

Ottawa County

Nature Education Center

Hemlock Crossing County Park



Ottawa County Parks is eager to help teachers engage their students with learning in nature. Built in 2010, the Nature Education Center at Hemlock Crossing County Park is the premier location to springboard school groups into a memorable and educational outdoor experience. The center has a variety of habitats to explore, an experienced staff of naturalist guides and plenty of hands-on activities to immerse students in nature study. Please contact us today to schedule your field trip!

Location:

8115 West Olive Rd.
West Olive, MI 49460

Contact Curtis Dykstra:

Email:
cdykstra@miottawa.org

Phone:
616-786-4847

Web:
www.miottawa.org/parks



**Ottawa County Parks &
Recreation Commission**

What We Offer

Discovering Habitats

Students will have a well-rounded experience as our naturalists DEFINE the characteristics of each habitat, aid students to EXPLORE it with hands-on activities and wrap up with a message on how we can STEWARD it. Habitats to discover include:

- Wetlands
- Forests
- Meadows
- Rivers



Animal Adaptations

The adaptations of animals to their environment are highlighted in these fascinating and engaging programs.

- **Camouflage:** Discover why and how animals use camouflage and explore the trails in search of hidden critters!
- From feathered **Owls & Woodpeckers**, furry **Beavers**, scaly **Reptiles** and slimy **Amphibians**, our guides cover a broad range of animal adaptations!

Seasonal Programming

Any of our programs can be adapted for a particular season.

- **Fall:** How plants & animals prepare for the cold.
- **Winter:** Snowshoe & X-country ski excursions!
- **Spring:** New growth and an abundance of life!



Flexibility!

- What are you studying in your classroom? Let us know and we'll adapt our programs to enhance the subject matter you are studying.
- Threatening weather? We have indoor activities to keep your students engaged.

Skull Detectives

Encounter the character traits of 5 vertebrate groups through the use of skulls! Students work in groups to observe, compare and identify 10 Michigan mammals.

Cost:

\$20/hr per guide needed. Add \$5 for every ½ hour added per guide. Groups are kept at 15 students or less per guide to enhance their experience.



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