



Minerva, the Great Horned Owl, watches as you save the date in your calendar.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

OCTOBER 21 & 22

**OWL  
FEST**

EAGLE CREEK PARK  
ORNITHOLOGY CENTER



FREE with park admission

Schedule:  
tinyurl.com/ECP  
OwlFest2023



Join us for the 8th annual October Owl Festival at Eagle Creek Park. This large fundraiser event is fun for the whole family, with crafts & games, wildlife programs, and more! Funds raised go to our Raptor Ambassador Fund, but all activities at the Ornithology Center are FREE with park admission! Festival Hours: Saturday October 21, 10am-5pm, Sunday October 22, 1pm-5pm. Donate now or bid in our silent auction: <https://www.32auctions.com/OwlFest2023>

See map on the last page for parking and other information.

**ADDRESSES:**

**Ornithology Center** 6515 Delong Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46278 | (317)327-2473

**Beach Shelter** 7602 Eagle Beach Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46254

**PARK ADMISSION:**

**\$5/vehicle** if you live in Marion County

**\$6/vehicle** if you live out of county

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

*Ornithology Center open 10:00 am – 5:00 pm (festival NOT happening on Friday)*

**2:00-2:30 pm**

**Falcon Friday**

**Location: Ornithology Center**

Witness Freyja, the Peregrine Falcon ambassador, eat her favorite food - chicken! Learn about her and the peregrine conservation success story from her trainer and park volunteer, Donna McCarty.

**6:00-8:40 pm**

**Owl Prowls & Nocturnal Animals**

**Location: Beach Shelter**

Join us for an owl-themed guided excursion with a naturalist through the woods. You will learn about these amazing nocturnal hunters and try to find them in their natural habitat! Owl Prowl Hikes leaving every hour: 6:00-6:40pm, 7:00-7:40pm, 8:00-8:40pm. Each owl prowl limited to first 40 participants, children must be accompanied by an adult. Owl Prowls will be adapted to accommodate all abilities. **Haunted Hayrides also happening at the Beach. Find times, fees, and register at:** [http://apm.activecommunities.com/indyparks/Activity\\_Search/25670](http://apm.activecommunities.com/indyparks/Activity_Search/25670)

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## SATURDAY OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

*Ornithology Center open 10:00 am – 5:00 pm*

### **10:00 am – 5:00 pm      Activities, Crafts, & Tables at the Ornithology Center**

Owl pellet dissections, crafts, games, quidditch, scavenger hunts, concessions, vendor tables, the silent auction display, and more will be set up at the Ornithology Center during festival open hours (moved indoors if raining). Visit the raptor ambassadors in their new enclosures, learn about owls, try the migration obstacle course, and explore our exhibits. Come in costume and get a free piece of candy or small prize!

### **10:00 – 10:45 am      Owl Story Time      Location: Ornithology Center**

Join Olivia for an owl-themed story time, either outside on the deck or in the nature playroom, weather depending.

### **10:30 – 11:00 am      Owl Trainer Chat      Location: Ornithology Center**

Have you ever wondered how the Ornithology Center trains their Raptor Ambassadors? Learn about animal behavior and contemporary animal training methods from OC Manager Jenna McElroy, and see our two owl ambassadors in their new enclosures.

### **11:00 am – 12:00 pm      Owl Myths & Legends      Location: Ornithology Center**

Classroom-based program about how owls have influenced and played vital roles in many different cultures, taught by naturalist, Pat Stutz. Limited to first 30 participants.

### **12:00 – 1:00 pm      Fall Bird Hike      Location: Ornithology Center**

Join Eagle Creek Park birders and naturalists for a beautiful stroll around Lilly Lake. Trail: 1 mile, easy, but difficult in some spots for strollers.

### **1:00 – 2:00 pm      Spooky Animals      Location: Ornithology Center**

Bats and skunks, spiders and snakes! Meet some of our spooky animals from the Earth Discovery Center and prepare to be...unafraid.

### **2:30 – 3:00 pm      Raptor Feeding Time      Location: Ornithology Center**

Watch one of the naturalists feed the birds of prey in their enclosures at the Ornithology Center. They eat quickly so don't be late!

### **3:00 – 4:00 pm      Raptor ID Workshop      Location: Ornithology Center**

Classroom, lecture-based program: Learn how to identify raptors in flight with OC naturalist and birding expert, Aidan Rominger. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Limited to the first 30 participants.

### **4:00 – 5:00 pm      Poisonous Plants Hike      Location: Ornithology Center**

Join naturalist Frank Brown for this short hike to learn about some of the "spookier" plants in the forest. Trail: 0.5-1 mile, easy, fairly accessible.

### **4:00 – 5:00 pm      Mark Booth (Take Flight!) Live Owl Program      Location: Beach Shelter**

**Moved to the Beach Shelter this year!** One of our most popular Owl Fest programs! Local falconer and wildlife educator, Mark Booth, will teach you all about the amazing nocturnal adaptations of owls, with a little help from his live owl coworkers.

### **6:00-8:40 pm      Owl Prowls & Nocturnal Animals      Location: Beach Shelter**

Join us for an owl-themed guided excursion with a naturalist through the woods. You will learn about these amazing nocturnal hunters and try to find them in their natural habitat! Owl Prowl Hikes leaving every hour: 6:00-6:40pm, 7:00-7:40pm, 8:00-8:40pm. Each owl prowl limited to first 40 participants, children must be accompanied by an adult. Owl Prowls will be adapted to accommodate all abilities. **Haunted Hayrides also happening at the Beach. Find times, fees, and register at:**

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## SUNDAY OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

*Ornithology Center open 1:00pm – 5:00 pm*

### **9:00 – 11:00 am Amos Butler Audubon Society Morning Bird Hike      Location: Ornithology Center**

Join a group of new and experienced birders for a brisk morning bird walk! Meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am, led by ABAS, rain or shine. Trail: various, depending on the group size and preference.

### **12:00 – 1:00 pm Mark Booth (Take Flight!) Live Owl Program      Location: Beach Shelter**

**Moved to the Beach Shelter this year!** One of our most popular Owl Fest programs! Local falconer and wildlife educator, Mark Booth, will teach you all about the amazing nocturnal adaptations of owls, with a little help from his live owl coworkers.

### **1:00 – 5:00 pm      Activities, Crafts, & Tables at the Ornithology Center**

Owl pellet dissections, crafts, games, quidditch, scavenger hunts, concessions, vendor tables, the silent auction display, and more will be set up at the Ornithology Center during festival open hours (moved indoors if raining). Visit the raptor ambassadors in their new enclosures, learn about owls, try the migration obstacle course, and explore our exhibits. Come in costume and get a free piece of candy or small prize!

### **1:00 – 2:30 pm      Owl Skulls and More      Location: Ornithology Center**

Join anytime, 1-2:30, in the Nature Classroom to learn about skulls, feathers, and the amazing adaptations of owls!

### **1:30 – 2:00 pm      Owl Feeding Time      Location: Ornithology Center**

Learn about the different owls that can be found in Indiana and watch a feeding demonstration with our two Owl Ambassadors in their new enclosures.

### **2:00 – 3:00 pm      Big Trees & Owl Habitat Hike      Location: Ornithology Center**

Eagle Creek Park is home to trees that were living before the settlers arrived in the 1800s! During this hike, you will explore a forest containing champion size trees of several species and their connected family groves. The forest ecosystem containing these trees has experienced less disturbance historically than other areas in the park, preserving important habitat for owls. Led by Eagle Creek Park Volunteer Marty Risch. Trail: 1 mile, easy, fairly accessible.

### **2:30 – 3:00 pm      Meet a Raptor      Location: Ornithology Center**

Meet Freyja, the Peregrine Falcon ambassador! Learn about her and the peregrine conservation success story from her trainer and park volunteer, Donna McCarty.

### **3:30 – 4:00 pm      Forbidden Forest Hike      Location: Ornithology Center**

Calling all witches and wizards of all ages! Dress up in your favorite costume or Hogwarts house colors and join your Hogwarts professors on a stroll through the Forbidden Forest in search for fantastic beasts and magical creatures. Trail: 0.5-1 mile, easy, fairly accessible. *\*If you cannot join at this time, a magical, self-guided Forbidden Forest scavenger hunt will be set up during festival hours Saturday and Sunday, so come in your costume and explore on your own!*

### **4:00 – 4:30 pm      Fantastic Owl Feathers      Location: Ornithology Center**

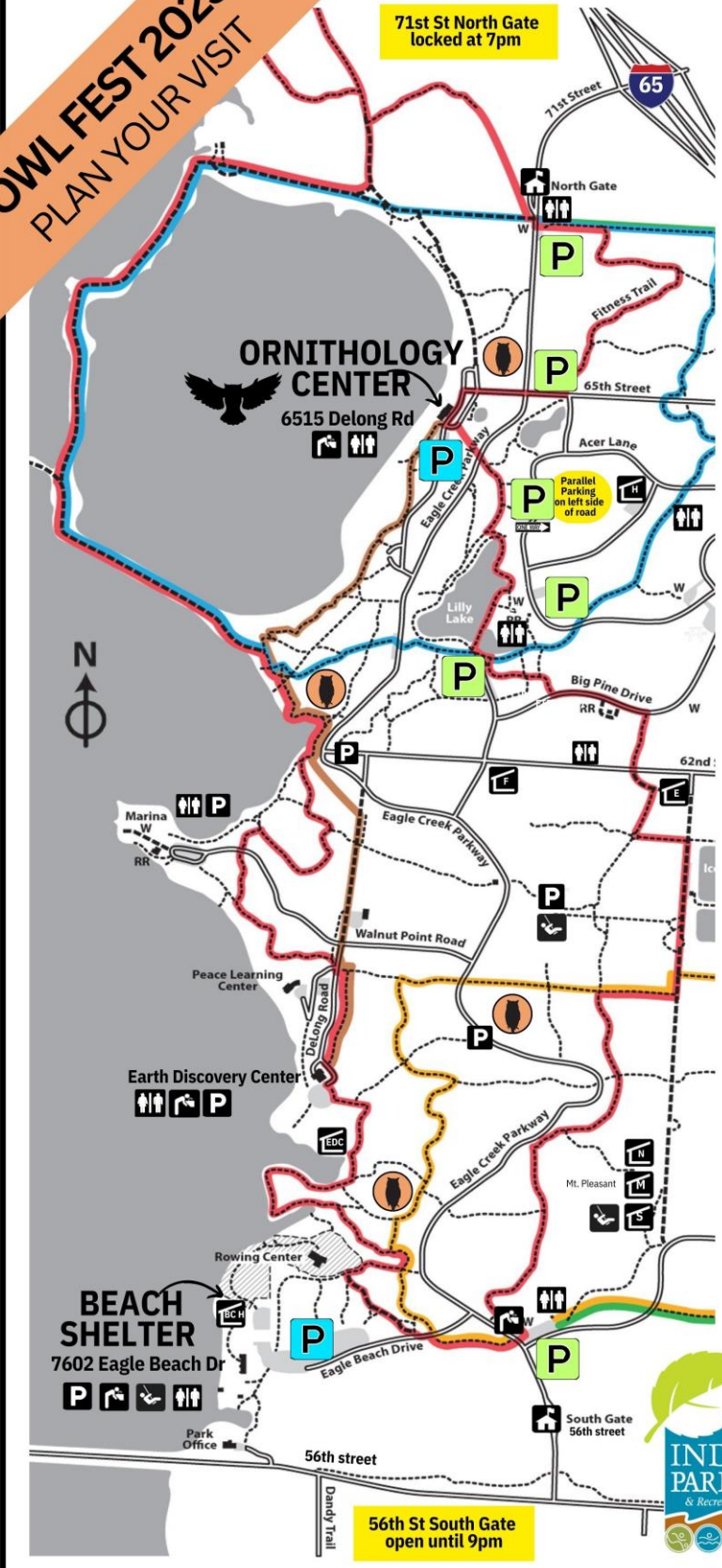
Did you know that owls have the ability to fly *silently* through night sky? But how do they do that? And what else are their fantastic feathers adapted for? Learn about this and more from naturalist Pat Stutz. Bird-themed costumes recommended if you want to join for the costume party at 4:30!

### **4:30 – 5:00 pm      Bird Costume Party      Location: Ornithology Center**

Help us celebrate another great Owl Fest with this costume party to close out the festivities. Candy and prizes for the best bird-themed costume!

**OWL FEST 2023**  
PLAN YOUR VISIT

# OWL FEST EVENT MAP



71st St North Gate  
locked at 7pm

**ORNITHOLOGY CENTER (OC)** **Open Hours**  
Sat 10-5  
Sun 1-5

**Parking Limited at OC**  
Follow overflow parking & directional signage. 3 ADA spots available at OC.  
Crafts, games, guided hikes, live animal programs, concessions, silent auction, & more!

## OWL FEST SCHEDULE

[tinyurl.com/ECPOwlFest2023](http://tinyurl.com/ECPOwlFest2023)  
Most events at the OC  
Some events at the Beach:  
Mark Booth Owls, Owl Prowl Hikes,  
Nocturnal Animal Education



## BEACH SHELTER

Visit [indyparks.org](http://indyparks.org) to register for haunted hayrides!  
Times Vary: Mark Booth owl programs, haunted hayrides, pumpkin drop, campfire, concessions, s'mores, & owl prowls  
For more info, see schedule above.

**MAP KEY**

Overflow Parking	Playground
Event Parking ADA Spots	Water
Owl Sighting Hot Spots	Facilities
	Shelter
	Parking

**Emergency: Call 911**  
Non-emergency Ranger Dispatch:  
(317) 327-3811  
**Ornithology Center 317-327-2473**  
**Park Office 317-327-7110**  
**71st St. gate locked at 7pm**  
**After 7pm, Exit ONLY at 56th St. gate**  
**Must exit by 9pm (out 56th St. gate)**

56th St South Gate  
open until 9pm

