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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Meditation Yoga

Monday, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, & Feb. 13  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Beginner Bird Hikes & Birds & Coffee

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.      9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturdays, Dec. 10 & 31, Jan. 21, Feb 18

Birding 101

Saturday, Jan. 14 & Feb 11  
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, Feb. 18  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Composting Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 11  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**i For more information**

 (574) 293-5070

 [www.elkhartindiana.org/eec](http://www.elkhartindiana.org/eec)



[www.Facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter](http://www.Facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter)

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## ELKHARTWOOD COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING-FALL 2016



### ElkhartWood

The Elkhart Environmental Center partners with the Forestry Division and our community, year-round, to celebrate trees in the city. Each October, the City of Elkhart participates in NeighborWoods Month, a national campaign to make communities healthier and greener by planting trees, with our annual community tree planting.

Thanks to the ElkhartWood Program, which funds greening projects in the city through the sale of city logs, we successfully planted 9 trees at Bristol Elementary School on October 28<sup>th</sup>!

Approximately 75 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, staff and community volunteers participated in the different activities that make up the tree planting. Participants learned about the importance of urban trees, the benefits and services provided by trees, tree care and maintenance, and how to correctly plant a tree. Bristol Elementary School has committed to caring for the trees they planted by watering and monitoring their health and growth in the years to come. In just a couple years they will be pruning their trees! It is so important to have this level of engagement in order for their trees to grow and thrive for the students and the community!



Aiming to involve all students in each of the education activities and planting, teachers received training from the EEC, so they could lead some of the educational activities, while community volunteers helped supervise the students at the planting locations. Both students and teachers were committed to learning from the planting activity and showed an interest in continuing to learn about trees. The teachers plan to use the extension activities provided by the EEC and apply it to other grades within the school.

During the next three years, Bristol Elementary School, the EEC, and the Forestry Division will continue to communicate to ensure the success of the program and the survival of the trees planted.



Students, teachers, and community volunteers learn how to properly plan a tree and care for it.

# EEC MASTER PLAN 2016

In celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Elkhart Environmental Center started to develop its first master plan this past summer. The EEC has long served as an environmental education resource for Elkhart and this plan aims to reinforce that role while establishing a long term vision for the center.

The process itself has several stages that make the EEC Master Plan an inclusive and participatory planning tool that compiles and reflects interests from the public, providing action items and strategies to better serve the Elkhart community and the environment.

We held focus group meetings with internal and external stakeholders and two public meetings. Participants represented public and private sectors from the city and the greater Michiana area, providing input and feedback about new opportunities for the future of the EEC. We also received input and ideas from lots of people in our community by phone, email and in person.



Our intent is to have a plan to guide the EEC to improve its functionality, both internally and in our programming, in response to real concerns and needs expressed and identified by the community we serve.

Visit [www.elkhartinidiana.org/eec](http://www.elkhartinidiana.org/eec) to get updates about this important process!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Second-Annual Indiana STEM Education Conference January 12<sup>th</sup>, at Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)**

The goal of the conference is to provide a platform for dissemination of best practice in K-12 STEM teaching and learning in Indiana. There will be three strands that organize the conference: K-12 STEM practice, STEM education research, and STEM resources. Lunch and parking included in the registration fee. The number of participants is limited. Early registration is required. Contact Tabitha Cinowski at 765-494-8227 or [cinowski@purdue.edu](mailto:cinowski@purdue.edu) for questions about conference. Call 1-866-515-0023 or [confreg@purdue.edu](mailto:confreg@purdue.edu) for questions about registration.

### **Sunrise Eagle Watch January 21<sup>st</sup> at Mississinewa Lake (Peru, IN)**

Caravan to the Miami County bald eagle roost to watch the birds take morning flight. Participants should meet at 6:30 a.m. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes! Register by calling Teresa Rody at 260-468-2127 or email [uwnatdnr@dnr.in.gov](mailto:uwnatdnr@dnr.in.gov). Handicapped parking is available if requested at registration; expect limited walking on a paved road. Please dress for the weather.

### **2017 Indiana Arborist Association (IAA) Annual Conference January 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at Marriot East (Indianapolis, IN)**

Join the IAA annual conference and receive educational and certification opportunities along with speakers from all over the country providing information on research, current trends and industry issues. Contact Lindsay Purcell at 765-494-3625 or [Lindsay@indiana-arborist.org](mailto:Lindsay@indiana-arborist.org) for more information.

### **Workshop about Composting – Master Gardeners of Elkhart County**

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Elkhart Environmental Center

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Elkhart Public Library – Osolo Branch

**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Reith Interpretative Center

The Elkhart County Michiana Master Gardeners sponsored by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, will lead a series of composting workshops from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. See dates and locations above.

# CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Volunteer Opportunities at the EEC

The EEC seeks volunteers for a variety of projects and tasks. Contact Rocio Gutierrez at [Rocio.gutierrez@coei.org](mailto:Rocio.gutierrez@coei.org) or call 574-293-5070 to find out how you can help with one or more of the following opportunities:

### Nature lovers

- The EEC seeks volunteers to help us finish weeding the learning garden and provide ideas for next year's design.
- Volunteers are needed to help us remove invasive species from key outdoor areas. Clearing out the views of the wetlands, the Elkhart River, and Reflection Grove, will give the site a more charming scene for our visitors to enjoy!
- Trails around the center also need some care. From spreading fresh woodchips to fixing, staining and relocating benches, volunteers can help give the trails a cozier appearance.



### Eco-Cleaners and organizers

- Rocio needs a couple of hands to help update inventories and re-organize spaces. Locations include the tool shed, bookshelves in the visitor cabin, education kits, displays and closets.
- We would like to make our cabin shine. Help is needed to clean window screens, pets' cages, and the kitchen.

### Community Event Experts

- If you enjoy planning events and promoting community engagement and environmental responsibility, join the Arbor Day (Jan. to Apr.) or EnviroFest Committee (Jan. to Jul.). Tasks can include attending meetings to plan the event, fundraising, set up, assisting guests, event activities and clean up.



Event Volunteer

### EEC Supporters

The EEC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. In 2016, many individuals, organizations, and community groups, donated their time and enthusiasm to help us grow and better serve the community. If you would like to be part of the change, contact us to join any of the following year-round programs:

- Adopt-A-Trail
- Adopt-A-Spot
- Group Volunteer Opportunities/Work Days
- Public Program Presenters
- Field Trip Leaders \*Training required



Community Service Project



Learning Garden



Invasive Species Removal

## Professional Volunteer Opportunities

Here are some additional volunteer opportunities in the Michiana Area:

### Indiana Envirothon 2017

The Envirothon is a competitive learning experience for teams of high school students to test their knowledge of environmental resources. Visit <http://iaswcd.org/events-2/envirothon/> for more information about tasks and activities for volunteers contact Darci Zolman at [Darci.Zolman@IN.nacdnet.net](mailto:Darci.Zolman@IN.nacdnet.net).

### Science Fair at Saint Thomas the Apostle School

Tuesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

As a judge for Science Fair, volunteers would rate the various science fair projects based on criteria on a rubric provided as you learn about each project. Contact Lisa Nyers at [lisa@ethosinc.org](mailto:lisa@ethosinc.org) for more information.

## NEW SERIES OF BIRDING PROGRAMS AT THE EEC

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society (SBEAS) will be leading a series of activities at the Elkhart Environmental Center, starting on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing into 2017! Lindsay Grossman, Education Chair for SBEAS will be leading these programs. Many programs will be held in conjunction with others, but please make sure to register for each. Events are suitable for all skill levels and free! Email [earthlindz@gmail.com](mailto:earthlindz@gmail.com) for more information.



DATE (S)	PROGRAM/EVENT	TIME	PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Saturday Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup> , Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup> , Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> , Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Beginner Bird Hikes	8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	Explore the EEC grounds, looking for birds! Try out your birding skills! Warm refreshment provided. Dress for the weather.
	Birds & Coffee	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Get to know your local birds! Become part of citizen programs where data collected is analyzed and used! All materials will be provided.
Saturday Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> & Feb. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Birding 101	8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Introductory course to become a birder. Learn how to use binoculars and field guides, identify backyard birds, and the “where, when, and how” of birding. The class will be a mix of classroom and field activities around the EEC site.
Saturday Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Great Backyard Bird Count	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Join us for the biggest birding event of the year! Activities for the morning include feeder watch, beginner bird walk, children’s activities, and a presentation about bird feeding.

\* Future program dates TBA

# LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EEC

## Find Us



You can learn about the Elkhart Environmental Center and the programs and volunteer opportunities by visiting our Website: [www.elkhartindiana.org/eec](http://www.elkhartindiana.org/eec), liking us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter](https://www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter), inquiring by email: [eecmail@coei.org](mailto:eecmail@coei.org), or by calling: 574-293-5070.

## A peek at some of the EEC Programs

### ElkhartWood

The ElkhartWood program is a community-driven program designed to provide ecosystem services while contributing to the urban environment by making our city greener and healthier. The ElkhartWood Program aims to reconnect people to our city trees by finding value in community-grown trees and putting it towards the next generation of tree canopy in the city.



### Environmental Education (EE)

Children and adults are increasingly disconnected from nature. Environmental Education (EE) has a key role in helping solve existing complex issues in our society. EE teaches individuals and communities about the environment, environmental issues, and how people can make a difference. It helps us all be more aware and informed of the challenges and solutions, so we can take action.



From May to August, we provide guided education programs with our summer interns. During the school year, from September to April, the EEC is open for self-guided field trips and we welcome teachers to reserve any of our education kits for use during on-site field trips or in their classroom. Email or call us to schedule a field trip or for more information!

## Elkhart Environmental Center: A review of the year in pictures!



For other formats contact the Elkhart Environmental Center  
Voice: (574) 293-5070

Email: [eecmail@coei.org](mailto:eecmail@coei.org)