



Upcoming Activities

Please join in! Our walks last 90 minutes or so. Activity lengths vary but stay as long as you can.

Make sure you check our *Facebook* page for updates since events are subject to change.

All events are family friendly. Sorry, no dogs allowed at our activities. Questions? Contact us at

HollidayAssociation@hnpa.org or via our *Facebook* page.



◆ Winter Walk

Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. Koppernick entrance, west of Hix Road, south of Joy Road. Maybe we will have snow? Come enjoy a quiet walk under the tall trees. We hope to see some wildlife: deer, squirrels, hawks. Boots recommended.

◆ Winter Walk II

Saturday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m. Cowan entrance, Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road, north of Warren Road. A long loop walk with some slippery ups and downs. While enjoying nature, we will also look at some of the bridges being considered for removal by Wayne County Parks (see accompanying article). Boots recommended.

◆ Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring Walk

Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. Ellsworth Section. Parking at Nankin Mills on Hines Drive, east of Ann Arbor Trail. This is likely to be a muddy walk on the floodplain with some slippery (ice or mud) up and downs. Boots recommended.

Membership Renewal Time

HNPA memberships remain at \$5 per family per calendar year

With 2024 beginning, this means we once again humbly request your financial support.

Please use the form on the back page of this newsletter.

Remember that you do not need to renew if you joined in the fourth quarter of 2023, or have sent in funds to extend your membership.

BTW, thanks to many generous donations we've received over the years (above the \$5 we request) we've not had to ask for more funding despite rising costs for printing, postage and web hosting. Thanks!

Three Meetings Close Out 2023

Membership Meeting



On Nov. 18, HNPA held a Membership Meeting at the Civic Center Library in Livonia. Saturday morning was chosen as it's much more convenient for many. Besides, we can have donuts and coffee!

The meeting started with the Treasurer's Report. We are very fortunate to have had so many generous supporters over these many years. It is amazing that the membership dues are still only \$5 a year, even though that amount no longer covers even printing and mailing our newsletters.

We presented the NEW HNPA bylaws. Following explanations of revised practices, bylaws were approved.

This allowed us to then nominate and elect some Board members. John Covert, Pam Larson, Phil Crookshank, Brandon Scott and Celeste Hoitash will now serve a 2024-27 Board. Our Board will be very busy

discussing Wayne County Parks plans for grant projects in the Preserve. President Bill combined his report with a Power-Point Presentation of 2023 photos of our many walks, work days and even some pretty nature pictures. With that, we closed the two-hour meeting.

Parks Grant Meeting

On Nov. 29 came the much anticipated meeting to discuss grant work in the Holliday Preserve. We had been informed that the Preserve will get \$6 million. (A total of \$4.5 million came from the American Rescue Plan Act and another \$1.5 million from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation*.) This meeting was the first time we heard details.

Wayne County Parks Director Alicia Bradford hosted Commissioners Terry Marecki, Glenn Anderson, and a staff member for Commissioner Melissa Daub. Also attending were Parks staff, the consultant, and HNPA President Bill Craig. Basic conceptual maps were shared, then a brief presentation was made.

There was little opportunity to ask questions, since plans

were still in early design phase. There will NOT be any public presentations by Parks. This large amount of money is on a fast track for work 2024-25.

HNPA Board Meeting

On Dec. 16, a HNPA Board meeting was held to discuss the "conceptual" maps that were presented at the Nov. 29 meeting. Work in the Preserve will likely include a new bridge at Joy Road; removal of some failed bridges; removal of old infrastructure, including pavilions, restrooms, and shelters; and the repair of old roadbeds. Some of the elements were based on past conversations between Parks and HNPA. However, many questions and concerns remain, and the HNPA Board is now tasked to providing comments to Parks concerning them.

** The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a grantmaking organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of SE Michigan and Western New York. This reflects Mr. Wilson's devotion to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of the Buffalo Bills franchise he owned.*

A Look Back at Recent Activities

Oct. 7: Walk & Work



Oct. 14: Walk & No Work (It Rained)



Oct. 21: Walk & Work



Dec. 9: Cowan Walk



Nov. 4: Ellsworth Walk



Who We Are and What We Do



Holliday Nature Preserve Association (HNPA) is a group of volunteers dedicated to the William P. Holliday Forest & Wildlife Preserve in Westland, Livonia and Canton.

The Preserve consists of 500-plus acres of forests and wetlands that run along tributaries of the Rouge River. HNPA seeks to nurture a greater appreciation of this unique resource by hosting walks, conducting improvement projects in conjunction with Wayne County Parks and promoting the importance of the Preserve to the quality of life of Western Wayne County communities. Our activities are free. Find out more at hnpa.org or on our Facebook page.

Thanks to our Supporters



The following people joined HNPA, renewed their memberships or made donations. We thank them and appreciate the continuing support and the trust they (and you) put in us. We use the funds we receive for the benefit of the Preserve.

**Anthony's Pond HOA
Nancy & Paul Bailey
Lonna & Alan Baum
Shirley Cebula
Molly Feeley-Powers
James Gilbert
Celeste & Fred Hoitash**

**Jean Kearney
Andrea Kotarba
Wayne McGarrath
Patricia Mullett
Michael Murphy
Linda Poole
Sue Smith**

Become one of our Supporters

Membership in the Holliday Nature Preserve Association is only \$5 per calendar year. **With the start of a new year, we again ask for your support.**

Your \$5 donation (or more) makes it possible to mail our newsletter; host a website; offer walks; purchase items for work projects; educate the community; and promote

the Preserve.

Donations are used to benefit the Preserve. You may also earmark additional funds to extend your membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Email Address if you wish to share it. (We won't) : _____

\$ _____ Enclosed

Please make check or money order payable to the **Holliday Nature Preserve Association** and mail to:
HNPA, P.O. BOX 532243 Livonia, MI 48153