

WHY NATURE STUDY?

This is an age of nervous tension. The relaxation which comes from the serenity and peace of the fields and forests in the County Parks is a recognized beneficial therapy for soothing tensions. What more precious gift can be given a child than an understanding and appreciation of nature? What more helpful deed can be performed for an overwrought adult than to introduce him to a wholesome and relaxing outdoor activity?



The Hamilton County Park District Commissioners are justifiably proud of the record of the many thousands of youngsters who have been exposed to the wonders of nature through the natural history programs conducted in the County Parks. The Park Naturalist conducts many school classes on field trips in the parks and makes numerous classroom visits throughout the year. Many of these children have become scientists, geologists, botanists, foresters, and teachers, and others still follow in adult life their worthwhile interests in natural history.

Some think nature study should include the best methods of killing game or catching fish. Think how much more enriching it is to learn how these creatures live by capturing episodes from their lives on film or sketch pad, or just watching them in their natural habitats.

There are children in this area who do not know what it is to walk on the good green earth and enjoy it. Some children are so accustomed to asphalt and concrete that when they visit the Park District Parks they say, "We can't play here, there's no paving." We remember, particularly, a little girl on her first exposure to soft woodland soil asking, "Is this mud we're walking in?"

Nature education cultivates in children a love of beautiful things in nature and an early perception of form, color, and music. They see beauty in the clouds and hear music in the wind and the rain or the babbling of a brook. Youngsters must be taught to appreciate and protect what remains of our precious national heritage.

It is conceivable, and indeed probable, that within the lifetime of many now living the only natural green areas left in this vicinity will be in the Park District Parks. Municipal and private parks are important but the Hamilton County Park District serves a unique and very important function by retaining the primitive wilderness in its natural state for tomorrow's children.

Many schools have outdoor education classes, but realizing that it cannot contact every youngster, the Hamilton County Park District further assists through its Park Naturalist in training the teachers. The teacher who can bring a knowledge of nature into the classroom brings a breath of fresh air, so to speak, into the atmosphere of overheated radiators and over-crowded small human beings that will remain with these same small human beings wherever they go.

Bring your family out to the County Parks for a full day's enjoyment. Enjoy the camera walks and nature hikes or hike on your own over the nature trails found in the County Parks, Sharon Woods, Winton Woods, and Miami Whitewater Forest.