

Tamarack Nature Center
Environmental Learning Experiences for All Ages
March 2010

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt
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Spring is finally upon us. Soon school will be out and summer, with all of its potential, will be here. Let me suggest some ways to make the most of your summer free time at the Tamarack Nature Center. The miles of paths and boardwalks make it a great place to observe wildlife and see beautiful scenery on a summer walk. And, with on-site naturalists, day camps and educational programs, there are many opportunities for children and adults of all ages to play and learn.

Classes range from Orienteering to Eco Art Fridays to Kitchen Chemistry. You can bring your own group or scouting troop, sign up for a class, or you can learn how to be a volunteer naturalist yourself. Registration is open for all activities. Some of the Spring programs are: Frogs and Polliwogs for pre-school children; Tamarack Tykes, which are child/adult programs; Nature Capers for childcare groups; Summer Camp Adventures for children; and Breakfast Hikes for adults. You can explore the possibilities by visiting our website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks, then click on the Nature Center link. You can also sign up on the website to receive Tamarack Current Programs and Events or you can call 651-470-5750 to order a brochure. Tamarack Nature Center is more than just a summer destination. The educational opportunities are year-round and school field trips are always welcome.

Tamarack Nature Center is a great place for special events. The main building includes two classrooms, a kitchen, and a beautiful atrium area with a fireplace. There is also a picnic shelter with room for 40 people. You should check out the great package themes for kids' birthday parties. Whether you are looking for a tea party, exploring for bugs or dressing up like dinosaurs, Tamarack Nature Center can help make your child's birthday party an unforgettable adventure.

The mission of Tamarack Nature Center is to help everyone learn more about how they fit into our environment. With that in mind, the garden house will be going solar soon! Tamarack Nature Center was just awarded a Solar Energy Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, so look for the new solar panels and more educational opportunities soon.

In April, we will be celebrating the 40th year of Earth Day. In Ramsey County we take this opportunity to pay attention to our environment by hosting a Park clean up day.

This year the annual Park clean up will be on Saturday, April 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For the best experience, we encourage volunteers to dress for the weather, including closed-toe shoes or boots, long pants and gloves. Bags will be provided. This event will take place at Tamarack Nature Center and other parks as well - Tony Schmidt, Beaver Lake, Otter Lake Off Leash Dog Area and Battle Creek. It is a great day to get together with your neighbors and help prepare our community parks for the summer season.

So let's get out there and explore, learn and enjoy nature. Tamarack Nature Center is a great resource that is close to home. It is located in the Bald Eagle /Otter Lakes Regional Parks at 5287 Otter Lake Road (Between 9th Street and County Road H2). The wealth of opportunities it offers will get you and your kids excited about nature.

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