activities with the world of drama. Kids will work with a professional theater educator and the naturalists throughout the week to create and act in their own play. Performances will be on Thursday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Westwood “main stage.”

Monday – Thursday, Aug. 4 - 7, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Thursday, Aug. 7 ends at 4 p.m.)
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$92 per child (resident) / \$100 (non-resident)
Activity # 4018

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Wolf Ridge Adventure Trip

Grades 6 – 8 (2008 – 2009 school year)

Join Westwood’s naturalist staff as we journey north to explore Wolf Ridge. Located on 2000 acres above Lake Superior, Wolf Ridge is an extraordinary environmental learning center which offers a multitude of north woods adventures. Take on the challenge of adventure ropes and rock climbing. Paddle the lakes and explore the trails. Dormitory lodging, food and transportation included.

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and

Wednesday, Aug. 13, 7:30 a.m. – Friday, Aug. 15, 5 p.m.
Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave.
\$215 per child (resident) / \$225 per child (non-resident)
Activity # 4019

Registration deadline: when program is filled

Experience NATURE in the Park.

Get involved at the Nature Center! For more information on volunteer opportunities at Westwood Hills Nature Center or to get an application, call Sarah in the City and Schools Volunteer Office at (952) 928-6025, or e-mail her at: krzesowiak.sarah@slpschools.org. If you want information on the Junior Naturalist Program, call the Westwood Hills Nature Center directly at (952) 924-2544.

Westwood Front Desk

A volunteer is needed to staff the Nature Center front desk on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Duties include light-office work, answering phones, greeting visitors and sharing information about the center. Training is provided. Time commitment is two hours on Wednesdays. (We will work around your vacation schedule.)

Westwood School Group Hike Assistant

Calling all nature lovers! Assist the naturalists as they conduct educational programs for elementary students. Share the joy of nature with children and spend time at our beautiful nature center. Training is provided. The time commitment is about 2 1/2 hours a week in the morning or afternoon on the day of your choice plus occasional training sessions for specific programs.

Westwood Maintenance

This is the perfect job for someone who enjoys fixing, building and generally taking care of things. The job duties will vary by season and may include construction of educational materials and Halloween party props, maintaining bird feeders, planting trees and flowers, eliminating non-native species, watering, etc. The time commitment is 2-3 hours a week; the day of the week and time of day is flexible.

Monarch Butterfly Monitor

The Westwood Hills Nature Center is looking for volunteers who would like to help monitor our Monarch Butterfly population as part of a nationwide survey. Training and materials will be provided. Volunteers may be individuals, families or groups. The time commitment is 1 1/2 hours a week from May through September.

Westwood Junior Naturalist

Youth in grades 7 - 12 can assist with summer camp, help with special projects and take care of the animals. Training and incentives are included.



Become a member!

The St. Louis Park Historical Society invites you to become a member! The Historical Society supports the community in many ways:

1. Records and preserves the history of St. Louis Park.
2. Operates the Historic Train Depot at Jorvig Park.
3. Maintains a website www.slphistory.org and publishes the Re-Echo.
4. Partners with the city on preservation projects in St. Louis Park.

Membership is only \$20 for an annual individual or family membership. Become a member and help us preserve the wonderful history of this community. Please fill out the following information below, tear off, and return.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Membership: \$ _____ Donation: \$ _____

The historical society is partnering with the City of St. Louis Park to relocate and restore the Historic WPA Park features including the famous "Beehive." If you would like to donate to this historical restoration project please include your support in the space provided above. All membership dues and donations are 100% tax deductible.

Return to:
St. Louis Park Historical Society
3700 Monterey Drive
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(952) 924-2550

Experience VOLUNTEERISM in the Park.

Get Involved, Volunteer in St. Louis Park!

Spring into action and become a volunteer! Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet people, gain job or school credit or add variety to your routine. You can make St. Louis Park a better place to live. To volunteer for these or other programs, contact Sarah at the City and School Volunteer Office at (952) 928-6025 or email krzesowiak.sarah@slpschools.org.

Adopt a Park and/or Garden

Volunteer to monitor your neighborhood park. Parks still in need of adoption include: Ainsworth, Bass Lake Preserve, Birchwood, Blackstone, Cedarhurst, Dakota, Ford Road, Hampshire, Keystone, Knollwood Green, Rainbow, Roxbury, Twin Lakes, and Webster. Garden volunteers are needed at Wolfe and Aquila Parks along with several other locations around the city.

Adopt a Park/Garden volunteers can choose to maintain the annual garden and/or patrol their park each week during the summer, keep litter picked up and the park looking tidy, and report any vandalism or needed repairs. Park volunteers report to the Environmental Coordinator. Volunteers may adopt the park/garden of their choice (providing it has not already been adopted). Time commitment is about one hour per week during the summer.

One Time Helpers Needed to Plant Flower Gardens in City Parks

Volunteers are needed in mid-May to help plant gardens around the city. If you have 2-3 hours and enjoy working with flowers, this is a great way to help beautify our city. Garden plots include Aquila Park, Wolfe Park, Carpenter Park and more. If you would like to help, please call the volunteer office. The city gardener will work out a planting schedule with you when the flowers arrive. (Planting may be done during the day or in the evening in mid-May).

Pick up the Park!

Would you like to help clean our city before the busy summer season? If you would, call the volunteer office and sign up to help Pick up the Park. Groups, families and individuals can volunteer. You will be assigned an area to clean and be provided with instructions and a garbage bag. Park clean-up should take place between early April and mid-May, but you can do it on the day of your choice.

Student Volunteers Wanted for Kids' Place

The Community Education Kids' Place program is looking for volunteers ages 14 and over to help in their infant, toddler, preschool and school age programs this summer. Job duties will include assisting with class activities, working one-on-one with children, playing games, reading and general help. All potential volunteers must complete an application, provide references and attend training in early June. The minimum time commitment is eight hours a week between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Please call for an application before May 5. We will work around vacations and summer activities.

PARKTACULAR is coming and so is the fun!

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of activities for the St. Louis Park Parktacular Celebration, June 13-15. There will be jobs perfect for individuals or families including the Friday night street dance, the parade on Saturday and the information booth. Get involved in this fun St. Louis Park celebration, come out and see your friends and neighbors, and become a Parktacular volunteer. Time commitment: two or more hours. Email or call the Volunteer Office if you are interested and we will contact you closer to the date to discuss opportunities and arrange a schedule that works for you.

H.O.M.E. Chore Program to Help Local Senior Citizens

Get involved in your neighborhood! The H.O.M.E. program provides home chore services for seniors. They have clients in many neighborhoods that can use your help; volunteering even one time can make a difference! This volunteer opportunity is suitable for individuals, couples, families, groups, and students over 14. Minimum time commitment is one hour. To volunteer or get more information contact Amy at H.O.M.E., (952) 888-5530 or email a.beseth@seniorcommunity.org and sign up to help someone in your area.