

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Enjoy a great book in the great outdoors *(name of library) offers free state park passes for Michigan readers*

Back for its sixth summer, the Park & Read program offers library card-holders a free one-day pass valid at any of Michigan's 102 scenic state parks.

A partnership between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and hundreds of participating Michigan libraries, Park & Read is an easy way for residents to explore – at no charge – what state parks are all about.

Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Park & Read is a component of the MI Big Green Gym partnership that encourages Michigan residents to use their parks for outdoor recreation and fitness. The passes can be used for a variety of outdoor adventures and exercise in Michigan's state parks.

“Quote from the library,” said (library contact).

Park & Read gives library card-holders the ability to “check out” a one-day pass that is valid for vehicle entry into any Michigan state park or recreation area. Passes – good for day-use only – are valid for seven days from checkout to make travel planning easier.

The Park & Read program will run through Oct. 1, 2014.

“This is a great opportunity to try something different,” said Ron Olson, chief of the DNR Parks and Recreation Division. “Whether you're looking for time alone or time together, relaxation or high-energy exercise, these free Park & Read passes give everyone a great excuse to pack a picnic, hit the beach, explore a trail or find your next best fishing spot.”

Many state parks offer the DNR's popular Recreation 101 classes – free outdoor recreation programming designed to help beginners get started in a variety of hobbies and pursuits including kayaking, windsurfing, geocaching, camping and more. These free programs are normally included with park entry, so people using a Park & Read pass could take advantage of Recreation 101 programs taking place at any park. Registration may be required for some classes. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/rec101.

For more information on the Park & Read program, a complete list of participating libraries, and a roster of events taking place throughout the state, visit www.michigan.gov/stateparks. Park & Read passes are *not* valid for group events (like weddings) or overnight stays.

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