



# Connecting Families with Nature Passport Program 2009

Welcome to the Connecting Families with Nature Passport Program! This is your family's ticket to outdoor adventures right here in Kent County. We've developed a fun and exciting program to connect your family to the out-of-doors. Getting started is easy - just follow the steps below:

## 1. Pick up your family's passport to outdoor adventures at one of these partnering facilities on September 19, 2009:

<b>Ada Township Park</b> (1180 Buttrick Ave SE, Ada 49301)	(616) 676-0520
<b>Blandford Nature Center</b> (1715 Hillburn Ave NW, Grand Rapids 49504)	(616) 735-6240
<b>Calvin College Ecosystem Preserve</b> (1750 East Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids 49546)	(616) 526-7601
<b>Howard Christensen Nature Center</b> (16190 Red Pine Drive, Kent City 49330)	(866) 675-3158
<b>John Ball Zoo</b> (1300 West Fulton Street, Grand Rapids 49504)	(616) 336-4301
<b>Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center</b> (11715 Vergennes, Lowell 49331)	(616) 987-1002

One passport will be distributed per child. If you are unable to attend the kickoff event on September 19<sup>th</sup>, passports may still be available at these partnering facilities after the event. Visit [www.kentconservation.org/families](http://www.kentconservation.org/families) for a schedule of upcoming programs and events.

## 2. Start stamping up your passport! In order to complete the passport, you need to earn 8 stamps. Stamps will be given at the six partnering facilities listed above. Activities completed at other sites can be validated by an adult signature rather than a stamp. Passport stamps can be earned by:

- a. Attending an environmental education program or special event. (3 stamps)**  
Throughout the year, each of the different partnering facilities listed above will host fun and educational family programs about our environment. Families must attend a program at 3 different partnering facilities listed above. Your family will receive 1 stamp for each program/special event attended.
- b. Participating in a stewardship or pollution prevention project. (1 stamp)**  
Activities could be removing invasive plants or attending a river cleanup at a partner or non-partner facility. Starting a new family project like recycling or composting would also work. Contact any of the partnering facilities listed above for ideas and resources to get you started. Your family will earn 1 stamp for completing this task.
- c. Participating in a wild card activity. (3 stamps)**  
Wild card activities include attending additional programs at a partner or non-partner facility, participating in additional stewardship or pollution prevention activities or starting more home-based environmental projects. For each wild card activity your family participates in, you will earn 1 stamp.
- d. Get outside! Take a family hike, bike, snowshoe or cross-country ski. (4 different activities earn 1 stamp)**  
Lace up your walking shoes or strap on your snowshoes and get out and explore the miles of trails right here in Kent County. Taking 4 different family outings will earn your family 1 stamp.

**3. Hold on to your passport. A completed passport can be redeemed after August 1, 2010 at any of the six partnering facilities for one children's admission into John Ball Zoo on September 25, 2010 for the wrap-up party (event details will be posted on the program website). Each partnering facility will be there to honor the families that spent time together exploring Kent County and connecting with nature. This date will also kickoff the following year's program so you won't want to miss it!**

For more information on how to earn passport stamps, visit [www.kentconservation.org/families](http://www.kentconservation.org/families).

# Explore Kent County!

Kent County has dozens of parks and natural areas waiting to be explored. Strap on your walking shoes and grab your water bottle as you embark on an adventure the whole family can enjoy! Use the list of parks and natural areas below, in addition to the six partnering facilities, as a guide to start your journey. Contact the park ahead of time to find out all they have to offer.

<b>Kent County Parks</b>	<b>(616) 336-7275</b>	<b><a href="http://www.accesskent.com/parks">www.accesskent.com/parks</a></b>
Cooper Creek	13807 17 Mile Road, Gowen	
Creekside	1035 68th Street SE, Dutton	
Douglas Walker	1195 84th Street, Byron Center	
Dwight Lydell	4040 Leland Avenue, Comstock Park	
Fallasburg	1124 Fallasburg Road, Lowell	
Fisk Knob	33 Algoma Avenue, Cedar Springs	
Gordon	17150 Northland Drive, Sand Lake	
Knapp Valley	4255 Knapp Valley, Grand Rapids Township	
Long Lake	13747 Krauskopf NE, Sparta	
Millennium Park	1415 Maynard Avenue SW, Grand Rapids	
Palmer	1275 52nd Street SW, Wyoming	
Pickerel Lake	6001 Ramsdell Road NE, Cannonsburg	
Provin Trails	2900 4 Mile Road, Grand Rapids Township	
Rogue River	6300 Belshire Avenue, Belmont	
Ruehs	7602 68th Street, Alaska	
Seidman	8155 Conservation Road, Ada	
Townsend	8280 6 Mile Road, Cannonsburg	
White Pine	13590 Lincoln Lake Road, Gowen	

<b>City of Grand Rapids Parks</b>	<b>(616) 456-3696</b>	<b><a href="http://www.grand-rapids.mi.us">www.grand-rapids.mi.us</a></b>
<b>Friends of Grand Rapids Parks</b>	<b>(616) 821-8006</b>	<b><a href="http://www.friendsofgrparks.org">www.friendsofgrparks.org</a></b>
Ah-Nab-Awen	220 Front Avenue NW, Grand Rapids	
Alexander Park	614 Alexander SE, Grand Rapids	
Burton Woods	2259 Everest SE, Grand Rapids	
Clemente Park	546 Rumsey SW, Grand Rapids	
Fourth Street Woods	1341 Fourth NW, Grand Rapids	
Garfield Park	2111 Madison SE, Grand Rapids	
Highland Park	700 College NE, Grand Rapids	
Huff Park	2286 Ball Avenue NE, Grand Rapids	
Ken-O-Sha Park School/Trail	1353 VanAuken SE, Grand Rapids	
Mackay-Jaycee Park	801 Fairview NE, Grand Rapids	
Mulick Park	1761 Rosewood SE, Grand Rapids	
Riverside Park	2001 Monroe NE, Grand Rapids	
Wilcox Park	100 Youell SE, Grand Rapids	

<b>Land Conservancy of West Michigan</b>	<b>(616) 451-9476</b>	<b><a href="http://www.naturenearby.org">www.naturenearby.org</a></b>
Bradford Dickinson White Nature Preserve	12589 36th Street, Lowell	
Brower Lake Nature Preserve	8748 Je-Ne-Be Drive, Rockford	
Lamberton Lake Fen Nature Preserve	Plaza Drive NE, Grand Rapids	
Maas Family Nature Preserve	4400 12 Mile Road, Rockford	
Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve	10469 Six Mile Road, Rockford	

## **Trails:**

North Country Trail Association	Lowell	(616) 897-5987	<a href="http://www.northcountrytrail.org">www.northcountrytrail.org</a>
White Pine Trail	Belmont	(616) 222-5005	<a href="http://www.whitepinetrail.com">www.whitepinetrail.com</a>