Conservationist Spring 2024

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

They're Baaack!

17-Year Cicadas: When They're **Coming and What to Expect**

The Moon's Big Show April's Solar Eclipse

Spring Calendar



from the president



Spring is known as the season when everything starts to come alive, when everything begins to blossom and change and people are eager to get outside. This spring especially, DuPage forest preserves are going to be the place to go to experience some rare natural events.

First off, we'll be witnessing a near total solar eclipse on April 8. You can read how this affects wildlife and how to safely view the eclipse in "The Moon's Big Show" on Page 16. Then, over a much longer time period we'll be experiencing the return of the 17-year cicadas, a remarkable phenomenon that illustrates how some of the area's wild creatures have developed amazing methods for survival. You can find out why 2024 is going to be a rare emergence in "They're Baaack" on Page 6.

Of course, we'll also have some DuPage forest preserve exclusives, such as our springtime programs, which are featured in this issue's calendar and include our annual Native Plant Sale. The sale will be on May 17 and 18, but you can begin to peruse the catalog starting March 1 on dupageforest.org.

Late last year the District conducted a countywide survey to assess the level of support, use, and opinions of our residents. The results show a high level of support for the agency. Of those surveyed, 82% have a favorable view of the District, and 60% believe we offer a positive value relative to our property tax share. On a scale of 1 to 10, we ranked 8.3 in overall experience and satisfaction, cleanliness, maintenance, upkeep, and access.

But we also found that many people are still not aware of all the great open spaces, programs, and activities the forest preserves offer. That's why this spring we're kicking off a special campaign designed to spread the word. You can join our efforts by talking about your own forest preserve experiences with friends and neighbors and following and sharing our posts on social media. Help us ensure that no one misses out on the different ways to enjoy spring in DuPage forest preserves!

Var Hala

Daniel Hebreard President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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THE CONSERVATIONIST Spring 2024, Vol. 61, No. 2

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FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189

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dupageforest.org

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On the cover: 17-year cicada ©smuller

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



WHERE NATURE AND ART MEET

The District is gearing up to cohost a special summer and fall exhibit led by the College of DuPage Public Art Project, the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage. Select forest preserves and other sites across DuPage will display fiberglass sculptures representing the ancient Mesoamerican Olmec culture. The original large-scale stone Olmec heads are recognized as important examples of pre-Columbian art. Each sculpture will be uniquely painted by U.S. and international artists.

The exhibit will support District efforts to connect people to nature at its preserves and education sites while promoting environmental awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and the preservation of cultural heritage. It will also reinforce the District's longstanding formal partnership with the visitors bureau.

The District's investment will be limited to in-kind contributions of staff time to coordinate and promote the exhibit. Visit dupageforest.org later this spring for the locations and descriptions of these amazing works of art.

COLLECTIONS Corner

With all the buzz about 17-year cicadas, "Collections Corner" just had to join the fun!

The Forest Preserve District's natural history collection has a drawer dedicated to the annual and periodical cicadas of DuPage. One section has annual dog day and scissor-grinder cicadas, which appear here each summer. But the larger section has two species of 17-year periodical cicadas, Cassin and Linnaeus, most collected in 2007 during the area's last emergence. Interestingly, just as a few members of this year's brood emerged one or two years early, there are three Cassin specimens from the 2007 brood collected in 2003. Keeping these specimens in the collection allows staff to record the biological diversity of the species and document changes over time.

Stop by Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center while the cicadas are buzzing to see this collection and gaze upon the ancestors of these marvelous creatures!



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 21 – 27, the Forest Preserve District applauds its 734 long-term volunteers and 80 volunteer groups. Last fiscal year, these dedicated individuals donated more than 57,000 hours with an in-kind value of nearly \$1.9 million!



LIVE and on Demand

Can't make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under "About Us" and "Our Board." Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.

IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE

With the arrival of the spring breeding season, Willowbrook Wildlife Center reminds residents that it's normal for wildlife to leave young alone for hours at a time while they look for food. Human intervention may be helpful, though, if an animal is injured or truly abandoned. Call Willowbrook at 630-942-6200, or email willowbrook@ dupageforest.org for guidance. Calls are answered daily 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and recordings provide after-hours info.



THANK YOU for Being a Friend

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a 501(c)(3) that engages the community in philanthropy to advance the mission of the Forest Preserve District. We are grateful to those who donated \$500 or more (including cumulative donations) through the Friends or to the District during last year's fourth quarter.

Gift of \$50,000 or More Navistar, Inc.

Gift of \$25,000 – \$49,999 TC Energy

Gifts of \$10,000 – \$24,999 G. Carl Ball Family Foundation Schwab Charitable

Gifts of \$5,000 - \$9,999

James and Karen Click Dan Soline Susan Trommer

Gifts of \$3,500 - \$4,999

Larry Larson Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation Michael and Diane Webb

Gifts of \$2,000 - \$3,499

Mary and Harold Bamford III Elaine Novak Jans Carol McGee Robert Miller Jerry and Jody Zamirowski

Gifts of \$500 - \$1,999

Anonymous Diane and Joe Addante Coral Baran Seth Becker and Helen Nam Helena Borenius Robert and Marcy Cap James and Valerie Carroll Chicago Ornithological Society Jennifer Chidlow Cheryl Clark **DuPage Birding Club** Howard Goldstein and Peggy McGrath Corryn Greenwood Judith Grev H. Susan Jones Charitable Fund of DuPage Foundation Paul Herbert Keith and Tracy Hernandez Izzie's Garden Ryan and Jeannine Kannegiesser Tim and Kelsey Letizia Lombard Juniors Philanthropic Fund Mary Ann Mahoney

Gifts of \$500 - \$1,999 (Continued)

Guy and Sharon Matthew Belinda Morgan Naperville Animal Control Roger and Susan Nelson Donald and Susan Panozzo John Schofield John and Maria Shalanko Steven and Megan Shebik Janet Strain Steven Szafranski John and Marion Tableriou Terri Tarka Diane Telander Frank and Patricia Troost Robert Watt West Chicago Garden Club Heather and Mark Yeager Doug Zimmer

In 2023 over 1,000 individuals, corporations, and foundations donated to advance the Forest Preserve District's mission. Thanks to their generosity, the Friends was able to grant \$253,251 to the District for wildlife rehabilitation at Willowbrook Wildlife Center (60%); the Mayslake Peabody Estate Master Plan (25%); educational programs (6%); habitat restoration (4%); recreational amenities and improvements (3%); and the Blanding's turtle head-start program (2%). For more about the Friends and opportunities for partnerships and donations, contact fundraising@dupageforest.org or 630-871-6400.



© Andrea Kaut

They're Baaack! The Return of the Periodical Cicadas

by MATT MULLIGAN, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES

he year 1803 was a notable one in U.S. history. Thomas Jefferson was president, the country nearly doubled in size with the Louisiana Purchase, and Ohio became the 17th state in the union. It was also the year of a spectacular natural phenomenon: the joint emergence of two broods of periodical cicadas. This spring and summer will mark the first time in 221 years this will happen again, and one of the broods will be here in DuPage.

Cicadas have an interesting journey of development. As young nymphs, they spend years underground, feeding on fluids from the roots of trees. After they surface as adults, they climb to high locations and go through one last molt, emerging soft and white from their rigid exoskeletons. You can often find the remaining hollow shells attached to tree trunks or on the ground. After a few short days, their wings and new exoskeletons dry and harden, and the insects fly away.

To attract females, male cicadas produce loud distinctive calls that can seem deafening to anyone standing nearby. After mating, the females puncture the twigs of trees and shrubs and lay their eggs inside. Days later, the eggs hatch, and the newborn cicadas fall and burrow into the soil, starting the process again.

Annual dog day cicadas spend between two to five years underground, and there are always adults emerging every July and August. They're 1.25 to 1.5 inches long and have green to brown bodies with black markings and whitish undersides. Periodical cicadas, though, burrow for 13 or 17 years, depending on the species, and emerge all in the same year. Seven different types live in eastern North America: three 17-year species generally in the north and four 13-year in the south and Midwest. Adults are about an inch long and have black bodies, striking red eyes, orange wing veins, and a black W near the tips of their forewings.

After their final molt, male periodical cicadas live about two weeks. Females live four to six, during which time each can lay up to 600 eggs. Young the size of small ants hatch after six or seven weeks, fall to the ground, and burrow. When they emerge 13 or 17 years later, they exit through openings in the ground about half the diameter of a penny.

As in 1803, this year, 17-year cicadas (called Brood XIII) and 13-year cicadas (called Brood XIX) will emerge at the same time. It's weather-dependent, but the peak will likely be between May and June. Before you anticipate a double dose, though, know that here in Illinois, the two broods will emerge adjacent to one another but will likely not overlap. In DuPage, we'll see Brood XIII; Brood XIX will appear further south. According to maps and records from the Illinois Natural History Survey, the transition zone will likely be between Kankakee, Chebanse, and Clifton as you head south on I-57. There are no guarantees, but if you're interested in trying to experience both broods at the same time, your best bet would be a short car ride to a public green space with mature trees along this stretch.

There are physical differences between broods, but the average observer will likely not notice them. Different cicada species, for instance, can produce different sounds, patterns, and frequencies. Each species has its own song so as not to attract females from another species. If you're interested in trying to hear the differences, you can find links to several cicada calls at cicadamania.com.

Here in DuPage, it should be easy to find 17-year cicadas in backyards and forest preserves, whether you're a trained scientist or a curious first-time observer. Because periodical cicadas emerge all in the same year, they arrive in high densities that can range from over a million per acre to a more typical several thousand per acre. They're virtually defenseless from predators such as birds, spiders, snakes, and dogs, so they rely on this safety in numbers to ensure enough individuals survive to produce the next generation.

If (well, more likely when) you encounter a cicada, you have nothing to fear. They don't bite or sting, and they typically keep to themselves. They can startle you, though, especially the males, which call not only to attract mates but also to deter perceived threats.

When you're out, bring binoculars if you want to spot cicadas up high attached to large trees, but you can usually see them on the ground without any help. They typically fly and buzz during the day with peak activity from afternoon through dusk, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the show.

As you're out observing, consider taking photos and posting them to community science apps such as iNaturalist or Cicada Safari. Both apps are free and allow you to share sightings with specialists so they can better understand nature on a regional scale. In DuPage forest preserves you can catalog your cicada or other nature observations in iNaturalist at inaturalist.org/ projects/forest-preserve-district-of-dupage-county.

To experience this rare natural event to the fullest in the forest preserves, check out our lineup of "Cicada Adventures" programs on Page 10. And as you explore the preserves this May and June, relish the fact that you are part of something that lasts for only six weeks but was over 200 years in the making!



 A cicada molts for one last time. Once the exoskeleton hardens and the wings unfurl, it will be a winged adult.



Animals gorge on periodical cicadas, but the enormous broods ensure there'll be survivors to lay eggs for the next generation.



 A small thin membrane called a tymbal below a cicada's wings is responsible for the insect's tremendous calls.



 A female 17-year periodical cicada uses its ovipositor at the end of its abdomen to pierce a small twig and deposit its eggs.

spring calendar

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April

- 1 Forest Hike
- 2 Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 3 Evening Hike Club Volunteer Restoration Workday Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 4 Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 5 Fresh Air Friday Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begins
- 6 Fishing: Spring Trout Season Opener Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8 Forest Hike Solar Eclipse Viewing Party
- 9 Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 10 Evening Hike Club Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- **11** Archery: Families Peabody's Pages Junior

- 12 Bird Walk
- 13 Nature Study Explorers Phenology Journal Hike Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- **15** Forest Hike Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 16 Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 17 Evening Hike Club Volunteer Restoration Workday Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- **18** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game Music of the Roaring 20s
- 19 Bird Walk
- 20 Spring Brook: Back From the Dead Volunteer Restoration Workday Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 21 Archery: Adults Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22 Forest Hike Volunteer Restoration Workday

- 23 Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24 Evening Hike Club Volunteer Restoration Workday Waycar Wednesday Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- **25** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26 Bird Walk Natural History Illustration Class Six-Part Program Begins Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 27 Phenology Journal Hike Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28 Sheep Shearing Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29 Forest Hike
- **30** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

- 1. Visit dupageforest.org, and scroll down to "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.
- If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

May

- 1 Evening Hike Club Volunteer Restoration Workday Volunteer Workday at the Nursery Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 2 Cocktails and Conservation: Plant Your Own Container Garden
- 3 Bird Walk Fresh Air Friday
- 5 Warbler Walk
- 6 Forest Hike Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 7 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8 Evening Hike Club Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 10 Bird Walk
- **11** Phenology Journal Hike Volunteer Restoration Workday Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- **12** Fishing: With Mom Volunteer Restoration Workday Warbler Walk
- 13 Forest Hike

- **15** Volunteer Restoration Workday Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 16 The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 17 Bird Walk Native Plant Sale Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 18 Native Plant Sale Volunteer Restoration Workday
- **19** Nature Journaling Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20 Forest Hike
- 22 Cicada Adventures Kayaking: Basics Volunteer Workday at the Nursery Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 24 Bird Walk
- 25 Phenology Journal Hike
- 26 Warbler Walk
- 29 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery Waycar Wednesday Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 31 Bird Walk

June

- 1 Cicada Adventures Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 5 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6 Cicada Adventures
- 7 Fresh Air Friday Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 8 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour Nature Study Explorers Phenology Journal Hike Summertime Second Saturdays Volunteer Restoration Workday Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9 Fishing: Just for Kids Fishing Derby
- 13 The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 14 Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- **15** The Art of St. James Farm Family Container Gardening Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour Volunteer Restoration Workday
- **16** Fishing: With Dad Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19 Kayaking: Just for Kids
- 21 Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 22 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour Phenology Journal Hike Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23 Marvelous Monarchs Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26 Volunteer Restoration Workday Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 28 Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 29 Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour Volunteer Restoration Workday



Plants & Wildlife

Bird Walk 24578

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 12	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Danada
April 19	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
April 26	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
May 3	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 10	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 17	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 24	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 31	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Dunham

Cicada Adventures

Celebrate one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the forest preserves and DuPage – the emergence of the 17-year cicadas – with fun activities and guided hikes that will give you a deeper appreciation for these quirky insects. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

May 22	3 – 6 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
June 1	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
June 6	1 – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Marvelous Monarchs 24763

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 23 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. St. James Fari	n
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Phenology Journal Hike 24801

Learn how scientists use phenology, the study of seasonal changes, to track how climate change impacts the environment by keeping your own nature journal of plants, animals, and other observations. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

April 13 & 27	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 11& 25	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
June 8 & 22	9 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Join us for a party with solar viewing glasses, activities, crafts, and, in case of clouds, a live stream of the eclipse. The maximum eclipse will take place at 2:07 p.m. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

April 8 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Spring Brook: Back From the Dead 24765

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

April 20 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. St. James Farm

Warbler Walk 24786

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 5	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 12	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Blackwell
May 26	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

Wednesday Wilderness Walk 24790

Take a guided nature hike, observing the seasons, flora, and fauna in the lesser-known but greatly diverse Lincoln Marsh. 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 at the walk.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
May 1, 8, 15,	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
22 & 29		

Ways to Play

Archery

Adults 24752

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 21	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
12		



Families 24751

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 11 5 – 6:30 p.m. Blackwell

The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Challenge your friends and neighbors and 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! Come with a team of up to seven, or have us help you find one. Ages 18 and up. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

April 18	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
May 16	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
June 13	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

Fishing

Just for Kids Fishing Derby 24839

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 9 8 – 11 a.m. Blackwell

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 6	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne
		Woods & Wood Dale Grove

With Dad 24755

Spend time 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.

Pratt's Wayne

June 16 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

With Mom 24753

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 12	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	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 scroll down to "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 24754

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 22	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
iviay ZZ	5 – 7 p.m.	HEILICK LAKE

Just for Kids 24756

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

June 19 6 – 7:30 p.m. Herrick Lake

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.

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 horserider combo per hour. Register at 630-918-1524.

Riding Lessons 24587

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn valuable horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons or individual four-pack lessons. Ages 12 and up. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$300 per nonresident. Register online or call 630-668-6012.





Health & Well-Being

Evening Hike Club 24734

spring calendar

Boost your outdoor wellness in a friendly group setting on a quick-paced 1.5-to-3.5-mile guided hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 3	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Oldfield Oaks
April 10	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
April 17	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
April 24	6 – 7:30 p.m.	McDowell Grove
May 1	6 – 7:30 p.m.	West Branch
May 8	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Mallard Lake

Forest Hike 24741

Enjoy the wonders of the forest preserves and get some healthy exercise on a guided, quick-paced 3-to-5-mile hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 1	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake
April 8	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Churchill Woods
April 15	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook
April 22	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Philip State Park
April 29	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 6	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 13	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne
May 20	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen

Fresh Air Friday 24759

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

April 5	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 3	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
June 7	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

Living Green

Cocktails and Conservation: Plant Your Own Container Garden 24577

Container gardening with native plants is much easier to put together than a full-sized garden. Learn about native wildflowers, how to identify them, and how to easily grow them at home in a container garden. Sip a signature cocktail made with native plant ingredients as you pot up your own container of native flowers, grasses, and sedges for home. Ages 21 and up. \$40 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248

May 2 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Oak Meadows

Family Container Gardening 24706

Celebrate Pollinator Week with the whole family by bringing a little bit of nature to your backyard. You'll learn about several common native wildflowers, how to identify them, and why they are important to wildlife. Then get your hands dirty mixing dirt and potting up your own container of native plants to take home. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per family. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 15 10 – 11:30 a.m. St. James Farm



NATIVE PLANT SALE

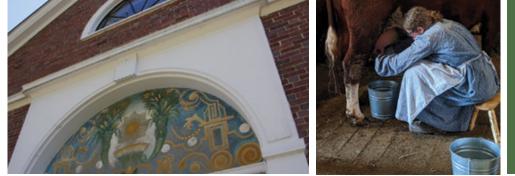
Mayslake Peabody Estate

Shop in person for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees! For a list of plants, visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale starting March 1. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

May 17 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

May 18 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

- 1. Visit dupageforest.org, and scroll down to "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.

Native Landscaping

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

Creating Your Garden Plan 24819

60 minutes. \$30 per session.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	3 & 6 p.m.	Online
Creating Your	Garden Plan 2470)7
45 minutes, \$20	per session.	

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April 4	5, 6 & 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Heritage

The Art of St. James Farm 24766

Take a guided walking tour of the preserve's seven outdoor pieces of artwork. Learn about the inspiration for each piece, the artists and their creative processes, and how the artwork came to be at St. James Farm. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 15 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Nature Study Explorers

Create memories with your friends and family as you explore nature through an 1890s lens! Take a step back in time, and learn from the Nature Study movement of the late Victorian era. Each program will have a different activity ranging from craft projects to science experiments depending on the time of the year. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

April 13	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
June 8	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

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 all-ages programs. Questions? Call 630-876-5900, or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

CHORES ON A DAIRY FARM

This program provides an opportunity for kids and adults to try their hands at different activities and allows them to learn about the importance of farms like this.

June 3 – 27 Mondays & Thursdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

HOUSE TOUR: DAIRY MONTH

Join us for a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse with discussions on dairy farming, heritage breed cows, butter making, and more.

May 30 – June 30 Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

HOUSE TOUR: SPRINGTIME ON THE FARM

Take a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on the busy spring season, when the farm comes to life! Newborn lambs and calves bring new life to the farm as the draft horses prepare the fields for planting. Learn about the work that went into the kitchen garden and the crop fields, and see us freshen up the house after a long winter.

April 1 – May 26 Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

MILKING DEMONSTRATIONS

See the farm's heritage Shorthorn cows hand-milked the 1890s way.

June 1 – 30 Saturdays & Sundays 9:30 – 10 a.m.

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 3 – Aug. 26 Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

spring calendar





Sheep Shearing

Watch farmers hand shear our 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 to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

April 28 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Art and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Registration is not required for these programs. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

AT HOME WITH NATURE HOUSE TOUR

Learn some of the surprising history of Mayslake Hall, a landmark and architectural gem and the former home of F.S. Peabody in 1921, which has been surrounded by an oasis of nature for over 100 years. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person.

April 1 – June 29 Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND TAPESTRY OF NATURE

These two concurrent exhibits present a collection by the Oak Brook Art League, reflecting the artists' experiences and responses to the world, and by the three visionary artists of In Focus, who invite you to pause, reflect, and revel in the ephemeral magic that binds us to our surroundings. Join us April 17 at 6 p.m. for a two-hour reception, where you'll meet some of the artists and enjoy signature mocktails. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free.

April 2 – May 18 Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FAR AFIELD

Take in this exhibit by the Near West Arts Collective created during adventures off the beaten path in nature and the world around us. Join us June 19 at 6 p.m. for a two-hour reception, where you'll meet some of the members and enjoy signature mocktails. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free.

May 21 – June 29 Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride

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 7, 14, 21 & 28 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Waycar Wednesday

Walk through our 1906 waycar (also called a caboose), and hear how it was first used on the rails and then by Brooks McCormick after its retirement. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

April 24	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
May 29	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm

Nature Art & Culture

Mayslake Hall Franciscan Tour 24849

Discover the history of the Franciscans who operated retreats on the property from the late 1920s to the 1990s. The tour is indoors but will end at the Portiuncula Chapel if the weather permits. Ages 18 and up. \$8 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

June 8, 15, 22 & 29 10 – 11 a.m. Mayslake

Music of the Roaring 20s 24835

Take a step back in time to the era of the Charleston and Rag Time. Learn about the historical and social influences behind the music, and hear the sounds that defined the Roaring 20s. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 18 7 – 8:30 p.m. Mayslake

Natural History Illustration Class

Six-Part Program 24809

Work outside (weather-permitting) with a skilled instructor using specimens and photographs to draw and paint plants, flowers, and landscapes using watercolor and gouache. No class on May 10 and 17. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$240 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 26 – June 14 4 – 6 p.m. Mayslake Fridays



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

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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.

Nature Journaling 24764

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 19 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 24823

Discuss great reads with fellow book fans at these enriching meetings. In April we'll discuss *The Frugal Gourmet Cooks American* by Jeff Smith; in May, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle; and in June, *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* by Catlin Doughty. Titles subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 5, May 3 10 – 11:15 a.m. Mayslake & June 7

Peabody's Pages Junior 24834

Bring your kids to listen to classic stories told around a campfire. Ages 5 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 11	10 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
		-

Summertime Second Saturdays

Bring the family for a fun new program where we'll explore state symbols and make crafts for home related to the state bird, tree, and flower. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

June 8

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

Volunteer

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 24886

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 15, 20 & 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
May 1, 6, 11,	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
17, 22 & 29		
June 3, 8, 14,	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
21 & 26		

Volunteer Restoration Workday 25001

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).

Big Woods

Big Woods			
April 13	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Big Woods	
April 23	3 – 4:30 p.m.	Big Woods	
May 7	3 – 4:30 p.m.	Big Woods	
Churchill Woods			
April 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods	
May 11, 12, 18 & 19	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods	
June 1, 2, 15, 16, 22 & 23	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods	
Churchill Woods Glacial Ridge			
April 13, 22 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial	
May 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial	
June 1, 15 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial	
Maple Grove			
April 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove	
May 11 & 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove	
June 1 & 8	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove	
Oldfield Oaks			
April 3, 17, 23, 24 & 25	8 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks	
May 1 & 15	8 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks	
June 5 & 26	8 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks	
Springbrook Prair	ie		
April 20 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook	
St. James Farm			
April 27	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm	
May 18	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm	
Wayna Graya			

Wayne Grove April 21

1 – 3 p.m.

Willowbrook

April 6 & 209 – 11 a.m.May 189 – 11 a.m.June 1 & 159 – 11 a.m.

Willowbrook Willowbrook Willowbrook

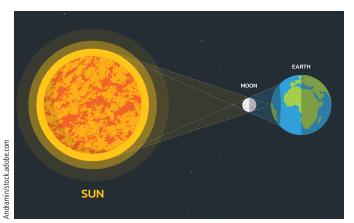
Wayne Grove

The Moon's Big Show

by JENNY KAMM, ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

James Thew/stock.adobe.cor

n Aug. 21, 2017, I was hiking along the Appalachian Trail somewhere in the Green Mountain National Forest just south of Rutland, Vermont. I didn't know it when I set out, but I was about to witness one of our planet's most fascinating occurrences, a solar eclipse. It wasn't a total eclipse, meaning I didn't experience the eerie dimming of light and drop in temperature, but I did enjoy the smattering of thousands of crescent sun shadows dappling the woodsy trail through the



 Solar eclipses occur when the moon is in just the right spot between the Earth and sun so that it blocks the sun's light.

trees. (I didn't have any protective solar eclipse glasses, so I was thrilled to see it through the shadows.) This year on April 8, we'll have the chance to experience an eclipse closer to home right here in DuPage forest preserves.

For centuries, humans attributed eclipses to angry dragons, upset gods, hungry pumas, and other agents. Only 2,500 years ago did the first few individuals start to consider that the moon was involved. Today, we know we have eclipses because of the moon, but the reason is still fascinating.

The sun is 400 times bigger than the moon, but because the Earth is so close to the moon (239,000 miles) and so far from the sun (93 million miles) and the diameters of the moon and sun are what they are (2,159 and 865,000 miles, respectively), when things line up just right, the moon is able to block the entire fiery sphere from our view. It's a remarkable event considering no other moon in our solar system (there are 290) can totally eclipse the sun in this way.

Even though the moon circles the Earth once a month, globally, eclipses occur just two to three times a year and only along a narrow band. Why? Well the moon's ellipse (its orbit around the Earth) isn't perfectly round and doesn't sit directly along our equator. It's also tilted at a 5-degree angle, so the moon is rarely in the right spot to cause an eclipse.

In our area, on April 8, beginning at 12:51 p.m. the moon



The author experienced the 2017 eclipse by safely viewing the crescent-shaped sunbeams that fell through the trees.

will begin to eclipse the sun. It's being called a "total" eclipse because along the center of its path the moon will block the sun completely. Here in DuPage, though, at its peak at 2:07 p.m., it will cover only 95%, leaving a small crescent of light. (If you want to see 100% and have friends in Carbondale, Illinois, you might want to pay them a visit.) According to NASA, our area won't see a 100% eclipse until Sept. 14, 2099. In any case, this year's show will be over at 3:22 p.m.

Even though we now understand what causes an eclipse, we're still learning how plants and animals react to one. We learn more with each one, and although many observations have been anecdotal, they're fascinating none the less. For example, during the window of an eclipse, people have seen birds go to roost, many falling completely silent. When the light returns, observers have noted bird songs like that at dawn. It makes sense when you consider that birds, like much of life, rely on light to dictate their circadian rhythms and behaviors.

Other animals seem to return to their nocturnal behaviors during an eclipse as well. Bees have been spotted returning to their hives, and people have reported an increase in mosquitoes, the emergence of bats, and the sounds of frog and cricket songs, all that usually occur around dusk.

Light also affects how plants behave. Studies show that transpiration in trees – the way water moves from the roots to the small pores in the leaves – slows during eclipses. Photosynthesis also slows down as does the flow of tree sap.



 During an eclipse, people have observed birds returning to their nests as if it were dusk.

Not surprisingly, plants slowly return to regular activity once the sun returns.

With every eclipse we learn more about how life responds to this phenomenon, and there are ways you can help collect data to contribute to the effort. During the 2017 eclipse, 636 people across North America participated in a citizen science activity where they took pictures of plants and animals 30 minutes before, during, and 30 minutes after the eclipse. The experiment was called "Life Responds" and was conducted through iNaturalist, a citizen science app.

The project was a success. People submitted 2,750 pictures with 478 identified species. During the peak of the eclipse they observed chickens going to roost, noticed cicadas stop singing, and heard crickets start to chirp, with the pattern shifting into reverse as the moon moved on.

This year, the Forest Preserve District is collecting its own data through iNaturalist. Once you have the app downloaded to your phone, click the "Projects" button, and then enter "FPDDC Wildlife Observations: Solar Eclipse 2024" in the search box. Details on how to participate are under "About."

Who knows what fascinating things we'll observe! As the shadow of the moon sweeps across the Earth, look around you at the surrounding life here on Earth. How is it all responding to this strange occurrence? I like to think that this experience will remind me of how small I am and yet, at the same time, how connected I am to everything around me.

If you're interested in watching this year's eclipse (or any), **never look at the sun without proper eye protection** (and this doesn't mean sunglasses). Even the slightest sliver of sunlight can permanently damage your eyes. NASA offers ways to safely view the eclipse at science.nasa.gov/eclipses. The page also takes you to a link with places where you can buy solar eclipse glasses that conform to the ISO 12312-2 international standard. **There are fake glasses out there that will not protect your eyes, so it's critical that you trust your source.** The Forest Preserve District will have a limited supply of glasses on hand April 8 at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, so stop by and enjoy some eclipse-themed activities! Details are on Page 10.

directory



HEADQUARTERS

3S580 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 (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 3S507 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 630-850-8112

Open mid-April – mid-November Wednesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

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 2S541 Winfield Road • Warrenville 630-580-7025

Office and Visitor Center Please call for hours. MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE 1717 W. 31st St.

Oak Brook • 630-206-9566 Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Closed Sundays

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

Animal Admittance Thursday – Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesdays 9 a.m. – Noon

Phone Hours Daily 9 a.m. – 4 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 permanently closed. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

GOLF Courses

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS 900 N. Wood Dale Road

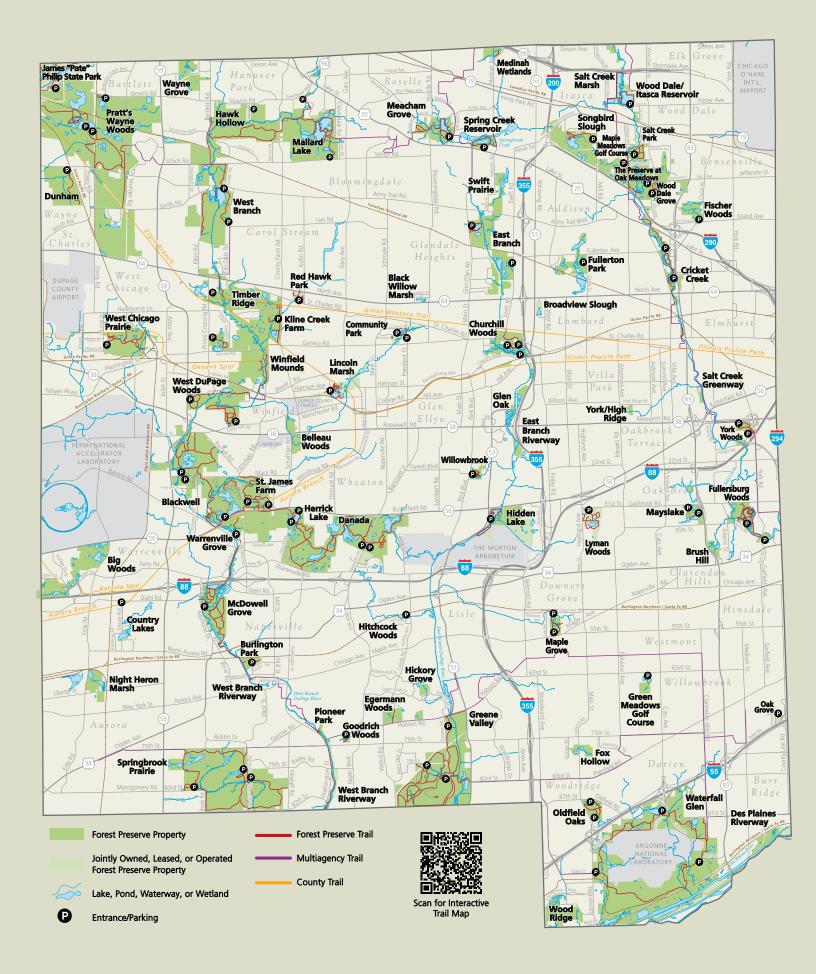
Addison • 630-595-0071

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.





35580 Naperville Road Wheaton, IL 60189

please deliver to current resident

Conservationist A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Spring 2024

Native/ *Plant Sale* May 18 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mayslake Peabody Estate • Oak Brook

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