Summer 2022 Program Schedule

Five Rivers Environmental Education Center is your gateway to the outdoors. The grounds are open every day from sunrise to sunset. The visitor center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM–4:30 PM, except state holidays.

Programs listed below are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Please dress for the weather. At this time, we cannot accommodate organized groups during our public programs. We are happy to make alternate arrangements for your organization. For further information, call us at 518-475-0291.

*We welcome those who have any type of physical challenge to our programs. If you call ahead to let us know your needs, we will be happy to serve you. Mobility aids are available upon request. Call for details.*

**Five Rivers Listserv:** Sign up for email notifications about upcoming programs at Five Rivers at [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov). Look for the blue “DEC Delivers” box and follow the instructions.

**Friends of Five Rivers:** Friends of Five Rivers is the year-round community support group for Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. Members receive a discount on select items at the Friends’ store, complimentary snowshoe loans, and reduced fees for some programs. Membership levels and volunteer information are available at [FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://FriendsofFiveRivers.org). Questions? Email [info@FriendsofFiveRivers.org](mailto:info@FriendsofFiveRivers.org) or call 518-475-0295.

**Dogs and other pets are not permitted at Five Rivers.** If you are looking for a natural area to walk with your pet, we are happy to recommend other nearby locations. Call us at 518-475-0291.

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**40TH ANNUAL FIVE RIVERS FALL FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, September 17, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM**

Join us for a family-oriented environmental celebration featuring hands-on educational activities, interactive exhibits, guided walks, and more. Enjoy opportunities to meet live animals and explore staffed exhibits from a wide range of local conservation partners. There will also be live music from local bands Frettin’ Old Guys and Off The Record, as well as sales of refreshments. For details, go to Friends of Five Rivers’ website at [www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org](http://www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org).

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In partnership with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, NYSDEC, and others, CDTA is providing [free bus service between the City of Albany and Five Rivers](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/nature-bus) on select Saturdays this summer. Take part in a guided program or explore the trails and visitor center on your own. Service to Five Rivers will be provided on July 9 and 23, August 6 and 20, and September 3 and 17 (Five Rivers Fall Festival).

- The bus arrives at Five Rivers from Albany at 9:49 AM, 12:09 PM and 2:29 PM.
- The bus departs from Five Rivers for Albany at 10:01 AM, 12:21 PM, 2:41 PM and 5:01 PM.

Go to [www.mohawkhudson.org/nature-bus](http://www.mohawkhudson.org/nature-bus) for detailed information, including links to the bus route and schedule.
**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

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**Saturday, July 9, 10:00 AM**  
**Family Fun: NATURALIST’S BACKPACK**  
As we walk the trails, we’ll keep a relaxed pace with lots of breaks to try out the tools in a naturalist’s backpack. Have fun with magnifying lenses, bug boxes, and other items that help us to explore the outdoors and share it with others. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, July 6 to register.

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**Saturday, July 9, 2:00 PM**  
**Guided Walk: BEAVER TREE TRAIL**  
A favorite with families, this trail features several scenic overlooks and close approaches to Beaver Pond, with excellent opportunities to enjoy seasonal flora and fauna and the beaver lodge. Join us as we watch for muskrats, turtles, dragonflies, and their neighbors. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, July 6 to register.

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**Saturday, July 16, 10:00 AM**  
**Guided Walk: WOODLOT WANDERINGS**  
Close to the visitor center and accessible to strollers, walkers, and wheelchairs, this quiet trail offers an easy introduction to exploring the outdoors. Dappled shade from maple, beech, and hemlock trees makes for interesting views. No registration required.

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**Saturday, July 30, 10:00 AM**  
**Family Fun: WILDLIFE TALES**  
Join us for story time and meet one of the animals that lives at the Five Rivers visitor center. We’ll take a walk on the trails and look for signs of wildlife here at Five Rivers. Ages 2–6, with an adult. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, July 27 to register.

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**Monday Funday Explorers**  
**Mondays, July 18–August 22, 2:00-3:00 PM**  
Join a naturalist as we explore nature with an outdoor adventure every Monday! This program is for children in grades K-5 and their caregivers. Different program themes each week. Call 518-475-0291 by the Friday beforehand to register.

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**I BIRD NY: EARLY MORNING BIRD WALKS**  
**Thursdays, July 14, August 11, September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 7:30 AM**  
Come celebrate the dawn chorus as we monitor the birds of Five Rivers, including the fall migration. These outdoor surveys begin at 7:30 AM. Meet outside the visitor center. After a brief introduction, we’ll head out on the trails. Beginners are always welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them. In case of inclement weather, these programs will be canceled. For more information, call 518-475-0291.

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**COMMUNITY SCIENCE: HELP FIVE RIVERS MONITOR MONARCHS**  
**Thursdays, through October 14, 1:00–2:00 PM**  
For more than 15 years, data collected at Five Rivers has been contributed to this continent-wide community science project conducted through the University of Minnesota. Join volunteers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico in conserving monarchs and advancing the understanding of butterfly ecology and migration in general. Wear long pants and bring a sun hat and water. We will meet at the visitor center. Go to www.mlmp.org to learn about the project. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by the Saturday prior to register.

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**Saturday, July 23, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM**  
**Family Fun: BUG FEST!**  
Summer is the ideal time to celebrate bugs, butterflies, beetles, and more with your friends at Five Rivers. There are so many to meet and greet in our gardens and fields. We’ll have a bug safari for kids, guided pollinator garden tours, a scavenger hunt, and bug crafts. Kids are encouraged to come in bug costumes if they would like—wear antennae, wings, or some extra legs... whatever feels like your inner bug. Join us to celebrate these little animals that make all life on earth possible! No registration required.

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**Saturday, July 30, 2:00 PM**  
**STREAM WALK**  
Roll up your pants and get ready to dip your toes in the cool Vlomankill Stream. We will turn over rocks and investigate the creatures that live in a stream habitat. Wear shoes that can get wet. No bare feet or flip-flops, please. All ages. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, July 27 to register.
Saturday, August 6, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
**GEOCACHE ADVENTURE**
Wondering what the fuss is all about? Join us for a fun geocache-style treasure hunt on the trails. You will need to bring a phone with GPS (e.g., Google Maps). For children ages 10 and up, with an adult. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, August 3 to register.

Saturday, August 13, 10:00 AM
**Guided Walk: BEAVER TREE TRAIL**
Look for wildlife at the beaver pond with a Five Rivers educator on this leisurely walk. You never know what may be swimming, flying, buzzing, or hopping nearby. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, August 10 to register.

Monday, August 15, 9:00–11:00 AM
**Repeated Saturday, August 20, 9:00–11:00 AM August Art Days: CONNECT TO NATURE WITH SKETCHBOOKS AND JOURNALING**
Join artist Carol Coogan for a morning on the trails at Five Rivers and learn how to use a simple sketchbook to connect more deeply with the natural world. Find details, including fees and registration information, at [www.friendsoffiverivers.org](http://www.friendsoffiverivers.org).

Tuesday, August 23, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
**August Art Days: CONNECT TO NATURE WITH A POND SKETCH**
Join artist Noreen Powell pond-side at Five Rivers and create your own sketch or painting, *en plein air*. Find details, including fees and registration information, at [www.friendsoffiverivers.org](http://www.friendsoffiverivers.org).

Tuesday, August 23, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
**EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKSHOP**
This two-day workshop is for educators who work with children in grades pre-K–2. Through hands-on experience and discussion, participants will be introduced to three different sets of curricula that get young children excited about exploring the natural world: *Growing Up WILD* (Project WILD), *Getting Little Feet Wet* (Project WET), and *Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood* (Project Learning Tree). Participants will receive a copy of each manual. CTLE hours = 13. A $15 fee covers refreshments. Space is limited. Register online at [https://forms.gle/XCaSUpxew9Ewdw46](https://forms.gle/XCaSUpxew9Ewdw46).

Saturday, August 27, 2:00 PM
**Family Fun: NATURE PLAY**
There’s no better time than summer to have fun in nature’s playground. We’ll play some summer camp-style, nature-themed games in the field and on the trails at Five Rivers. For children ages 7–12, with an adult. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, August 24 to register.

Saturday, September 3, 10:00 AM
**Family Fun: SCAVENGER HUNT**
Drop in and pick up a scavenger hunt list at the visitor center, then head outdoors. Our scavenger hunt suggests fun activities to complete alone or with friends and family. Check the activities off your list as each is completed. Complete at least 12 of the activities and receive a free poster at the visitor center.

Saturday, September 3, 2:00 PM
**Guided Walk: SOUNDS of SUMMER**
Amazing sounds come from a whole variety of things. Listen carefully as we walk along the Bird Watchers Path and Old Field Trail. We will discover who is making those incredible sounds, from the wind to frogs, insects, and birds. A walk around the center grounds “sounds” like fun. Space is limited. Call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, August 31 to register.

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
**New York State FREE FISHING WEEKEND**
Celebrate New York State’s annual free fishing weekend by joining us for a caregiver and child catch-and-release fishing clinic. You will learn the basics of how to fish and discover some of the local freshwater fish that live in upstate New York. Bring gear if you’ve got it; we have a limited number of rods and reels available for loan. Adults and children must accompany each other. Space is limited. Please call 518-475-0291 by Wednesday, September 21 to register or for more information.
**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

**MONTHLY CREATIVE ART EXHIBITS & PRESENTATIONS**

Friends of Five Rivers is sponsoring monthly creative exhibits through October. Stop by the visitor center and look in the classroom for these themed exhibits. Each exhibit has a corresponding free monthly educational presentation. July will be focused on nature poetry, combined with mixed media. A poetry presentation will be held on Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00 PM. August will be mixed media (art, ceramics, woodworking, etc.), with a presentation on Tuesday, August 16 at 7:00 PM. In September, we will have a combination of items on display that will also be up for auction during our Fall Festival.

Follow Friends of Five Rivers’ Facebook page @friendsoffiverivers and website at www.friendsoffiverivers.org for further details.

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**OUTDOORS AFTER SCHOOL**

_Thursdays, September 15–November 3, 4:30–5:30 PM_

Join us after school to get some fresh air, stretch your legs, and have fun outdoors. We’ll meet in front of the visitor center to head out on an adventure. Each week will have a different theme and will include time to explore. Come for as many sessions as you’d like, and dress for outdoor activity. For children in grades K–5 and their caregivers. Space is limited. Call **518-475-0291** by the Monday prior to register.

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**Five Rivers FALL FESTIVAL 2022**

_September 17, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm_

Join us for this family-friendly event taking place on the scenic and serene grounds of Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. The day will be filled with educational and hands-on exhibitions, guided walks, live animals, crafts, food vendors, music, art display, raffle and silent auction. Plus, more surprises in celebration of our 50th Anniversary!

FOR ALL AGES FREE ADMISSION FREE PARKING

More information may be found at: www.FriendsofFiveRivers.org