



INGHAM

COUNTY PARKS



Burchfield Park ECO Explorer Club Booklet Summer 2024



Complete this booklet by August 16th and receive a free badge.
Present completed booklets to ECO Naturalist staff at Nature Den Wednesday - Friday
or any Boathouse staff on weekends.





Welcome to Burchfield Park's ECO Explorer Club!



The ECO Explorer Club is for all kids who want to explore and learn about the natural environment of Burchfield Park.

Complete all the self-guided activities in this ECO Explorer Booklet to the best of your ability by August 16th, and you will earn an official Burchfield Park badge. (Some of the activities require math skills that may be beyond your learning level, but do your best and complete as much as you are able.)

To receive your official badge, bring your completed Explorer Booklet to the Nature Den on Wednesdays through Fridays or the Boathouse at Big Foot Lake on weekends. If no one is available at Nature Den on weekdays, badges are always available at Boathouse.

While completing your Explorer Booklet, make sure to look for other Explorers learning about their natural environment just like you! Feel free to bring a friend with you on your adventures.

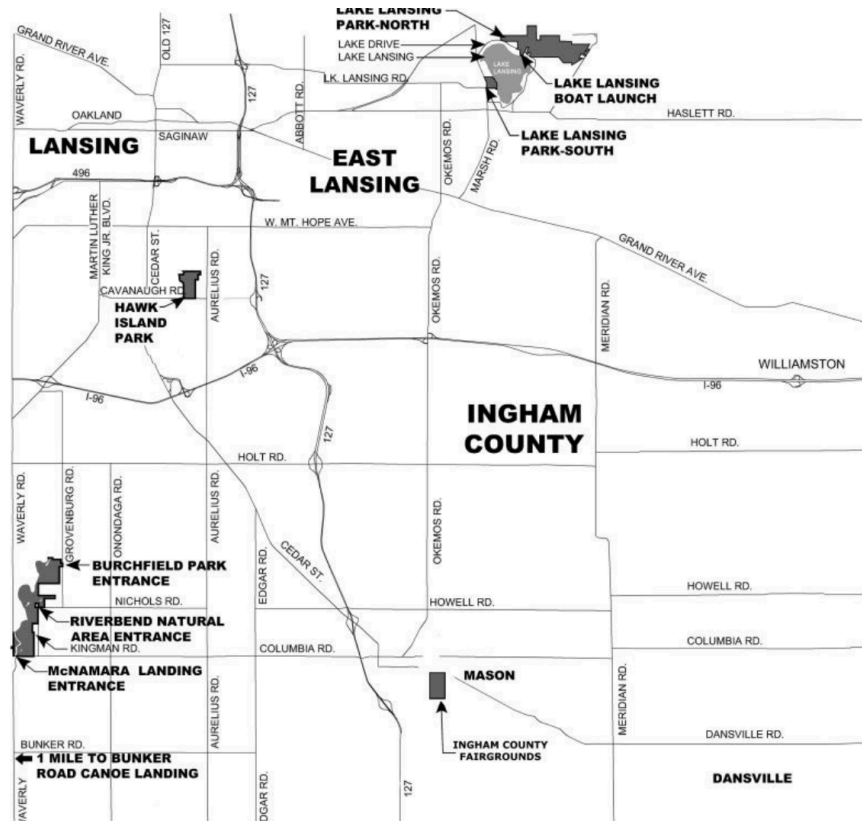
Don't forget to check out all the cool low-cost or free Summer ECO Education and Family Fun Friday activities available at Burchfield Park.

ECO stands for Explore, Create, Observe.



Enjoy exploring, creating, and observing in beautiful Burchfield Park!

INGHAM COUNTY PARKS



The Ingham County Park system is made up of 3 County Parks.

Circle Burchfield Park in green.

Circle Lake Lansing Park in blue

Circle Hawk Island Park in black.

Which park is closest to Aurelius Rd? _____

Which park is the furthest south? _____

Which park contains McNamara Landing? _____

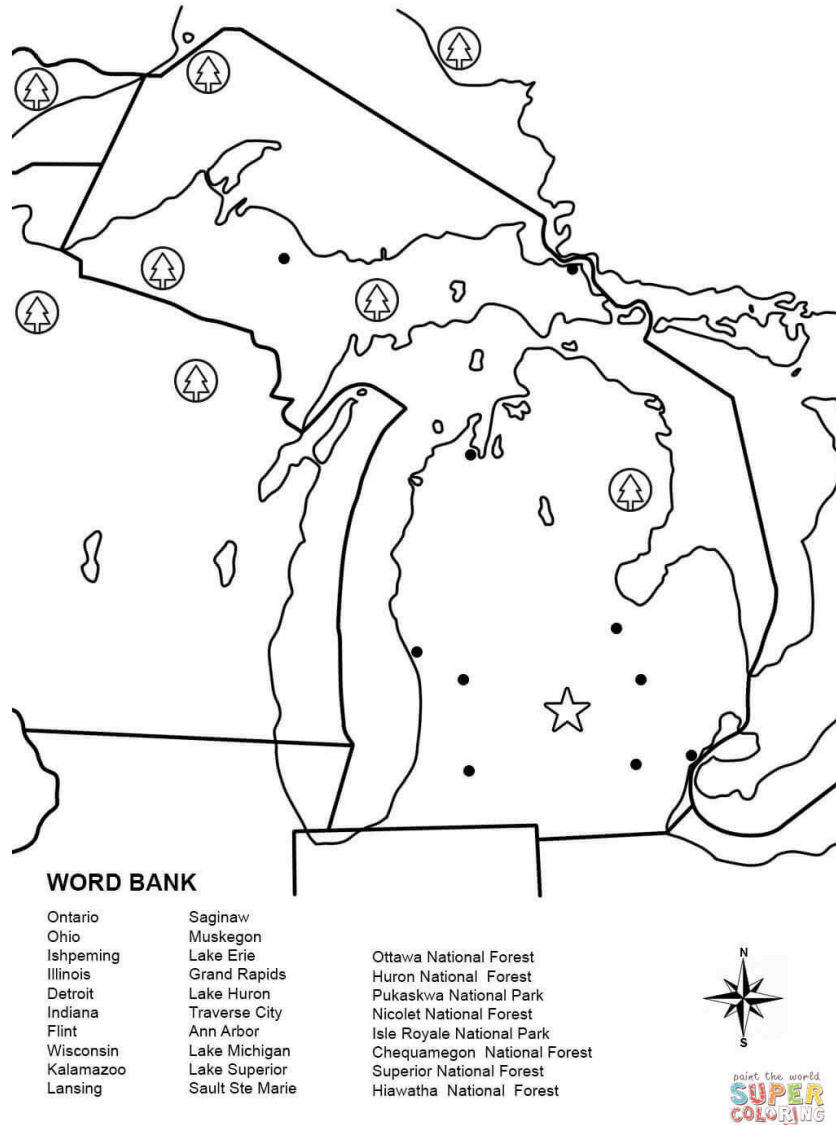
Which park has a boat launch? _____

Which park is closest to Mason, the County seat? _____

Which park is closest to Lansing, the capital of Michigan? _____

EXPLORE MICHIGAN

Label the map



**You may need to find other maps to help you with your labeling.
See page 4 for some of the answers.**

Label the states and the Canadian province that border Michigan:

Ontario- Canadian province

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin- American states

Label the following cities in Michigan: (dots on the above map)

Ishpeming, Detroit, Flint, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Saginaw, Muskegon, Grand Rapids,
Traverse City, Ann Arbor, Sault Ste Marie indent names of cities

Label the Great Lakes:

Huron, **O**ntario, **M**ichigan, **E**rie, **S**uperior (HOMES)

THE GRAND RIVER



Phragmites Removal Increases Property Values in Michigan's Lower Grand River Watershed. Journal of Ocean and Coastal Economics. September 2017. [Paul Isely](#) and Erik Nordman et al.

Burchfield Park is located along the Grand River between Jackson and Lansing. Burchfield is 10.3 miles south of Lansing. Draw a star where Burchfield Park is located on the map.

Rivers on the west side of Michigan eventually flow into Lake Michigan.

Where does the Grand River start? _____

Where does the Grand River end? _____

Rivers on the east side of Michigan eventually flow into Lake Huron then into Lake Erie.

Where do the rivers of Detroit eventually flow into? _____

For older kids:

Estimate the distance of the Grand River in kilometers using the map key. _____ km

Convert your estimate into miles by multiplying the number of kilometers by 0.62137.

Estimated miles _____

PLAY DISC GOLF

Burchfield Park Disc Golf Score Card - Rivers Edge Course

Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Distance (feet)	314	671	320	276	236	482	272	242	551	467	358	446	240	401	280	507	251	292
Par	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3
Player 1:																		
Player 2:																		
Player 3:																		

Burchfield Park's courses are some of Michigan's top disc golf destinations.
Disc golfers come from all over the Midwest to play here.

See the above disc golf score card.

Each hole of a course is numbered from 1-18. Distances of the Rivers Edge Course are listed in Row 2 of the above table as well as the par for each hole. Par is the score or number of throws an expert disc golfer would be expected to make.

What is the longest hole of the course? _____

How long is the distance in feet? _____

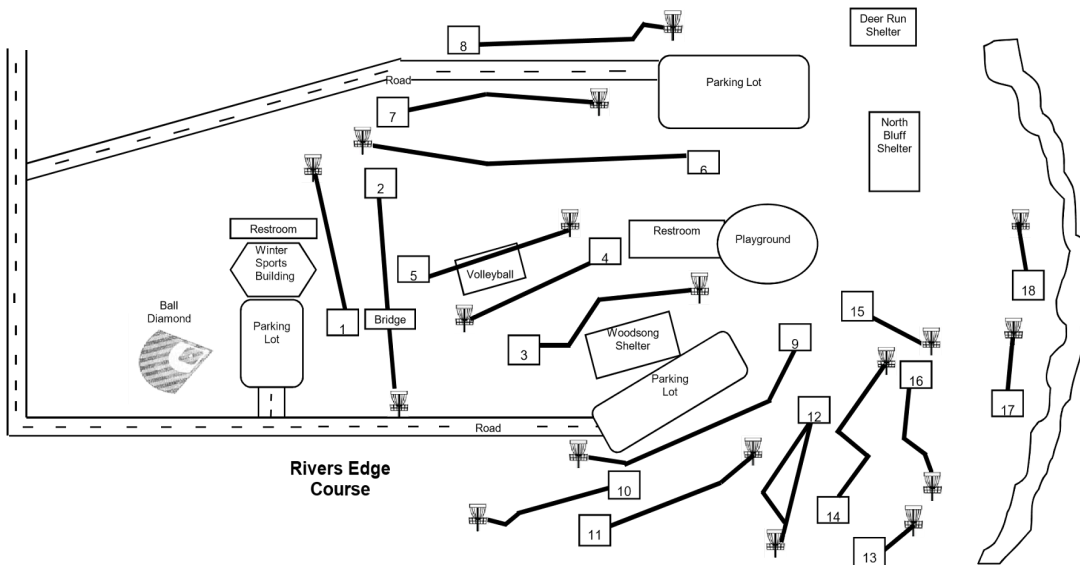
What is the shortest hole of the course? _____

How long is the distance in feet? _____

Are there more Par 3 or Par 4 holes? _____

How far do you think you can throw a disc? _____

RIVERS EDGE DISC GOLF COURSE



Burchfield Park, 881 Grovenburg Rd, Holt, Michigan 48842
www.inghamcountyparks.org

Instructions. Disc golf is played using a flying disc with similar rules as traditional golf. One stroke is counted each time the disc is thrown. When the disc comes to rest in the basket, the hole is complete. The player with the lowest score wins. Please follow these guidelines: After teeing off, the player farthest from the basket throws first. Player with the best score on last hole is first to tee-off on next hole. Never throw until players in front of you are out of range.

To report destructive, illegal or inappropriate behavior on the course call (517) 676-2233. Office hours Mon-Fri 8am-5pm.



Color the symbol for the Grand River blue.
 Circle a symbol for a basket.

Which hole is closest to Woodsong Shelter (also called Nature Den)? _____

Which hole ends closest to the restrooms near the playground? _____

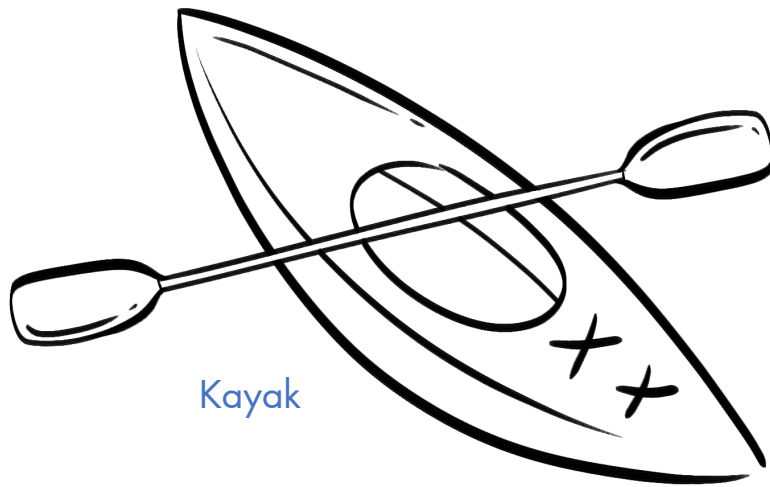
Which hole is parallel to Deer Run Shelter? _____

At which two holes might you worry about throwing your disc in the river?

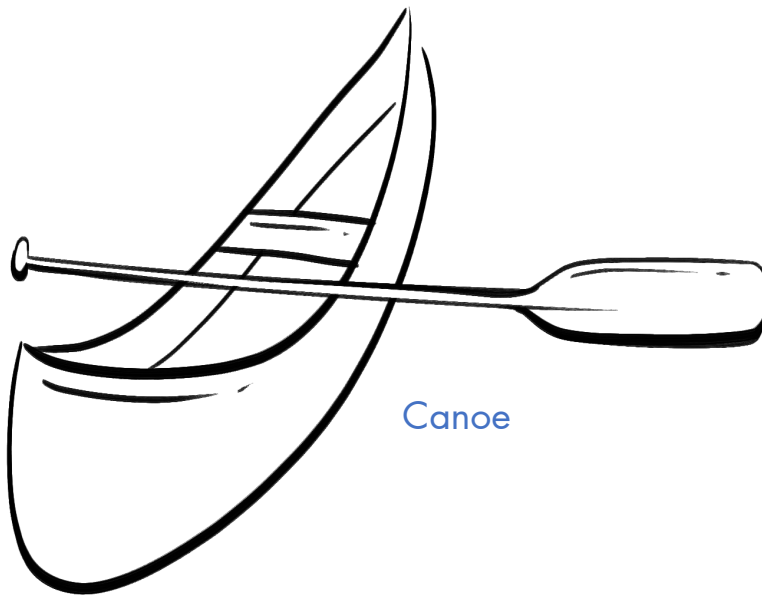
According to the instructions, when is the hole complete?

Who is the winner in disc golf? The highest score or the lowest score?

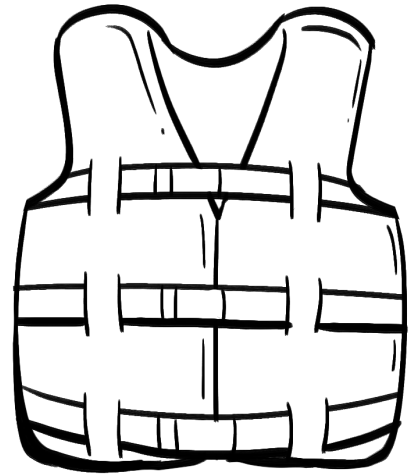
BURCHFIELD PARK KAYAKING AND CANOEING



Kayak



Canoe



Life vest

Which vessel uses a double-bladed paddle?

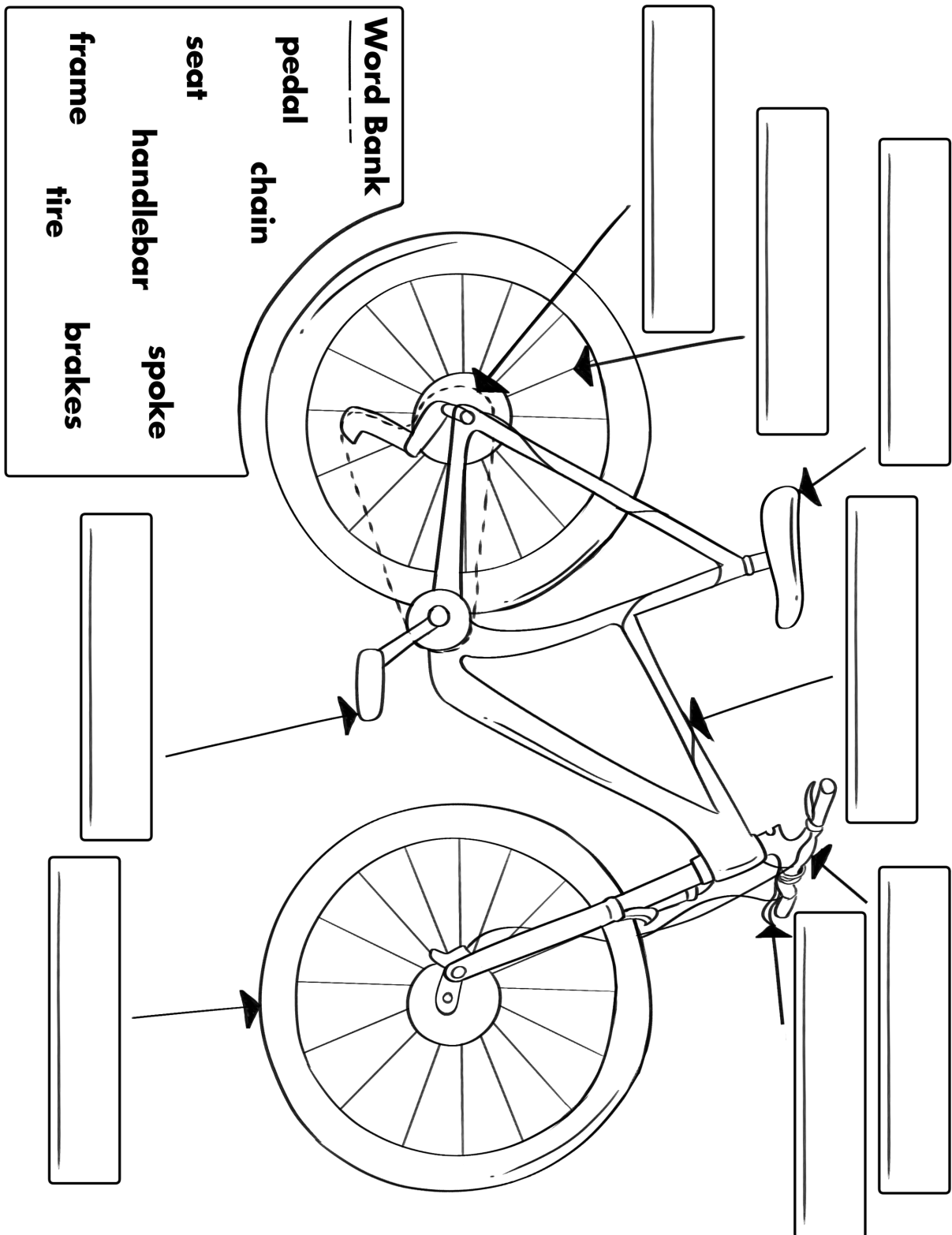
Which vessel uses a single-bladed paddle?

What should you always wear when in any kind of watercraft?

What sort of vessel did Native Americans use to traverse Michigan rivers?

MOUNTAIN BIKING AT BURCHFIELD PARK

Label the drawing with words from the word bank



BIRTHDAY PARTY AT BURCHFIELD PARK SHELTERS

Deer Run vs Overlook

Imagine that you could host a summer birthday party for yourself or a friend at Burchfield Park. Which of the two shelters would you choose as your location and why? Walk to each of the two shelters and look around at each before making your decision.



Deer Run Shelter Capacity: 60 people

1. What cool things are near this shelter? _____
2. What fun activities could you plan to do at this shelter? _____

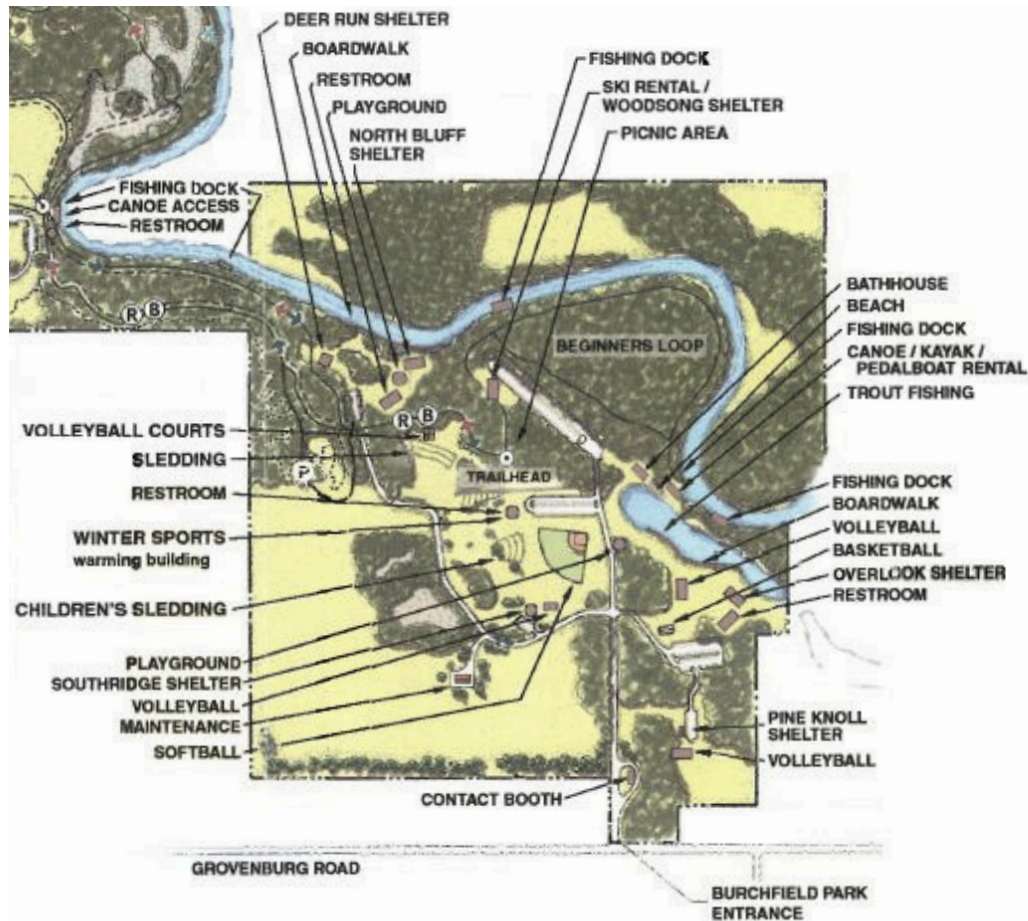


Overlook Shelter Capacity: 240 people

1. What cool things are near this shelter? _____
2. What fun activities could you do at this shelter? _____

Which shelter did you choose for your party? Why? _____

BURCHFIELD PARK ADVENTURE # 1



With 540 acres of scenic woods, trails and beach, Burchfield Park is Ingham County's largest park. Ribboned throughout by the Grand River, this outdoor haven harbors some of the best bank and boat fishing available in Ingham County.

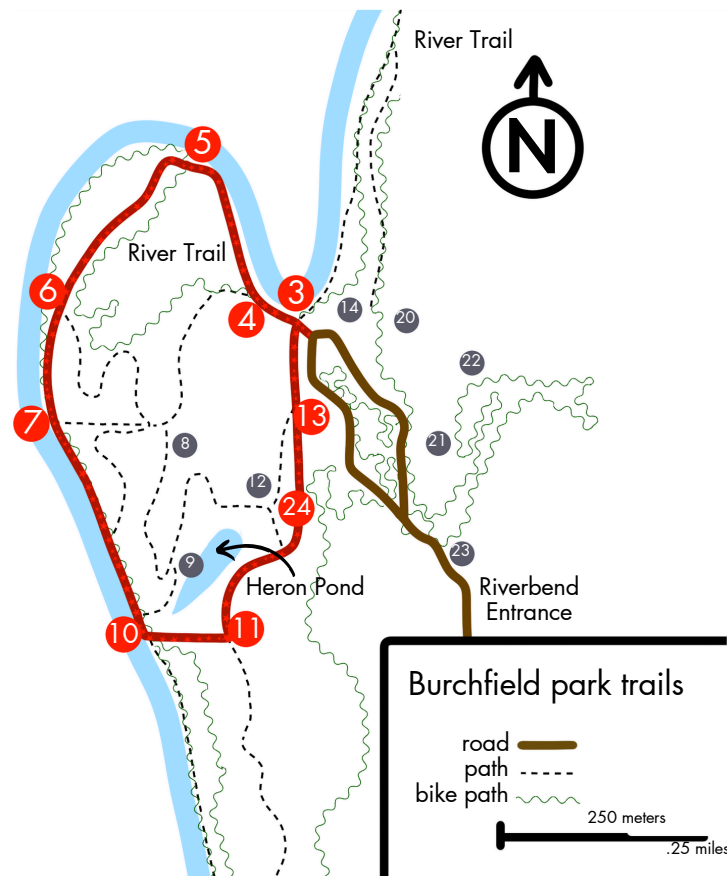
Burchfield Park offers lots of fun outdoor activities including a beach, canoe & kayak rentals and trips, cross country skiing & rental, hiking trails, two 18 hole disc golf courses, mountain biking trails, picnic grounds and shelters, playgrounds, sledding hills, and a softball diamond.

Go on a hike near the main parking lot areas off Grovenburg Rd. to find each of the following. Check off the circle when you have found each location.

- ☐ - Beach at Big Foot Lake
- ☐ - Canoe & Kayak rentals on Big Foot Lake
- ☐ - Main entrance gate house off Grovenburg Rd
- ☐ - Dirt School
- ☐ - Basketball court behind Dirt School
- ☐ - Overlook & Pine Knoll Shelters
- ☐ - Softball diamond
- ☐ - Nature Den/ Woodsong Building
- ☐ - Playground
- ☐ - North Bluff & Deer Run Shelters
- ☐ - Sledding Hill

RIVERBEND AND HERON POND ADVENTURE

Bring crayons or paint to capture all the colors of Heron Pond



Access Riverbend Landing from the Riverbend Park entrance or the River Trail.

Start at #3 → #4 → #5 → #6 → #7 → #10 → #11 → #24 → #13 → #3

1. When hiking between #11 and #24, stop at Heron Pond.
2. Sit on the dock and draw/ color/ paint what you see on page 13.
3. Using the map key, estimate how far you hike in _____ miles.
4. Stop along the river for 3 minutes and count the number of birds you hear and see.

Number of birds heard: _____

Number of birds seen: _____

Can you name any of the birds seen or heard?

EXPLORE WITH ART

Draw, Paint or Sketch What You See at Heron Pond

EXPLORE BY MEASURING LEAVES

Activity requires a ruler

May complete at home

Collect 3 **maple** leaves from the same tree. Trace one leaf on page 15.

Collect 3 **oak** leaves from the same tree. Trace one leaf on page 16.

What is different about oak and maple leaves? _____

What is the same about oak and maple leaves? _____

Measure each leaf at its widest point. Write the measurements in the following chart to find the average width of your collected leaves.

Round to the nearest whole inch or write measurement in decimal form. ($3 \frac{1}{4}$ inches = 3.25 inches)

Be consistent with your rounding. (*Averaging is optional for younger kids.*)

	maple leaf width	oak leaf width
leaf 1		
leaf 2		
leaf 3		
total of all 3 leaves		
average width		

Were your maple or oak leaves wider on average? _____

Can your measurements determine if all oaks in Burchfield Park are wider or narrower than all maple leaves? Why or why not? _____



MAPLE LEAF TRACING

Trace a maple leaf here



OAK LEAF TRACING

Trace an oak leaf here

EXPLORE BY OBSERVING

Go to the top of the sledding hill near the Winter Sports Building

Stand on the observation deck

Set a timer for 5 minutes and check off everything you see

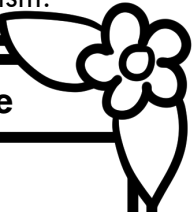
-  1. Pine tree
-  2. Bird flying overhead
-  3. Something prickly: _____
-  4. Blooming flower
-  5. Parks vehicle: blue pick ups or ATVs
-  6. Biker
-  7. Bird in bush or tree
-  8. Person walking on the bridge
-  9. Squirrel
-  10. Fluffy cloud
-  11. Something yellow: _____
-  12. Spider web
-  13. Swan paddle boat
-  14. Rabbit
-  15. Insect
-  16. Something square: _____
-  17. Picnic table
-  18. Trash
-  19. Something that would taste good to an animal: _____
-  20. Disc golfer

How many sunglasses did you check off? _____

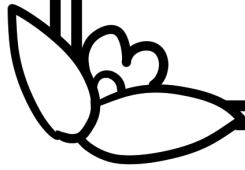
EXPLORE BY LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE

Walk along the River Trail

Find 5 different dead logs of different sizes and types of trees.
Look for evidence of use as food or habitat for each of the following groups.
If no evidence of use, propose how dead logs could be used by each organism.



organism	observed use	proposed use
mammals		
birds		
reptiles & amphibians		
insects		
fungi		



CREATE YOUR OWN RIVER TRAIL MAP

The River Trail starts at the playground and ends at River Bend Landing.

DRAW THE RIVER TRAIL FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Include signs pointing out cool stuff like woodpecker holes or where to avoid poison ivy.



ECO EXPLORER CLUB SUMMER WRAP-UP



Share 3 new things you learned about Burchfield Park. _____

Describe a cool animal you observed at Burchfield. _____

Which is your favorite: maple tree or oak tree? Why? _____

What is the best thing about Burchfield Park? _____

What was your favorite page to complete and why? _____



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