

The following two trips are co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library and GRAC. Contact Becky Kuhn at 616-437-9205 with questions.

Saturday, June 23, 2018, 8:00-9:30 AM

(rain date Saturday, June 30)

Huff Park Morning Walk

Leader: Becky Kuhn

This morning walk will ease us into the day with the songs of birds greeting each other. Many birds will be finishing raising their first brood and possibly starting a second nesting. Michigan's year-round residents will be joined by the spring migrant songbirds, so we will have a colorful morning.

We will meet in the parking lot off Aberdeen NE at 8:00 AM. From there, we will hike on concrete and groomed trails for one to two miles for about 90 minutes. There is a shorter loop and a longer loop; we plan on hiking both but if you wish a shorter trip, feel free to hike just one of them with us. The first parts of the trail are cement and easily traveled, making them handicap accessible.

There is a newly renovated boardwalk that will take us through some marshy areas, so dress for bugs and wear shoes that can get a little muddy where there isn't boardwalk. Bring binoculars, if you can.

This is a perfect park for all ages and abilities. It's a great way to introduce birding and an opportunity to immerse yourself into nature, enjoying the quiet moments that give us a break from what can be hectic lives.

Thursday, August 2, 2018 7:00-8:30 PM

(rain date Monday, August 6)

Urban Bird Walk, Downtown Grand Rapids

Leader: Becky Kuhn

Join us for a walk around downtown Grand Rapids to see birds that have found ways to survive, and even benefit from, heavily populated urban areas. We will especially be on the lookout for Chimney Swifts, which have learned how to roost and nest in residents' chimneys and large smoke stacks instead of hollow trees. The Peregrine Falcons, which were introduced years ago atop the McKay Tower as part of a Peregrine reintroduction program (Peregrine Grand Rapids) and to help control the pigeon population, may be back in the area as well.

We will meet near the front desk of the Main Library downtown at 7:00 PM. Parking is available in the library lot. From there we will head towards the Calder Plaza, travel across the river to the Ford Museum, along the river and back and on towards the Children's Museum and then return to the library. We plan on wandering for about 90 minutes. Feel free to leave us and head back on your own if you wish. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Bring binoculars, if you can.