



Wild Ones River City Chapter 2021 PROGRAMS

Visit RiverCityWildOnes.org for full program details and locations (subject to change).

Programs open to all—free of charge

Programs through May will be presented via ZOOM Webinar. Visit RiverCityWildOnes.org to register.

February 15 • 6:30–8:00 pm

Botanical Quest: Documenting Michigan's Rare Native Flora Through Photography

Presented by Craig Elston, CDE Nature, Naturalist - City of Hudsonville

The program will highlight Craig's quest for finding and photographing rare and not so common native plant species in Michigan. Plants from all corners of the state will be shown and he will be telling the stories of his adventures locating them—from the Southwest lower corner to the Western U.P. and back to the Eastern U.P. and down to the Southeast lower corner of the state and many areas in between. "If you are comfortable on your outings, you aren't finding exciting plants."

ZOOM Webinar

March 15 • 6:30–8:00 pm

For the Birds: Fostering Backyard Habitats to Attract Birds

Presented by Curtis Dykstra, Park Naturalist, Ottawa County Parks

This program aims to motivate the audience to maximize their yard's potential as bird habitat by going beyond seeds in the feeder. How can we create an intentional habitat structure in our own gardens that will benefit/attract birds for viewing and to benefit the bird's own needs? What unique birds could your yard attract depending on your location and habitat?

ZOOM Webinar

April 19 • 6:30–8:00 pm

Native Garden Design

Presented by Landscape Designers, Amy Heilman, Owner, The Living Garden and Rebecca Marquardt, Owner, Revery.

Using the Wild Ones booklet, *Creating Your Own Native Garden Design*, Amy and Rebecca are going to expand upon the contents. Rebecca will present on plant selection based on site conditions, designing new gardens and editing existing ones. Amy will cover installation phases & strategies and maintenance for long-term success.

ZOOM Webinar

May 17 • 6:30–8:00 pm

Cultivating our Schoolyards as Habitats to Grow Scholars Who Will Become Stewards

Presented by Sally Triant of Grow Wise Learning

Children today are spending less time outdoors than ever before; while at the same time our diminishing wild spaces are calling to be protected and preserved. How can our young citizens be inspired to care for something they do not have a relationship with? The solution to creating the next generation of stewards may be hidden in plain sight in every schoolyard in our community. By developing schoolyard habitats and inviting them into the curriculum, educators can reconnect their classrooms to the natural world while allowing the local environment to serve as the foundation for meaningful learning. Additionally, schoolyards offer incredible opportunities for the community to work together to aid in the restoration of vital wildlife habitat while at the same time encouraging the next generation of environmentalists. This program aims to inform you of work being done to support local learning in our community and to encourage you to look to our schoolyards as wild spaces full of growth potential!

ZOOM Webinar

June 21 • 6:00–8:00 pm

Green Infrastructure Bus Tour

Presented by Cara Decker, Stormwater Program Coordinator, LGROW

Building on the introductory Green Infrastructure (GI) Program given in 2020, a GI bus tour will show different examples of Green Infrastructure that have been completed in the Grand Rapids area. The focus will be on GI in the Lower Grand River Watershed, as well as demonstrate the results of a successful partnership with **The Rapid, City of Grand Rapids, and Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW)**. Examples of GI on the tour include a green roof, a rain garden, a bioswale, pervious pavement, stormwater reuse, and a living, wall all found in the Grand Rapids area.

Location: West Catholic High School, 1801 Bristol Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

July 19 • Time TBA

Wild Ones River City Chapter Annual Native Plant Sale

Location: TBA

August 16 • 6:30–8:00 pm

Invasive Species Action: Best Practices to Protect Michigan's Native Flora & Fauna from Intruders

Presented by Jessie Schulte, Manager, Kent Conservation District

Join one of Kent County's knowledgeable invasive species control experts and hike around Greenwood Cemetery to see examples of invasive plants. Information on how invasive plant species affect native plants, birds and wildlife will be provided. Participants will learn how to recognize different invasive plant species in the field, as well as how to report their sightings to the region's mapping and identification system called MISIN. Various different treatment methods for invasive plant species control will be discussed.

Location: Greenwood Cemetery, 1401 Leonard St NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

September 20 • 6:30–8:00 pm

Stewardship, Community Engagement and Volunteerism

Presented by

- Justin Heslinga, Stewardship Director, Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- David Marquardt, Director, Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation
- Ginny Sines, Volunteer Coordinator, Kent County Parks Department

Now more than ever the public is demonstrating a renewed interest in making a positive difference in their local parks and natural areas by improving stewardship or ecological function to help increase the ecological corridors in their communities. One way to improve ecological function or biodiversity is to remove invasive species. Once invasive species are controlled then the bigger picture vision of land restoration can begin. Learn how three different local conservation organizations tackle the concepts of Stewardship, Community Engagement and Volunteerism differently.

Location: 6:30 pm meet at Indian Trails Golf Course Club House, 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

Approximately 7:30 pm meet at Ken-O-Sha Park, 1353 Van Auken St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 to learn how to treat and remove invasive plants in the park.

October 18 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Soil—The Hidden Secrets Beneath Your Feet

Presented by Gerald "Jerry" Miller, Certified Professional Soil Scientist

The presentation will provide an overview of the three components of a soil—physical, chemical and biological—and their functions in plant growth and development. An orientation will be provided to web-based resources about soil information for the different kind of soil on your property. The presentation will provide Wild Ones members and guests with an awareness and increased understanding and identification of basic soil properties. Recognizing soil characteristics and their associated properties will assist participants in applying appropriate management practices for healthy and productive soils.

Location: TBA

November 15 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Wild Ones River City Chapter Annual Meeting/Potluck

Location: TBA

Wild Ones is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.



RiverCityWildOnes.org