

# Our Big Backyard

An Ingham County Trails & Parks Challenge

Get Outside,  
Win Prizes

Fun &  
Free!



Brought to you by the Ingham County Trails & Parks Millage



# Our Big Backyard: an Ingham County Trails & Parks Challenge

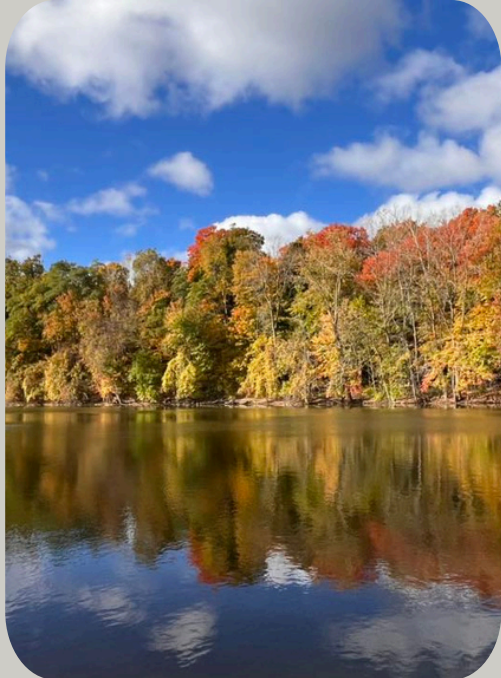
## What is it?

Join us for the first ever Ingham County Trails & Parks Challenge – a fun way to explore, get active, connect with nature, and celebrate the great outdoors in your own community.

This challenge is a public initiative to promote outdoor recreation in and around Ingham County.

## How do I Participate?

1. Register online at [https://pk.ingham.org/trails\\_and\\_parks\\_millage/our\\_big\\_backyard.php](https://pk.ingham.org/trails_and_parks_millage/our_big_backyard.php)
2. Explore each trail or park by its designated season
3. Win a hand designed, seasonal sticker for each challenge block, and one final sticker if you complete the full year!



## Why Should I Do It?

The goal of this challenge is to explore the trails, parks, and waterways right here within Ingham County.

If you don't want to participate in a specific seasonal activity, you can still visit the trail, park, or waterway on your own—simply exploring a new place or discovering something you haven't noticed before still counts toward the challenge! Our lists are just suggestions of what you can do at each location.



Since it's now 2026, the aim is to complete a total of **26** challenges this year, or **6–7 challenges each season**. Find the detailed schedules below.



# Winter Challenge Schedule & Rules

## Winter 2026

**January 2026 – February 2026 and December 2026: Winter Challenge**

**Pick at least 1 challenge in each category. You must have 6 challenges complete for Winter, so you can repeat in any group(s) you choose. Don't forget you can finish in December 2026 if you run out of time!**

If an activity isn't your thing, no worries—just swing by the mentioned park or trail, explore, and enjoy! That adventure still counts toward your seasonal challenge.

**A. Go Sledding down the hill or visit the park:**

1. Hayes Park (City of Mason)
2. John Taylor Memorial Park–Deadman Hill (Delhi Twp.)
3. Burchfield Park (Delhi Twp.)
4. North Meridian Road Park (Meridian Twp.)
5. Cavanaugh Park (City of Lansing)

**B. Go Cross Country Ski or Snowshoeing or visit the park:**

6. Burchfield Park CC Skiing or Snowshoeing (Ingham County Park–Delhi Twp.)
7. Lake Lansing Park North CC Skiing or Snowshoeing (Ingham County Park–Haslett)
8. Harris Nature Center–Snowshoeing (Meridian Twp.)
9. Fenner Nature Center–Snowshoeing (City of Lansing)

**C. Walk a trail**–If there's been snowfall, the pathway may not be plowed.

10. Lansing River Trail (City of Lansing)
11. MSU River Trail (City of East Lansing on MSU Campus)
12. MSU to Lake Lansing Trail (Meridian Twp.)
13. Northern Tier Trail (City of East Lansing)
14. RAM Trail (Delhi Twp.)

**D. Winter Photo Challenge:** Build a snowman at a local park or along a trail & submit a photo to [jbelli@ingham.org](mailto:jbelli@ingham.org).

**Don't forget to fill out the Winter Challenge Completion Form once you are done!**



# Spring Challenge Schedule & Rules

## Spring 2026

### March 2026 – May 2026: Spring Challenge

#### Pick 1 challenge from each category. (6 total for Spring)

If an activity isn't your thing, no worries—just swing by the mentioned park or trail, explore, and enjoy! That adventure still counts toward your seasonal challenge.

#### A. Kayak the Grand River/Red Cedar or visit the launch:

1. Red Cedar Bend Landing (City of Williamston)
2. Kruger's Landing (City of Lansing)
3. Moore Park (City of Lansing)

#### B. Play Disc Golf or visit the park:

4. Sycamore Creek Disc Golf Course (City of Lansing) (Maybe a fee)
5. Lake Lansing North (Ingham County Park–Haslett) (extra fee)
6. Burchfield Park (Ingham County Park–Delhi Twp.) (extra fee)

#### C. Go Fishing or visit the park:

7. Central Park South (Meridian Twp.)
8. Ferguson Park (Meridian Twp.)
9. Hawk Island (Ingham County Park–City of Lansing)

#### D. Walk or Bike a Trail:

10. Leslie Heart of Michigan Trail (Leslie Twp. & City of Leslie)
11. Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park (Village of Stockbridge)
12. Hayhoe Trail (Delhi Twp.)
13. South Lansing Pathway (City of Lansing)
14. MSU to Lake Lansing Phase II (Meridian Twp.)

#### E. Visit one of these Parks:

15. Vevay Township Hall Park (Vevay Twp.)
16. Leslie Twp. Hall Park (Leslie Twp.)
17. Simmons Memorial Park (Leroy Twp.)
18. Nancy Moore Park (Meridian Twp.)
19. Memorial Park (City of Williamston)

F. Spring Photo Challenge: Find a Trails & Parks Millage signpost, like the one pictured here, and submit the photo to [jbelli@ingham.org](mailto:jbelli@ingham.org).

**Don't forget to fill  
out the Spring  
Challenge  
Completion Form  
once you are done!**



\*\* While not all of these projects, trails, and events have been millage-funded, Our Big Backyard Challenge has been brought to you by the Ingham County Trails & Parks Millage

# Summer Challenge Schedule & Rules

## Summer 2026

### June 2026 - August 2026: Summer Challenge

**Pick at least 1 challenge in each category. You must have 7 challenges complete for Summer so you can repeat in any group(s) you choose.**

If an activity isn't your thing, no worries—just swing by the mentioned park or trail, explore, and enjoy! That adventure still counts toward your seasonal challenge.

#### **A.** Kayak the Grand River/Red Cedar or visit the launch at:

1. Hawk Island-pond at the park (Ingham County Park-Lansing)
2. Burchfield Park (Ingham County Park-Delhi Twp.)
3. McNamara Landing (Ingham County Park -Delhi Twp.)
4. Bunker Road Landing (Ingham County Park-Eaton Rapids)
5. Rotary Park (City of Lansing)

#### **B.** Swim at one of these parks or simply visit:

6. Lake Lansing South Park (Ingham County Park-Haslett)
7. Burchfield Park (Ingham County Park-Delhi Twp.)
8. Hawk Island Park (City of Lansing)
9. Valhalla Park (Delhi Twp.)

#### **C.** Walk or Bike one of these Trails:

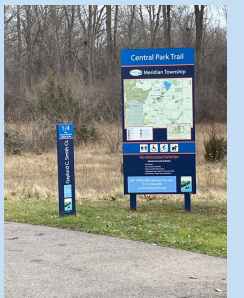
10. Burchfield Park-Mountain Bike (Ingham County Park-Delhi Twp.)
11. Hayhoe Riverwalk Trail (City of Mason)
12. Fenner Nature Center Trail (City of Lansing)
13. Inter-urban Trail (Meridian Twp.)
14. Sycamore Creek Trail (Delhi Twp.)

#### **D.** Visit one of these Parks:

15. Baldwin Park (Onondaga Twp.)
16. Glenna Droscha Park (Aurelius Twp.)
17. Frances Park (City of Lansing)
18. Hartrick Park (Meridian Twp.)
19. Maguire Park (City of Lansing)

**E.** Summer Photo Challenge: Take a picture of any **Blue** wayfinding signs along the trails like the ones pictured here. Submit via email to [jbelli@ingham.org](mailto:jbelli@ingham.org).

**Don't forget to fill out the Summer Challenge Completion Form once you are done!**



# Fall Challenge Schedule & Rules

## Fall 2026

**September 2026 - November 2026: Fall Challenge**

**Pick at least 1 challenge in each category. You must have 7 challenges complete for Fall so you can repeat in any group(s) you choose.**

If an activity isn't your thing, no worries—just swing by the mentioned park or trail, explore, and enjoy! That adventure still counts toward your seasonal challenge.

**A. Kayak the Grand River/Red Cedar or visit the launch:**

1. Baldwin Park (Onondaga Twp.)
2. Lake Lansing South Park (Ingham County-Haslett)
3. Crego Park (City of Lansing)

**B. Go Fishing or visit the park:**

4. White Memorial City Park (City of East Lansing)
5. Laylin Park (City of Mason)
6. Meridian Historical Village (Meridian Twp.)

**C. Walk or Bike a Trail:**

7. Ranney Park Trail (City of Lansing)
8. Valhalla Trail (Delhi Twp.)
9. Ronald J. Styka Memorial Pathway (Meridian Twp.)
10. Leek Cemetery Trail (Alaiedon Twp.)
11. Central Park Trail (Meridian Twp.)

**D. Visit a Park:**

12. Veterans Memorial Park (Village of Stockbridge)
13. Russell Park (City of Leslie)
14. Harrison Meadows Park (City of East Lansing)
15. Waverly Rd. Shared Pathway (Lansing Twp.)
16. Benjamin F. Davis Park (City of Lansing)

**E. Fall Photo Challenge:** Take a photo of **an animal** along a trail or at a park within Ingham County and submit to [jbelli@ingham.org](mailto:jbelli@ingham.org).

**Don't forget to fill out the Fall Challenge Completion Form once you are done!**

