

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2023

Liking DuPage  
Lichens

The World  
Underwater

Spring Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

# from the president



As I write this, I'm hearing cardinals and robins calling outside the window, and I can't believe we're welcoming yet another spring in the forest preserves.

The past winter has been busy for us as we plan for the upcoming spring and summer. The first phase of construction at Willowbrook Wildlife Center is well underway, and we're preparing to move our resident animals to their new and improved habitats. The exterior renovations at the historic Mayslake Hall are absolutely amazing and will be completed later this year. We continue to work on the various restoration projects throughout the county, removing invasive species and restoring our preserves to their original natural state.

In this edition of the *Conservationist* we're also featuring aspects of the forest preserves you might not otherwise notice. For instance, did you know that small complex (and sometimes colorful) ecosystems are living right below your feet? Or that our ecologists are providing the county's bass, bluegill, and northern pike with underwater structures that create not only attractive habitats but also great fishing? You certainly will after reading this issue! Plus you can browse through our spring calendar. (Make sure to check out our dates for this year's native plant sale so you can grow a piece of the preserves in your own backyard.)

Things are beginning to blossom and green. Let's breathe deep and experience the best of it in our DuPage forest preserves!

**Daniel Hebreard**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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## BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2023, Vol. 60, No. 2



## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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630-933-7200, TTY 800-526-0857

[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

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© Rick Ballard

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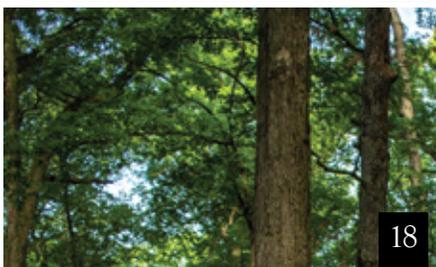


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On the cover: British soldier lichen Nancy J. Ondra/stock.adobe.com

## OUR Mission

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens

# news & notes



## COLLECTIONS *Corner*

With the arrival of spring, in addition to the grasses and flowers popping up in the preserves, we're seeing the plants that make up sources of food beginning to grow.

In the 1890s, most of the county and the country was rural and integrally connected with food production. Kline Creek Farm, the Forest Preserve District's 1890s living history farm, displays several artifacts used at that time.

Some are not only displayed but also put to work. The farm's 13-row Oliver grain drill is one of them. This 8-foot-wide planter hitches to a team of draft horses, enabling the farmer to plant 13 rows of oats, buckwheat, and other grains. Using three hoppers, the Oliver grain drill can also plant a row of crops, plant a cover crop to protect the soil, and fertilize in one pass.

This spring, join one of the farm's *Spring Planting on the Farm* tours to learn how families worked to get spring plantings done and what went into planning the kitchen garden. You might also get to see the farmers work in the fields and gardens planting the year's crops.



## MAYSLAKE *Update*

Restoration continues this spring on the 100-year-old Mayslake Hall, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Masons are rebuilding the parapet walls (the extension of the walls that meets the roof), and roofers are repairing the slate shingles. The final step will be to replace some of the missing windows and doors. The Forest Preserve District expects the hall to be fully reopened by the end of July and is already planning new exhibits and programs.

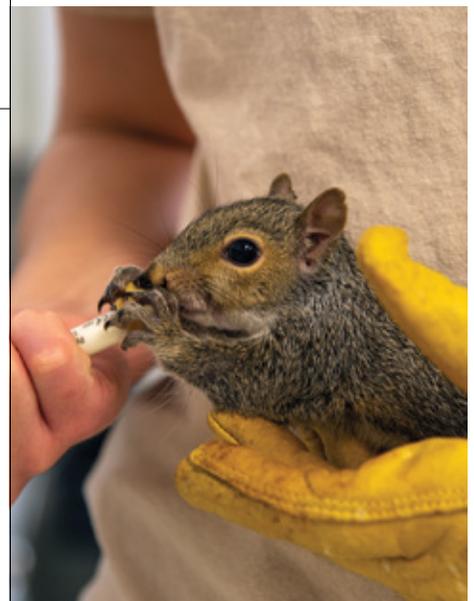
## NEWS FROM WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

Willowbrook Wildlife Center is getting ready to start construction on its new treatment and visitor center. The building, which will open in 2024, will showcase the behind-the-scenes medical and rehabilitation process. Visitors will be able to view animals as they're examined, treated, in surgery, being fed, and rehabilitated through windows and video monitors.

During this time, the current visitor center will remain closed as will access to the trails from Park Boulevard. Animal admissions, though, will remain open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Willowbrook treats an average of 10,000 sick, injured, and orphaned animals each year.

On another note, the center is moving the animals on the outdoor exhibit trail to their new homes behind the scenes, where they will still get daily, high-quality care but in a less stressful environment. To keep up to date on all the latest, follow the center on Facebook @willowbrookwildlifecenter.





## THANK YOU *for Being a Friend*

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501(c)(3) organization engaging the community in philanthropy to advance the vision of the Forest Preserve District. We are grateful to recognize gifts of \$500 or more made October through December 2022 and monthly donors whose combined contributions exceeded \$500 in 2022.

### **Gift of \$20,000 or More**

Navistar, Inc.

### **Gifts of \$10,000 – \$19,999**

G. Carl Ball Family Foundation  
Ellen Alekno Wier

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of Amelia, Jake, and Ryan  
Frances Holbrook  
Susan Johansen  
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Michael Matthew Memorial Fund  
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Ann Storm  
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John and Marion Tableriou in  
Memory of Alexis Breeze and  
Colby Jebidiah  
Frank and Patricia Troost in Memory  
of Barbara Simons  
Doug Zimmer

To donate, visit [dupageforest.org/friends](http://dupageforest.org/friends), or mail a check made payable to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton, IL 60189. If you have questions, contact Partnership & Philanthropy at 630-871-6400 or [friends@dupageforest.org](mailto:friends@dupageforest.org).



< British soldier  
(*Cladonia cristatella*)

© Rick Ballard

# Liking DuPage Lichens

by **JENNY KAMM**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**I**n DuPage backyards, woodlands, and forest preserves a concentrated community of archaic organisms clings to rocks, trees, and buildings. They're not quite plants, and they're not quite moss, and they have names like British soldier, pixie cup, lipstick powderhorn, trumpet, and candleflame. They're lichens, and each is a unique ecosystem.

A lichen is a two-part organism composed of an alga and a fungus. (One third of all of Earth's fungi exists as a part of a lichen.) It's a symbiotic relationship, meaning both parts benefit. The fungi provide much-needed structure as well as water, which they absorb from the air, and the algae provide energy via photosynthesis, which converts sunlight into carbohydrates and vitamins. The algae also give lichens their color. Reproduction mostly happens vegetatively, which means a part of a lichen will break off and start to grow elsewhere.

Some lichens, like common script lichen, grow thin and

crusty. Others, such as candleflames, resemble wavy leaves. Certain species look like fine hairs, and some look like miniature trees, such as British soldier and trumpet lichens.

Fossilized lichens date back 400 million years with evidence that suggests they may have existed as far back as 600 million years. Today, over 3,600 species live on the planet covering about 7% of the surface. Together, these algae-fungi organisms live in places where independently they would not otherwise survive. For instance, an estimated 250 types of lichens grow in Antarctica, where only two species of flowering plants exist, and many survive in the desert, going dormant during periods of drought. (This latter fact is one reason to stay on the trail while exploring the outdoors. You might accidentally break off brittle, delicate lichens that are merely slowing their growth through difficult conditions.)

Lichens grow slowly, so the substrates they grow on need to

be stationary or stagnant, such as rocks, soils, tree bark, and forgotten structures like old farm equipment. Lichens often grow on older or dead trees because the trees' growth rate has slowed, making the bark more stable than on younger trees. If a lot of lichens are growing on a younger tree, it may mean the tree is suffering from bound roots or some other complication. (Lichens do not harm trees on which they live.)

So why are lichens important? For starters, they're a building block for other growing organisms. As they break down, they form a thin layer of soil that larger lichens, mosses, and plants can take root in.

They also benefit local wildlife. Some birds, such as the ruby-throated hummingbird, use lichens for nesting materials. The lichens not only provide insulation but also help the nests blend in with their surroundings. Some insects have adapted to look like lichens for camouflage, and many insects use lichens for shelter.

Historically, humans have used lichens as a source of food, medicines, and dyes, but today we use them for much more. Many lichens are intolerant of high levels of sulfur, heavy metals, and nitrogen, which means if you see plentiful amounts of lichens as you walk through the woods, it's safe to assume you're in an area with clean air. This means, too, that as people work toward reducing harmful emissions, they're simultaneously supporting the growth of lichens. In fact, there's been a noted uptick in lichen populations nationwide

since the establishment of the Clean Air Act in the late 1960s.

Lichens also act as air scrubbers. As they take in moisture and air, they absorb particulates and pollutants and store them in their fungal "bodies." Because lichens grow so slowly over long periods of time, they act as a kind of living record of the historical air quality of a specific site. This is why scientists who monitor air quality regularly sample lichens.

The next time you're visiting a DuPage preserve, take in the details of the forest around you, including the unassuming lichens clinging to the trees and rocks. Notice their different colors and structures, and relax in knowing that the air around you is likely fresh, clean, and healthy! •



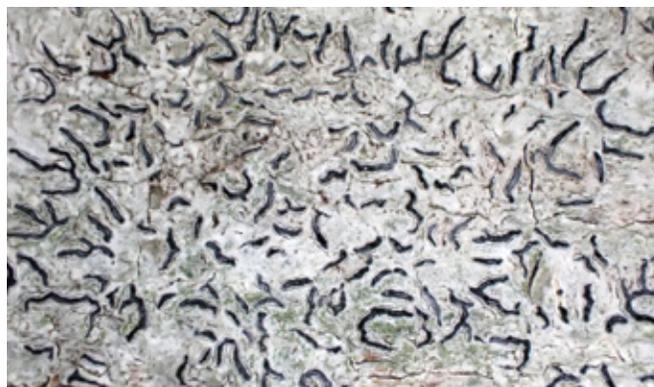
© Cory Chiappone

▲ Ruby-throated hummingbirds build their nests with lichens, which not only insulate the structures but also provide camouflage.



© David Jeffrey Ringer

▲ Candleflame lichen (*Candelaria concolor*)



© Keith Seltzer

▲ Common script lichen (*Graphis scripta*)



© Meghan Cassidy

▲ Cup lichen (*Cladonia peziziformis*)



© Marie-Lise Beaudin

▲ Trumpet lichen (*Cladonia fimbriata*)

# spring calendar



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## April

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1</b> Fishing: Spring Trout Season Opener<br/>Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>2</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>3</b> Forest Hike</li> <li><b>4</b> Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan</li> <li><b>5</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday<br/>Wednesday Wilderness Walks</li> <li><b>7</b> Fresh Air Friday<br/>Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begin</li> <li><b>8</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>10</b> Forest Hike</li> <li><b>11</b> Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan</li> <li><b>12</b> Wednesday Wilderness Walks</li> <li><b>13</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>14</b> Bird Walk</li> <li><b>15</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>16</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>17</b> Forest Hike</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>18</b> Archery: Adults<br/>Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan</li> <li><b>19</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday<br/>Wednesday Wilderness Walks</li> <li><b>20</b> The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game<br/>Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan</li> <li><b>21</b> Bird Walk</li> <li><b>22</b> Girl Scouts: Night Owl<br/>Spring Brook: Back From the Dead<br/>Volunteer Restoration Workday<br/>Volunteer Workday at the Nursery</li> <li><b>23</b> Archery: Families<br/>Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>24</b> Forest Hike</li> <li><b>25</b> Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan</li> <li><b>26</b> Wednesday Wilderness Walks</li> <li><b>27</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>28</b> Bird Walk<br/>Volunteer Workday at the Nursery</li> <li><b>29</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> <li><b>30</b> Volunteer Restoration Workday</li> </ul> |
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## Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.



## May

- 1** Forest Hike
- 2** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 3** Evening Hike Club  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery  
Wednesday Wilderness Walks  
Wildflower Walk
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Archery: Games for Adults  
Bird Walk  
Fresh Air Friday
- 6** Sheep Shearing  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wildflower Walk
- 7** Bird Walk  
Nature Journaling  
Sheep Shearing  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Forest Hike  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 10** Evening Hike Club  
Wednesday Wilderness Walks
- 11** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Bird Walk
- 13** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Fishing: With Mom  
Hoofprints Through History  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Warbler Walk
- 15** Forest Hike
- 16** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 17** Kayaking: Basics  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wednesday Wilderness Walks
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Bird Walk  
Native Plant Sale  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 20** Native Plant Sale  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Kayaking: Paddle With a Ranger  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Forest Hike
- 23** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 24** Evening Hike Club  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 25** Archery: Adults
- 26** Bird Walk
- 27** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Evening Hike Club  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery  
Wednesday Wilderness Walks

## June

- 2** Bird Walk  
Fresh Air Friday
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Archery: Families  
Bird Walk  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 7** Kayaking: Just for Kids  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wednesday Wilderness Walks  
Wildflower Walk
- 8** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 9** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 10** Archery: Games for All Ages  
Backyard Herp Walk  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery  
Wildflower Walk
- 11** Fishing: Just for Kids Fishing Derby  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 17** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Birding by Boat  
Fishing: With Dad  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 23** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 24** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Kayaking: Basics  
Marvelous Monarchs  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

# spring calendar



## Plants & Wildlife

### Backyard Herp Walk 23097

Have you seen a turtle basking on a log or spotted something slithering by as you walk along a trail? Discover the local amphibians and reptiles that live in DuPage and the behaviors and adaptations that make them so unique. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

June 10 9 – 10:30 a.m. Fullersburg Woods

### Birding by Boat 23086

Look for birds along the shore on this guided paddle. Kayaking experience not required. Rent a District kayak for an additional \$15 or bring your own kayak or canoe. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

June 18 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Mallard Lake

### Bird Walk 22890

Enjoy birding camaraderie and learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds on a casual 2-mile guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Danada
April 21	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm
April 28	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 5	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 7	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
May 12	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
May 19	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 26	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
June 2	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Dunham
June 4	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Blackwell

### Girl Scouts: Night Owl 23128

Experience nature after dark! Join other Girl Scouts to learn about nocturnal animals, and use your senses to explore the outdoors on a guided nature hike. Then celebrate the night by gathering around the campfire for storytelling. (Bring your own s'mores ingredients, too!) Fulfills requirements for Night Owl Cadette badge. Grades 6 – 12. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 22 6:30 – 9 p.m. Herrick Lake

### Marvelous Monarchs 22920

Learn about our beautiful native monarchs and how you can help butterflies and other pollinators. Then join a leisurely 20-minute stroll to find monarchs in their various stages of life. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 25 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. St. James Farm

### Spring Brook: Back From the Dead 22944

Learn how Spring Brook was restored to ecological health and continues to better the environment on this 2-mile creek-side nature walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 22 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. St. James Farm



### Warbler Walk 23085

Search for the bright colorful feathers of neotropical migrants on this guided spring bird walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

May 14 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. W. DuPage Woods

### Wednesday Wilderness Walk 23087

Observe the seasons, flora, and fauna in the lesser-known but greatly diverse Lincoln Marsh on a guided walk. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea as we discuss some of nature's wonders before we start the walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or the morning at the walk.

April 5, 12, 19 & 26	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
May 3, 10, 17 & 31	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
June 7	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh



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2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

### Wildflower Walk 23134

Meet a plant expert for a leisurely walk to enjoy the first blooms of spring. You'll learn about spring flowers, how to identify them, and what varieties you can grow in your own space at home. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 3 & 6	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
June 7 & 10	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

## Ways to Play

### Archery

#### Adults 22945

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 18	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 25	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods

#### Families 22921

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
June 4	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Blackwell

#### Games for Adults 22930

Compete with other participants in different archery games designed to be enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 5	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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#### Games for All Ages 22942

Compete with other participants in different archery games designed to be enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 10	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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## More Ways to Play

### KAYAK, CANOE, AND BOAT RENTALS

Rentals end one hour before closing and are \$15 per hour for single kayaks or rowboats; \$18 for two-person kayaks or canoes; and \$20 for paddle boats (Blackwell only). Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

*Blackwell*

**Saturdays & Sundays May 6 – Sept. 30**

**11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Weekdays Memorial Day – Labor Day**

**11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

*Herrick Lake*

**Saturdays & Sundays May 27 – Sept. 3**

**11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Plus Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day**

**11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

### SCENIC OVERLOOK

*Greene Valley*

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

**Saturdays & Sundays May 6 – Oct. 29**

**11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice.

### FAMILY CAMPGROUND

*Blackwell*

Enjoy nature under the stars at one of 60 sites. For weekend reservations visit dupageforest.org and click "Get a Permit." For additional nights around Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day, call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

**Friday & Saturday Nights May 5 – Oct. 9**

**Plus Select Additional Holiday Nights**



## Fore!

*The Preserve at Oak Meadows  
Maple Meadows • Green Meadows*

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit [DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com).

## Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

*St. James Farm*

Exercise and school your horse at this historic venue. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-580-7027.

## Riding Lessons 22976

*Danada Equestrian Center*

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in April, May, and June. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

## The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Bring your smart phone or similar mobile device, and challenge your friends and neighbors! Show off your knowledge as you compete for prizes during this friendly quiz game featuring categories to test your familiarity with music, animals, geography, history, and more. Play as a team of up to five, or have our quiz masters help you find a team. Ages 18 and up. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

April 20	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
May 11	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
June 8	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

## Fishing

### Just for Kids Fishing Derby 22943

Bring the family to this friendly fishing competition just for kids 15 and younger with raffles and prizes for the biggest catches. Ages 15 and under with an adult. Free. Register online, at the event, or at 630-933-7248.

June 11	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
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### Spring Trout Season Opener

Try your luck on Silver, Pickerel, or Grove lakes. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7668.

April 1	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne Woods & Wood Dale Grove
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### With Dad 22941

Spend a late afternoon by the lake with the dads in your life, creating memories and learning skills to increase your fishing successes. All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 18	4 – 6 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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### With Mom 22937

Spend the morning by the lake with the moms in your life, creating memories and learning skills to increase your fishing successes. All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 14	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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## Registering on dupageforest.org?

- Here's a quick way to find your program online.
1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
  2. Click the link to search by activity number.
  3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
  4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

## Kayaking

### Basics 22927

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 17	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
June 25	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake

### Just for Kids 22940

Learn the basics in a kid-friendly setting. Equipment provided. An adult must be present for the duration of the program and remain on shore. Ages 9 – 12. \$10 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 7	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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### Paddle With a Ranger 22938

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent one for \$20 per person. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 21	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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### Pre-K Outdoor Play 23129

Engage your little ones in outdoor adventure as you participate together in stories, songs, movement, and games followed by a guided outdoor exploration activity. Ages 2 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 2 & 16	9 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 9 & 23	9 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm

# Health & Well-Being

### Evening Hike Club 22911

Boost your outdoor wellness in a friendly group setting on a quick-paced, guided 3- to 5-mile hike through a variety of DuPage County's popular preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 3	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada
May 10	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 24	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
May 31	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell

### Forest Hike 23119

Gear up to enjoy a quick-paced, guided 3- to 5-mile hike through the wonders of popular preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 3	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Blackwell
April 10	8:30 – 10 a.m.	West Branch
April 17	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
April 24	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
May 1	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 8	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Mallard Lake
May 15	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Timber Ridge
May 22	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen



### Fresh Air Friday 22916

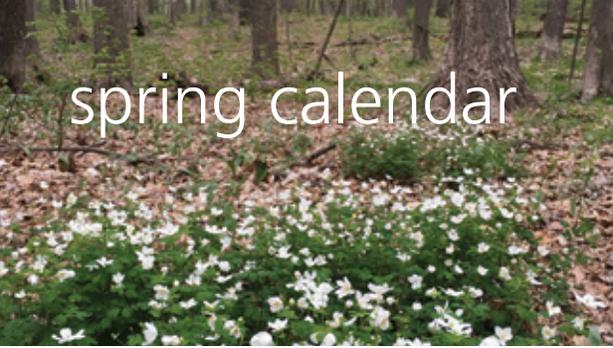
Enjoy a relaxing lunch hour of mindful walking and immersive nature-based ways to tune in to the present on a 1-mile walk on crushed limestone and grass trails. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 7	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
May 5	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
June 2	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

### Nature Journaling 22936

Use your senses to observe the natural world while creating a memory record you can return to for reflection or scientific value. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 7	2 – 3:15 p.m.	St. James Farm
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## Living Green

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### Native Landscaping

Bring drawings or photos of your yard, and then get customized recommendations at a 45-minute meeting with a plant expert who will help you select native plants to match your garden goals and growing conditions. Ages 18 and up. \$30 per session. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

### Creating Your Garden Plan 22676

April 4, 11, 18 & 25 3 & 6 p.m. Online

### Creating Your Garden Plan 22907

April 20 5, 6 & 7 p.m. Fullersburg Woods



## NATIVE PLANT SALE

*Mayslake Peabody Estate*

Shop in person for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees! For a list of plants, visit [dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale](http://dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale). Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

**May 19**

**10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**May 20**

**9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Get ready for this year's sale by signing up for one of our Native Landscaping programs on this page.

## Heritage

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### Hoofprints Through History 22939

Join us on a 1-mile walk in the hoofprints of history on a tour of the farm's historic equestrian areas. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 14 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

### Sheep Shearing

Watch farmers hand shear the farm's heritage Cotswold sheep, and learn about the role of sheep on an 1890s farm. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

May 6 & 7 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

### Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy a 30-minute ride while learning about the forest preserve's heritage and natural areas. Rides begin at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

June 9, 16, 23 & 30 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

## Nature Art & Culture

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### Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 23390

Sign up for these enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In April we'll discuss *Nemesis* by Agatha Christie; in May, *The Mouse That Roared* by Leonard Wibberley; and in June, *Eight Flavors* by Sarah Lohman. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 7, May 5 & June 2 10 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake



## Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.



## 1890s Living

*Kline Creek Farm*

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Registration not required for these free all-ages programs. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

### CHORES ON A DAIRY FARM

Try your hand at different farming chores as you learn about the importance of 1890s dairy farms and how their legacy is still around today.

**June 5 – 29**

**Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

### DAIRY MONTH FARMHOUSE TOUR

Explore the home of an 1890s DuPage farm family with a focus on dairy that will include a discussion on dairy farming, heritage breed cows, butter making, and more.

**June 1 – 30**

**Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour**

### SPRING PLANTING ON THE FARM TOURS

Tour the farmhouse to learn how farm families worked together to get spring plantings done and what went into planning the kitchen garden. Throughout the spring, you might also get to see the farmers work in fields and the gardens planting the year's crops.

**April 1 – May 29**

**Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour**

### STORY TIME

Bring the family, and rest under the shade of a tree while a costumed interpreter shares lessons from the world of stories with different historic tales each week.

**June 5 – 26**

**Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon**

## Volunteer

### Volunteer Restoration Workday <sup>23275</sup>

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

April 1	9 – 11 a.m.	Willowbrook
April 1, 2, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
April 5 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
April 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
April 13 & 27	3 – 4:45 p.m.	Big Woods
April 15	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
April 15 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
April 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
April 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
April 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Big Woods
April 29	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
May 3 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
May 4, 11 & 18	3 – 4:45 p.m.	Big Woods
May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 6 & 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
May 6 & 20	9 – 11 a.m.	Willowbrook
May 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Big Woods
May 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
May 13	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
May 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
May 20	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
June 3 & 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
June 3 & 17	9 – 11 a.m.	Willowbrook
June 7 & 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
June 10 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial

### Volunteer Workday at the Nursery <sup>23150</sup>

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

April 22 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
May 3, 8, 13, 19, 24 & 31	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
June 5, 10, 16, 21 & 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell



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# The World Underwater

by **DAN GRIGAS**, NATURAL RESOURCES

**I**magine a calm day. You're sitting lakeside with a fishing pole in hand. The surface ripples slightly from the wind but is mostly undisturbed. It's a clear open space free of worry. But for the aquatic inhabitants that live just below, nothing could be further from the truth. Fish have a lifelong fight to avoid predation, find food, and reproduce, and the success or failure of their endeavors is often highly influenced by the amount and type of habitat found within their underwater world.

Habitat is roughly defined as the natural environment of an organism. For aquatic wildlife, fish in particular, the word "habitat" is often synonymous with plants, or "weed beds," rock piles, woody debris, or a combination. These features are often associated with anglers' perceptions of "good fishing."

The benefits of habitat, both natural and supplemental, often influence management decisions on lakes and ponds. The Forest Preserve District, for instance, has been augmenting habitat for over 30 years. Within the past 10 years alone, the District has strategically placed over 280 "fish cribs" such as woody debris or PVC pipes in various bodies of water.

These structures create protected underwater spaces where communities of fish can grow and thrive, but they also provide areas where anglers can increase their chances of reeling in a great catch.

In most cases the District places weighted fish cribs on the ice. When spring arrives, the structures merely sink to the bottom, where they collect algae and plankton. Small fish feed on these easy meals, and larger fish, the ones anglers are after, hang out to feed on the smaller.

Structure is often placed based on which types of fish are known to live there, how much habitat currently exists, and what the overall management goals are. For example, if the goal is to increase an angler's success of catching crappie or bluegill, the District places highly branched woody debris in 5 to 8 feet of water near the edges of weed beds. Based on knowledge of feeding and spawning habits, ecologists know these fish will stay near anything that acts as an umbrella, congregating there throughout their different stages of life and increasing the likelihood that anglers who know that these structures will have success.



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▲ Largemouth bass often stay near submerged logs and similar structures that protect their vital spawning beds.



▲ In winter, the Forest Preserve District places structures on the ice that turn into fish cribs when they sink in spring.



© Eric Engberson Engberson Underwater Photography

▲ Fish like crappie take advantage of artificial fish cribs, which provide a buffet of plankton and aquatic insects.



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▲ Northern pike often hang out in shallow weeds, where they feed on bluegill, perch, and frogs.

Largemouth bass will hold to anything that provides an advantage for a meal – logs, concrete blocks, PVC pipes, weed edges, rock piles, etc. Perhaps more importantly, in areas with little structure, these fish will cling to manufactured spawning benches, sometimes called half logs, which not only give them places to lay and protect their eggs but also provide overhead cover from birds of prey.

But you don't need to look for manufactured fish cribs to find success. Northern pike, for instance, prefer naturally weedy areas. Walleye and perch tend to hold near drop-offs and hard or rocky structures on deeper edges.

Fortunately, it's easy to find your next favorite fishing spot in a DuPage forest preserve. The Forest Preserve District's fishing guide features depth maps of 30 lakes and ponds. These maps, called "bathymetric maps," are basically topographical maps of the lake bed. They show the locations of key drop-offs and also mark where the Forest Preserve District has submerged fish cribs. You can find these maps online at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or can request a printed copy of the guide through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248. (Remember,

though, that you'll need an Illinois fishing license if you're 16 or older and fishing forest preserve waters.)

At several preserves you don't have to fish only from shore. On select days you can rent kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and rowboats on Silver Lake at Blackwell and kayaks and canoes on Herrick Lake at Herrick Lake. (Check out "More Ways to Play" on Page 11 for more info.) And if you have your own District-approved nongasoline-powered watercraft with a Forest Preserve District permit, you can go out on Silver Lake as well as Deep Quarry Lake at West Branch, Round Meadow Lake at Hidden Lake, and Mallard Lake at Mallard Lake. Details are also at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) or through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

And for anglers who prefer to drop a line when the sun is at bay and fish are more active, the District offers fishing until 11 p.m. along the shoreline of Deep Quarry Lake at West Branch (no boating after sunset, though).

There's a whole underwater world in DuPage County's forest preserves, and the Forest Preserve District will continue to work to create even more inviting habitat for all the native animals that live there. •

# directory



## HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton • 630-933-7200  
TTY 800-526-0857  
dupageforest.org  
forest@dupageforest.org

### Visitor Services

630-933-7248  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturdays June – August (except July 1)  
(phone, email, and online chat only)  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

### Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

### Partnership & Philanthropy Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

### Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

## FOREST PRESERVE *Hours*

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

## PARTNER *Sites*

### DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

### FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

### BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

### LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388

## EDUCATION *Centers*

### DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road  
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

#### Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

#### Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road  
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Sundays

### GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

3800 York Road • Oak Brook  
630-850-8116

Open mid-April – mid-November  
Thursday & Friday 1 – 4 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday Noon – 4 p.m.  
Closed Monday – Wednesday

### KLINE CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road  
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per  
person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

### ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville  
630-580-7025

#### Office & Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

### MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.  
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Due to work on the exterior, the interior of Mayslake Hall will not reopen until July 2023. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

### WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.  
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

#### Animal Admittance

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Visitor Center and Outdoor Exhibit Trail

Although Willowbrook continues to accept animals, the visitor center will be closed until a new building opens in 2024. The outdoor exhibit trail is also closed. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

## GOLF *Courses*

### THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road  
Addison • 630-595-0071

### MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

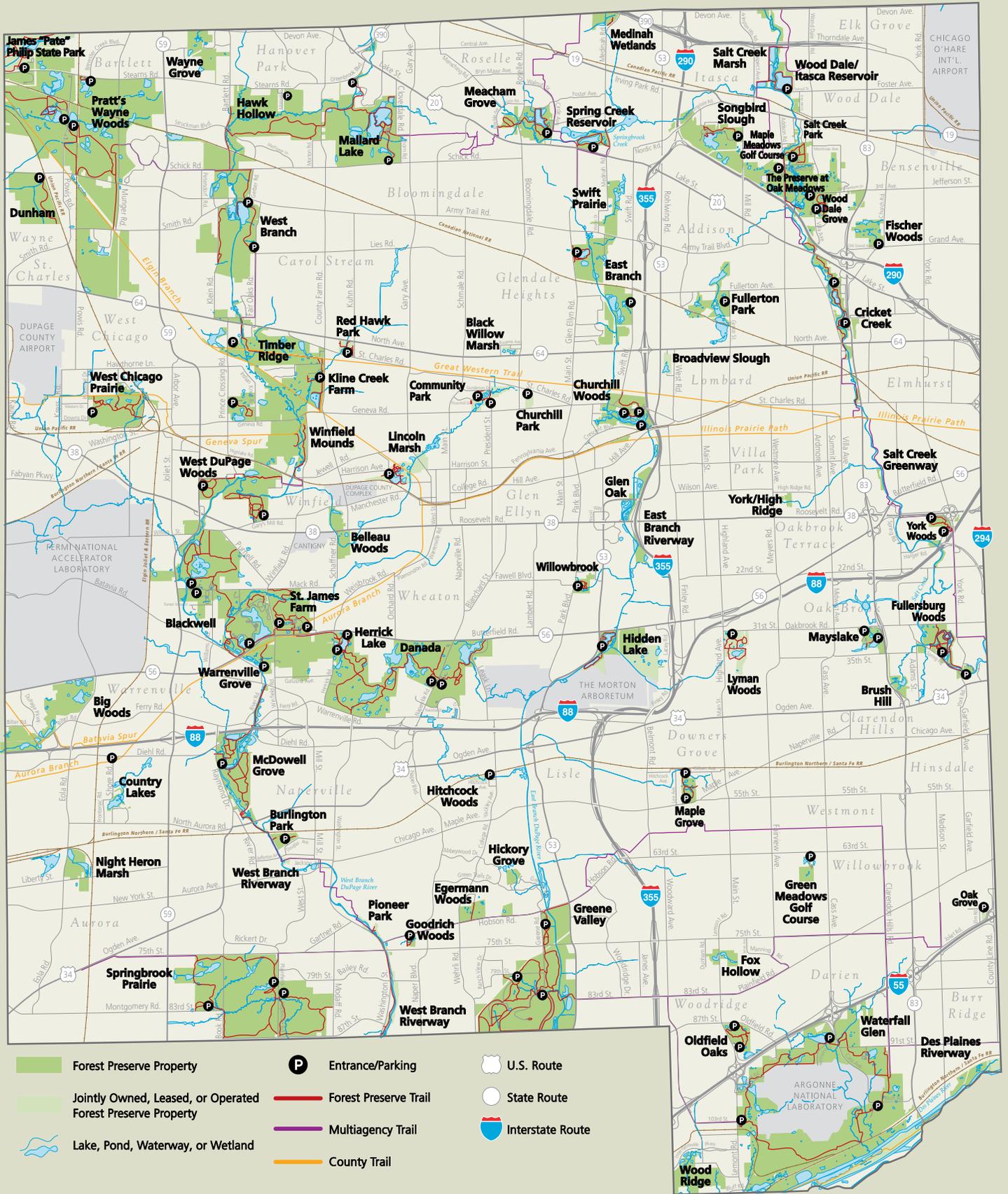
272 S. Addison Road  
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

### GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.  
Westmont • 630-810-5330

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-871-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks prior to attending a registration-based program.





**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**

3580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

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# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Spring 2023**

## Native Plant Sale

**Mayslake Peabody Estate • Oak Brook**

Shop in person for native  
flowers, grasses, shrubs, and  
trees!

For a list of plants, visit  
**[dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale](https://dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale)**. Questions? Call  
630-933-7248.

**May 19  
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**May 20  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

