

Nature Notes



September — December 2019

Family Programs at George Owens Nature Park

In honor of National Public Lands Day 2019



Bee Balm

Wildflowers for Independence

Grown at George Owens Nature Park

September 29 + 30 Friday + Saturday

10:00 am—Noon

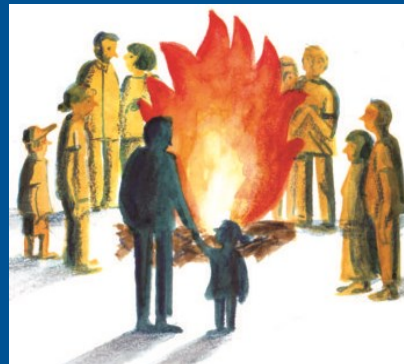
or until plants are gone

What better way to celebrate the role of our public lands than to share our native plants with the public.

The fine print: The plants are free. You'll have to dig them up, but we can help. Bring digging tools. We'll provide pots. Limited to three plants per household. The varieties are limited. The plants should be grown in full sun.

Note: If you regularly use pesticides around your yard, these plants are not for you. They all attract birds and pollinators—bees, butterflies, and other insects.

The Shortest Day of 2019



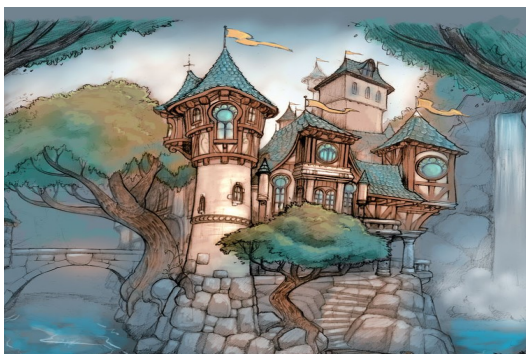
16th Annual

Winter Solstice

Torch-lit Hike

December 12 Wednesday 5:00-6:30 pm

Walk a forest trail lit by torches and lined with snowmen. It will lead you to owls, ice sculptures, telescopes and a bonfire. Free hot chocolate and the first 200 guests will receive free commemorative mugs.



Enchanted Forest

On Two Weekends
Prior to Halloween

Friday + Saturday 7:00-9:00 pm
October 18-19 + October 25-26

Generations of Independence families treasure this non-scary Halloween hike through the woods. It gets better every year, with new storybook skits, elaborate costumes, fire-breathing dragons, pirate ships, and castles.

Admission is \$3 per person for everyone 2 years old and up.

For more information call (816) 325-7115 or (816) 325-7370.

Get Nature Notes emailed to you.

Just send an email with Nature Notes in the subject line to Mel Haney, Parks Naturalist, mhaney@indepmo.org or call (816) 325-7115.



INDEPENDENCE
★ PARKS ★ RECREATION ★ TOURISM ★

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Hummingbird Festival

September 7 Saturday 9 am—4 pm

Ruby-throated hummingbirds throng here during migration, attracted by our wildflowers and more than 50 feeders. Join us for hummingbird banding, expert advice, kid crafts, a migration game and a walk among the feeders. We'll also sell native plants that will attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your house.

The feeders will stay up into October while the hummingbirds are migrating. We welcome everyone to observe and photograph the hummingbirds during this time.

Explore new parks in the dark.

Full Moon Hikes



Harvest Moon

Sep 13 Fri 8 pm

George Owens

Sep 14 Sat 8 pm

Waterfall Park

Dying Grass Moon

Oct 11 Fri 6:30 pm

George Owens

Oct 12 Sat 6:30 pm

Waterfall Park

Oak Moon

Nov 9 Sat 5 pm

Little Blue Trace

Jackson Drive Entrance

Cold Moon

Dec 13 Fri 6:30 pm

George Owens

Dec 14 Sat 7:30 pm

George Owens

Reserve your place by 5 pm on the day before the hike at (816) 325-7115. Each hike is limited to 15 participants.

George Owens Nature Park

www.georgeowensnaturepark.org (816) 325-7115

Park Hours through September

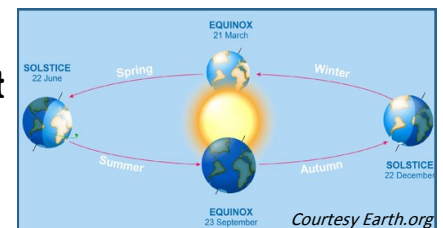
Tues—Fri: 8:30 am-8:00 pm Sat: 8:30 am-5:00 pm
Sun: Noon-5:00 pm Closed Monday

Park Hours October—April

Tues—Sat: 8:30 am-5:00 pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

George Owens Nature Park is located at 1601 S. Speck Rd. in Independence. From the intersection of M291 and 23rd St., go east on 23rd. Turn north at the 3rd stoplight/Speck Rd. The park will be on your right.

Harvest Moon



The full moon that is closest to the autumn equinox is called the Harvest Moon and it can be in either October or September. This year the equinox is on September 23 at 2:50 am CDT, making the full moon on September 14 the Harvest Moon.