The Owls of Maybury

Maybury State Park is home to three species of owls who are known to be year round residents: the eastern screech owl, the barred owl, and the great horned owl.

The Eastern Screech Owl, left, is the smallest Owl in Maybury, at 6-10 inches in length. They have pointed ear tufts and yellow eyes. They are relatively common and can be either mostly gray or mostly reddish brown. They like to both nest and perch in tree cavities and prefer deciduous or mixed woodlands. The call of a screech owl sounds like a high pitched horse whinny! You may also find them in your neighborhood, in small parks, cemeteries, or in your treed backyard.

The Barred Owl, right, is considerably larger than the screech owl at 16-20 inches in length. They do not have ear tufts, and have dark brown eyes. They prefer either coniferous woods or deciduous woods, near a water source. The barred owl has a very distinctive call that sounds like “who-cooks-for you, who-cooks—for-you-all”. You might also find a barred owl in an older neighborhood that has mature trees, or in parks with trees and ponds.

The Great Horned Owl, left, is the largest owl in Maybury, at 18-25 inches in length. Great Horned Owls have prominent ear tufts and yellow eyes. They are widespread and live in a range of habitats, from swamps and deserts, to deciduous and evergreen forests, to cities, orchards, suburbs and parks. The great horned owl is often called the “hoot owl” for its deep hooting call. Locally, look for them in cemeteries, in large treed parks, in botanical gardens, and at the forest edge between woods and fields.

This is a good time of year to hear screech owls, as this is the mating season. Take a walk at dusk in Maybury and listen for them!

Calendar of Events
Friends sponsored hikes, events, and work days

March 15
Vernal Equinox Hike
7:00 PM-8:30 PM
Meet at the Trailhead Building

April 13
Northville Eggstravaganza
9:30-Noon
Maybury Farm

April 27
Spring Cleanup Volunteer Day
9:00AM-Noon
Meet at the Maintenance Building

May 3 and May 4
Wildflowers of the Park Walk
10:00 AM –11:00 AM
Meet at the Riding Stables

May 18
Coffee with the Park Supervisor
9:30 AM-10:30AM
Meet at the Trailhead Building

June 1
National Trails Day Workday
9:00AM-Noon
Meet at the Maintenance Building

June 29
Road Runner Classic
5 PM-8PM
Meet at the Trailhead Building

See our website and Facebook page for more details.
www.friendsofmaybury.org
Meet the Maybury Track Chair

Maybury State Park is one of 5 Michigan State Parks that was gifted with an Action Track Chair unit, provided by a grant from Kali’s Cure for Paralysis. The track chair provides accessibility to the park’s trails and forested areas, while preserving that natural resources of the park. Track Chair users experience the trails of the park through a guided hike program offered by volunteers of the Friends of Maybury. Each guided hike is free of charge, 1 to 1 ½ hours in length and uses both the paved and hiking trails. Guests can make a reservation for a guided hike June 1 -October 1 on Saturdays and Sundays by contacting the park office at (248) 349-8390.

If you are interested in participating as a Hike Volunteer, please contact the park office and you will be notified of the next volunteer training session in the spring.

New this year! Vernal Equinox Hike

New this year to our event calendar is the Vernal Equinox Hike. Come join us as we take an easy walk through the woods, listening for early signs of Spring. If it’s warm enough we might hear peeper frogs! It is also the perfect time to listen for the mating calls of the Eastern Screech Owl. The mating season can start as early as mid-January and go through the end of March. The male screech owl is particularly vocal during breeding season, and will call from different branches as he approaches the female.

The hike starts at 7:00 PM and will conclude around 8:30. We will meet at the Trailhead Building. This hike is appropriate for all ages and abilities. Families and animals on leash are also welcome. Please dress for appropriate weather conditions and bring a headlamp or flashlight. Light snacks will be provided at the end of the hike. We hope to see you there!
Spotlight on Maybury User Groups

By

BS Hikers

BS Hikers founded in 1999, is a co-ed group that was formed to engage in outdoor activities. Although we primarily hike together, we also bike, kayak, camp, and take trips together in smaller subgroups. Our only membership criteria is that our members be single (unmarried). In 2013, we formed a Meetup Group and you can find us on www.Meetup.com.

Over the years, our hiking has taken us to over four dozen locations including Michigan State Parks and Recreation Areas, Metro Parks, and city, county and national parks. But, Maybury State Park has been a favorite since our founding. In 2005, drawing on the collective memory of our hiking experiences, our members chose Maybury State Park to be the location of our “signature hike” which has been consistently held on the first and third Sundays of every month, for the past 14 years.

There’s a mosaic of compelling reasons for selecting Maybury State Park: its special blend of glacial topography, historic sanitarium landmarks, streams, and lake water are intertwined with a complex mix of hiking trails coupled with other positive aspects including separate trails designated for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. In spite of the myriad of options of where to hike over the past 20 years, our bimonthly hikes at Maybury State Park have remained extremely and consistently popular. Our most recent hike in the park (left) was held on March 3, 2019.

We are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of BS Hiking with a hike starting at 9:30 AM on Sunday, May 19th, 2019 at the Maybury State Park Oak Shelter, followed by a mix-and-mingle with present and past members at the Oak Shelter from noon to 3:00PM. Maybury State Park Staff and members of Friends of Maybury are welcome to join us!

The Michigan State Parks Centennial is This Year!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources just kicked off its year long centennial celebration of Michigan state parks. The DNR has created a new website to mark the occasion, with lots of content on the history of Michigan’s parks, details on things to do, photos, events calendar, gear and merchandise, videos, and stories. They invite you to visit their website and share your stories and pictures of your visits to our state parks! For more information click on Michigan.gov/StateParks100.

Road Runner Classic Date Change

The always popular Road Runner Classic, has traditionally been held in mid to late July. This year it has been moved to the last weekend in June, and will be held on June 29th, starting at 5 PM. Join the Northville Road Runners for an evening of fun and exercise. There will be a 1 Mile and 5 K run/walk on paved trails, and an 8 K run/walk on dirt and paved trails. There will be family fun activities during the race such as face painting, story hour and hands-on activities. Post race activities include pizza, live music, libations, home made baked goods, and much more. More information and registration www.northvilleroadrunners.org

So save the date—this year’s Road Runner Classic will be on June 29, 2019!
Volunteer Organizations at Maybury

Are you interested in getting involved with the non-profit volunteer organizations that help make Maybury State Park a great destination for outdoor activity and fun? There are three groups that contribute to stewardship and program opportunities at the park: the Friends of Maybury, the Maybury Trail Riders Association, and the Motor City Mountain Biking Association. All three groups are run by volunteers and welcome new members!

The Friends of Maybury are committed to improving Maybury State Park by supporting and promoting recreational, natural, educational, interpretive and sport activities in the park. The Friends of Maybury State Park work in a volunteer capacity to host community and sporting events at the park, help with physical park improvements, maintain trails and preserve natural flora and fauna, improve natural areas, enhance public gathering areas, encourage the participation of other volunteer groups, and otherwise serve in ways that enhance the value of Maybury State park and increase the use and enjoyment of park facilities. We also support and encourage other volunteer groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts, company volunteer groups, community organizations, school groups and individuals to become active in ways that improve the park.

For more information please go to: http://www.friendsofmaybury.org/

Here are just a few of the many activities and events the Friends sponsor and participate in over the course of a year!

We sponsor and lead several hikes including a geocaching hike, a wildflower hike and the owl prowl!

We also sponsor and participate in several volunteer work days, which focus on trail maintenance, pulling garlic mustard, planting trees, shrubs and flowers, and splitting firewood. We help fund improvements to the park, like landscaping around the fencing to the right, and aid in the organizing and hosting of events like the Road Runner Classic.

Stay informed on volunteer activities and events. Visit our Facebook page and our website. Join us!

The Maybury Trail Riders mission is to protect and maintain a safe and fun environment for all horse trail riders in the park. They are actively involved in trail maintenance, such as clearing trail debris and in promoting safe use of the equestrian trails in the park. They participate in volunteer “clean up” activities making the trails safer for both horse and rider. For more information please visit their website at: www.mayburytrailriders.org/.

The Motor City Mountain Biking Association is a chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association in the Metropolitan Detroit area. They focus on preserving, protecting and promoting mountain bike access on Metro Detroit’s public lands. They help to develop and maintain Maybury’s bike trail systems, both in summer and winter. For more information go to: http://site.mcmba.org/.

The DNR sponsors a yearly summit for all volunteer organizations associated with Michigan State Parks. Groups from across the state meet to share ideas and learn about event ideas.
Maybury Park’s own Karen Gourlay honored for 35 years of service with the DNR

Karen Gourlay, the Coordinator of the DNR State Park Explorer Program, was recently honored for her 35 years of working for the Michigan DNR. Shortly after graduating from MSU with a degree in Animal Science, she started working at Maybury Farm. After a couple of seasons she was promoted to Park Ranger and performed a number of ranger duties both at the farm and in the park. In 1994 she was hired as the full time Park Interpreter at Maybury. In this capacity she had a staff of seasonal interpreters (both at the farm and at the park) who aided in the creation and presentation of educational programs, and summer farm and nature camps. She has also worked to expand the park and farm’s school offerings and special events in the park.

When the Maybury Farm barn was lost to a fire in 2003 she was asked to take on the statewide seasonal nature program in all of Michigan’s state parks, which was renamed at the time as the State Park Explorer Program. In her capacity as Coordinator, she is responsible for hiring and training Explorer Guides to work in over 40 state park throughout Michigan. The Explorer Guides connect park visitors to natural resources by creating hands-on outdoor learning opportunities within their assigned parks.

Karen also helps with several of the nature oriented hikes that the Friends sponsor in the park. If you went on the History Walk last September (right) you have met her, as she leads the hike. Our congratulation and thanks to Karen on her 35th anniversary with the Michigan DNR!

Maybury State Park General Management Plan Update

From the Maybury Park Supervisor and Staff

The Department of Natural Resources uses General Management Plans to define long-range planning and management strategies for State Park and Recreation Areas that reflect both the department and the division mission statements. Long-range planning is essential to ensure that all aspects of the land managed by the DNR are taken into consideration. The plans balance the need to protect the park’s unique natural and cultural resources with the demand to provide access to land and water recreation and education opportunities. Many parks face pressure from park users for additional recreational opportunities. The planning process ensures that any improvements are well conceived and undertaken with adequate public input. Long-range planning also ensures that the Parks and Recreation Division’s limited financial resources are put to the best possible use.

General Management Plans consist of three major components. The first is the Purpose and Significance, which identifies the unique and defining characteristics of the park and the reason for inclusion in the State Park system. Second is the delineation of Management Zones. These are areas in the park with defined characteristics and qualities for which there are related levels of natural resource protection, visitor use, management guidance and levels of development. Third, the plan provides 10-Year Action Goals that address the desired future condition within the park as a whole and within each management zone.

A Park Stakeholder Input Workshop was held last August with 22 stakeholders participating, Simultaneously, an Online Questionnaire was made available to the general public. Over 1130 respondents provided feedback on a variety of topics.

Final approval of the plan is anticipated for mid-2019.
A New Park Headquarters is Coming!

Construction is expected to begin this spring on the new park headquarters/shop building that will be located off the main road at the Eight Mile Road entrance. The building will be 8800 square feet and will provide workspace for the park’s full time and seasonal staff. The project is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2020, when staff will move from the Beck Road office.

The images below are artist’s renderings of the new park headquarters.

Maybury Mystery Challenge

Do you know what is pictured below left? This was hanging in the park for the entire summer in 2017, and was visible from the Trailhead parking lot.

The picture below on the right is from our Mystery Challenge in the last newsletter. This funny looking object popping up out of the ground is called a bollard. It is designed to prevent vehicles from entering park trails and roads, but it can be reconfigured to lay flat and allow park employees to pass through with vehicles or park machinery. There are four in the park. Can you find them all?
Yes! I want to be a Friend of Maybury!

Membership and Donation Information
All memberships renew on June 1st of each year. For partial year memberships, submit whatever you deem appropriate. Membership will place you on our email distribution list for meeting and events notification, plus future newsletters.

Join at [http://www.friendsofmaybury.org/membership/](http://www.friendsofmaybury.org/membership/) Pay online using a credit card through Pay Pal. You do not need to be a member of Pay Pal to use this service.

OR

Fill out the form below, and mail a check made out to The Friends of Maybury to:
The Friends of Maybury State Park
20145 Beck Road
Northville, MI 48167-1758.

______$15 Regular Membership
______$25 Family Membership
______$100 Commercial/Benefactor

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Email ________________________

The Friends of Maybury is a 501 (c) (3) all-volunteer, charitable organization and your dues and donations are tax deductible. We partner with DNR and other organizations to support the park. All funds raised are used for specific park improvements, educational opportunities, or for the enjoyment of park visitors.