



TEMPORARY CLOSURE ALERT

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 -
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2022**

Thank you for visiting the
Kalamazoo Nature Center!
We'll be excited to welcome you
back for a visit starting on
Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Please check
naturecenter.org for
upcoming events and programs.

CLOSED AREAS INCLUDE:
All of KNC's Main Grounds
(both east and west of Westnedge Ave.)
DeLano Farms
Kalamazoo Valley River Trail
(KVRT)
(between G Ave and D Ave)

WHY IS KNC CLOSED TODAY?

The Kalamazoo Nature Center is closed for annual deer management activities.

WHY DOES KNC MANAGE DEER ON THE PROPERTY?

In the 60+ years that KNC has been operating, we have witnessed how increased deer habitat and low pressure from natural predators have led to local deer populations well beyond what is recommended by wildlife management experts. This overabundance not only can lead to extinctions of native plants and destruction of habitat for other wildlife, but also is a detriment to deer health, as they more easily spread disease and often die of starvation. By managing the deer population, we are reconnecting ourselves to the local ecology and encouraging better health for the deer and the land.

IS THIS COMMON FOR CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS?

While we recognize that many of our neighbors, members, and visitors may have different personal feelings, our approach is rooted in a deep conservation ethic and scientific rationale that is shared by many other [major land stewardship organizations](#).



WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DO THIS RESPONSIBLY?

KNC conducts annual monitoring programs to assess the local deer population. Previous Michigan DNR publications have recommended that population densities be kept as low as only 19-24 deer per square mile for the health of both the herd and the local ecosystem. As of our 2022 count, we found 96 deer per square mile on KNC lands. We adjust annual strategies based on actual population numbers observed. In addition, we consult annually with Cooper Township, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, neighbors, wildlife professionals, conservation groups, and other hunters in the region while making each year's plan. All participating hunters must pass background checks, complete proficiency tests, follow all state hunting regulations, and commit to a strict code of conduct. KNC staff members patrol property boundaries throughout the hunt, making sure that any neighborhood walkers or visitors are aware of the activities and avoid KNC grounds entirely on those days.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DEER AFTER THE EVENT?

Following each year's hunt, as is tradition here, venison is processed and donated to Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. In 2021, 738 pounds of meat (or roughly 3,000 meals) was donated, providing organic protein for hungry members of our Kalamazoo community.

I REALLY WANTED TO HIKE TODAY. WHERE ELSE CAN I GO?

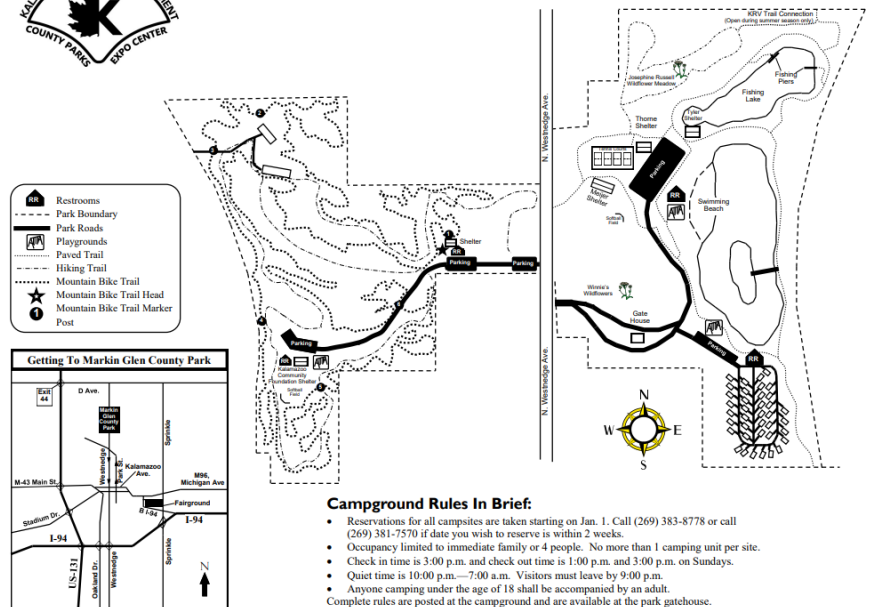
The closest location for outdoor recreation today is Kalamazoo County's [Markin Glen Park](#), just south of KNC on Westnedge Ave.

For other options, please see:

- Discover Kalamazoo:
[8 Lesser Known Kalamazoo Walking Trails & Parks to Explore](#)
- All Trails:
[Best Trails in Kalamazoo](#)



MARKIN GLEN COUNTY PARK



WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

We welcome your questions. For more information about any of KNC's conservation and land management activities, please contact:

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