

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2024

## Be a Part of the Community!

The Role of Community Scientists

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The Return of the  
Lakeside Daisy

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Winter Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

# from the president



Hello and Happy New Year! And what a year 2024 is going to be here at the Forest Preserve District.

In 2019 the Board of Commissioners approved a five-year Districtwide master plan containing 32 certified projects and 15 initiatives. To date, we've completed 16 projects from that list including the restoration of the historic 1870s bridge at Hidden Lake, a new 180-car parking lot at Waterfall Glen, and major exterior renovations at Mayslake Hall. (Join us this spring as we officially mark this particular accomplishment with a grand reopening of the historic site.)

Now in 2024, we're working on checking off even more from the list. For visitors' comfort we're adding ADA-accessible family flush restrooms at Wood Dale Grove, Pratt's Wayne Woods, Waterfall Glen, and Mallard Lake. And true to our mission, we're restoring habitat throughout the District, including making progress on 550 acres of wetland, prairie, and savanna at Herrick Lake, the largest single contiguous restoration project in the Forest Preserve District's history.

With our newly reorganized website, [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org), you can keep tabs on the progress of these projects and more. Just click on "What We Do" and "Master Plan and Other Projects." There you will find links to all of our projects, which you can sort by planned, in progress, and completed.

All the best in 2024, and I'll see you on the trails!

**Daniel Hebreard**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### President

Daniel Hebreard, Woodridge

### Commissioners

Marsha Murphy, Bloomingdale — District 1

Tina Tyson-Dunne, Lombard — District 2

Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3

Jeff Gahris, Wheaton — District 4

Barbara O'Meara, Naperville — District 5

Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

### Executive Director

Karie Friling



## BOARD MEETINGS

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



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

Winter 2024, Vol. 61, No. 1



## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189  
630-933-7200, TTY 800-526-0857

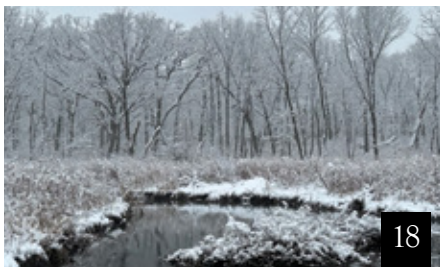
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

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On the cover: Winter ice Hank Erdmann/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

© Steve

# news & notes



## STAY IN THE KNOW

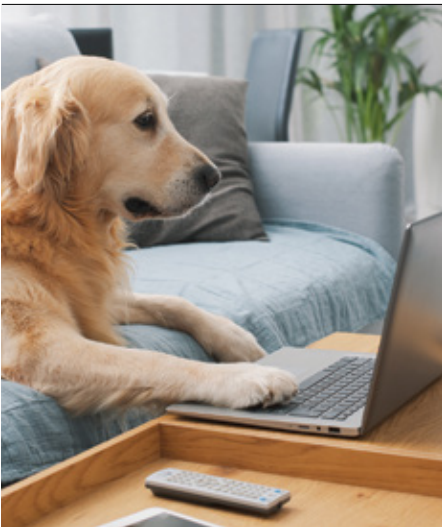
Sign up for text alerts to get the latest on important updates and new programs. Text any of the keywords below (one keyword per text) to 866-743-7332 to begin receiving alerts. You can opt out at any time. (Message and data rates may apply.) For details, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click “What We Do,” “News,” and “Text Alerts.”

ARCHERY	DOGS	GARDENING	POPUP	TUBING
ARTS	EVENTS	HISTORY	PreK	WATERCRAFT
BIRDING	FISHING	HORSES	SCOUTS	WELLNESS
		JOBS	TEACHERS	WILDLIFE

## GRANT TO BENEFIT *Willowbrook Wildlife Center*

The Forest Preserve District has received a \$250,000 grant from the Museums for America program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support the visitor experience at Willowbrook Wildlife Center.

This project is part of extensive improvements at the site, which include a new state-of-the-art clinic and visitor center. The grant will support the creation of indoor and outdoor interpretive exhibits and panels at the center and along the outdoor trails. It will also include the development of curriculum for guided and self-guided school field trips; the creation of a classroom loan box and lesson plans; and the development of a family discovery backpack for on-site use.



## ANNUAL PERMITS ON SALE

Annual permits for 2024 for private boating, archery, off-leash dog areas, and model crafts are now on sale at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) under “Get a Permit.”

Permits are also available Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Questions? Call Visitor Services, or use our convenient online chat at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).

## COLLECTIONS *Corner*

This time of year, St. James Farm is busy welcoming riders either renting the indoor arena or participating in “Obstacle Course Play Dates,” and this flurry of equestrian activity makes it a great time to talk tack! (That’s the saddles, bridles, and other equipment horseback riders regularly use.)

In the 1980s and 1990s, the farm’s previous owners hosted steeplechase races, dressage, cross country, and show jumping events. As a result, the Forest Preserve District today has several vintage saddles in its collection, including two Champion & Wilton English sidesaddles, one from 1930 and one from 1935 (shown below). Sidesaddles date back to the 14th century and were an easier way for women in heavy skirts to ride, especially, as was perceived for decades, in a “modest fashion.” Marion Deering McCormick of St. James Farm (1886 – 1965) used one for hunting and other riding.

Riders today still use saddles from this era, but the ones at St. James Farm are no longer in use. You can see them, though, on display at the indoor arena January – March. Call 630-580-7025 for hours.





## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT INTENTIONALLY OPERATES IN THE DARK

The Forest Preserve District realizes the harmful effects of light pollution – unwanted or excessive artificial light – and takes its mandate to protect nature seriously. Scientific research shows that artificial night lighting has negative effects on a variety of species, including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects, and plants.

Of the 26,000 acres of land managed by the Forest Preserve District, only 125.6 acres, or 0.4%, are currently affected by Forest Preserve District-emitted lighting. For instance, at Pratt’s Wayne Woods in Wayne and Springbrook Prairie in Naperville, spanning 3,441 and 1,824 acres respectively, only 1 acre at each is affected. But the Forest Preserve District wants to do better.

The agency is conducting a comprehensive exterior audit to eliminate any unnecessary lighting altogether and to identify additional opportunities for improvements. Of course, the safety of forest preserve visitors and staff is paramount, which is why its Facilities Management department is working closely with its Law Enforcement staff to take a thoughtful approach to the placement of fixtures, motion sensors, timers, manual switches, and other technologies.



## 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 mission and purpose of the Forest Preserve District. We are grateful to recognize those who donated \$500 or more during the third quarter to the Friends or directly to the Forest Preserve District.

### Gifts of \$25,000 or More

The Diane E. Langley Declaration of Trust

### Gifts of \$10,000 – \$24,999

Anonymous

### Gifts of \$5,000 – \$9,999

The Conservation Foundation on behalf of  
the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship  
Group

Myriam Villalta Elijah  
Nicor Gas

### Gifts of \$1,000 – \$4,900

The Casten Family  
The Grisemer Family Charitable Trust  
Susan Johansen  
Jennifer Pope and Leo Schwarz  
PowerForward DuPage  
The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation  
Jennifer Stitzell  
Theosophical Order of Service

### Gifts of \$500 – \$999

Patricia Gabris  
Milton Township  
Wheaton Lions Club

Friends of the Forest Preserve District invites contributions to meet the greatest needs in our forest preserves and to support master plan projects. Currently, Friends has a focus on inviting gifts for the new Willowbrook Wildlife Center, an ambitious project that advances wildlife care, public engagement, and sustainability. For details, contact Partnership & Philanthropy at [fundraising@dupageforest.org](mailto:fundraising@dupageforest.org) or 630-871-6400. To donate, visit [dupageforest.org/friends](http://dupageforest.org/friends) or mail a check payable to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County to 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189.

## 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](http://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.



Meeko Media/stock.adobe.com

# Be a Part of the Community!

by **GLENN PERRICONE**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**T**his new year, as you explore your favorite forest preserves, take a few moments to join the millions of people across the globe engaging in community science!

Community scientists have expanded the scope of discovery in the preserves by helping professional scientists collect large amounts of data, information researchers may not be able to gather otherwise. Participating in community science is a meaningful way to spend time outdoors, explore the forest preserves, and connect with nature while building a deeper appreciation of local plants and wildlife. And anyone can do it! It can be a fun family activity, a way to get students involved in project-based learning, or a chance for individuals to make a real contribution to real science.

You can join many community science projects simply by taking a picture and uploading it to an app like iNaturalist, eBird, or Budburst or a site like Journey North. With each,

people can share what they've seen and where they've seen it and then have other contributors verify their findings.

For example, the Forest Preserve District maintains an iNaturalist project page that catalogs all the different organisms found within the boundaries of DuPage County's forest preserves. (You can find it at [inaturalist.org/projects/forest-preserve-district-of-dupage-county](https://inaturalist.org/projects/forest-preserve-district-of-dupage-county).) Preserve visitors snap pictures of plants and animals, usually with their phones, and upload them to the site. If they can't ID an image, the app will give it a shot. The "iNat" community then weighs in to positively identify subjects, making observations "research-grade" and valuable to professional scientists working to better understand and protect nature. To date, over 31,000 research-grade observations of over 3,600 different species have been added to the Forest Preserve District project. Some of the most common species observed are the red-tailed hawk, prairie trillium, common milkweed, and white-tailed deer, but

community scientists occasionally add rare entries to the list.

In 2020, a visitor photographed an American red squirrel at Waterfall Glen, the first record of the species in a DuPage preserve. (Unlike fox and gray squirrels, from the top of the head to the tip of the tail, a red squirrel is only about 12 inches long.) A community scientist verified the discovery by adding his own geotagged red squirrel photograph to iNaturalist in winter 2023. This made the record research-grade and gave professional scientists a better understanding of how the small squirrel is expanding its range in the Chicagoland area.

In October 2023, a community scientist using iNaturalist documented a limpkin at Fullersburg Woods, the first recorded sighting in DuPage. Birdwatchers from across the region flocked to the forest preserve to watch the rare wading bird forage for snails in Salt Creek. Many of those birdwatchers also used the eBird app to add the limpkin to their personal checklists. Beyond helping people remember what they observed, eBird checklists also create large datasets that professional scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology analyze to develop range maps, migration projections, and population trends.

But community science isn't just for grown-ups. In April 2022, elementary school students visiting Fullersburg Woods for a field trip used iNaturalist to help them identify bugs. Their picture of a soil centipede turned out to be the first record of the species *Strigamia bothriopus* in Illinois!

Some sightings are less celebrated but just as important. Projects on iNaturalist, for instance, are marking the spread of the invasive spotted lanternfly by verifying community scientists' observations as research-grade, helping entomologists monitor how fast this invasive species is spreading. To date, this insect has not been identified in DuPage County, but its arrival is not ruled out.

At the Forest Preserve District, people can take community science to the next level by becoming volunteer monitors. District ecologists provide basic training prior to each monitoring season and can use the data monitors collect to make informed habitat management decisions.

Volunteer bird monitors, for instance, listen and look for birds off-trail during the breeding season. This can help Natural Resources crews know when to mow or use prescription fires without disturbing nesting species. Dragonfly and butterfly monitors learn how to identify and record different species so the District can see how populations respond to habitat changes. And rare plant and fungi monitors keep tabs on individual specimens of interest. For details on all monitoring programs, visit [dupageforest.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://dupageforest.org/get-involved/volunteer) and scroll down to Natural Resources.

This winter while you're exploring the forest preserves, looking for wildlife, discovering plants, or taking photographs, consider how your observations can contribute to conservation science. You just might make the next important nature discovery! •



© Randy Raza

▲ Prairie trillium



▲ American red squirrel



▲ Limpkin



▲ Spotted lanternfly

# winter calendar



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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31						

## January

- 1** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Archery: All Ages
- 5** Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begins
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Marvelous Monarchs  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 13** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Wednesday Winter Walk
- 18** Cocktails and Conservation: Mason Jar Mixology
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23** Collage, Nature, and Image Transfers  
Six-Part Program Begins
- 31** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wednesday Winter Walk

## February

- 3** Fishing: Hard Water Classic  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** History of St. James Farm
- 9** Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike
- 10** Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike  
Nature Study Explorers  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wednesday Winter Walk
- 15** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 17** Archery: All Ages  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Climate Conversation: Reducing Waste With Worms  
The Other McCormick of DuPage:  
Chauncey McCormick
- 24** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wednesday Winter Walk



## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

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

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://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.



## March

- 1** Fresh Air Friday
- 2** Singing Bird: Native American Women in Illinois History  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 13** Archery: Games for Adults  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Haiku Walk  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wildlife Tracking and Observation
- 19** Micro Minis Nature Collage Six-Part Program Begins  
Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Cocktails and Conservation: Wine and Woodcocks
- 23** Leslie Goddard as Rachel Carson  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan  
Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 27** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Archery: Games for All Ages



## Winter Pop-Up Programs

*Various Locations*

Once the snow starts to fall and the ice gets thick, we'll begin scheduling a series of fun fishing, snowshoeing, and scavenger hunt pop-up programs that'll get you ready for winter in the forest preserves.

For updates, text POPUP to 866-743-7332, and we'll text you when one pops up!





## Plants & Wildlife

### Cocktails and Conservation: Wine and Woodcocks 24358

Grab a glass of wine and learn about the mysterious life led by the American woodcock before embarking on a twilight walk to watch these odd birds as they dance across the sky. Ages 21 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 21	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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### Marvelous Monarchs 24303

Learn about our beautiful native monarchs and how you can help butterflies and other pollinators. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 7	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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### Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring 24308

Bring your family on this signs-of-spring scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of the preserve. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 24	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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### Wednesday Winter Walk 24412

Observe the effects shorter days and cold temperatures have on the plants and animals that visit and reside in DuPage forest preserves. 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.

Jan. 17	8 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Jan. 31	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
Feb. 14	8 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Feb. 28	8 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm

### Wildlife Tracking and Observation 24417

Reconnect with your surroundings by developing an acute awareness of the stories told by local wildlife and the natural world through observation and deduction. You will discover nature's clues by exploring tracks and other evidence animals leave behind. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

March 17	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
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## Ways to Play

### Archery

#### All Ages 24409

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.

Jan. 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Feb. 17	10 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

#### Games for Adults 24420

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.

March 13	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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#### Games for All Ages 24421

Compete with other participants in different archery games designed to be enjoyable for all skill levels. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 31	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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### 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.

Jan. 11	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Feb. 15	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
March 14	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

### Fishing: Hard Water Classic 24422

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Bring your own equipment and bait. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the event. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 3	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](https://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.



## 2024 Summer Camps

*Multiple Forest Preserves*

We'll have a great lineup of camps for kids entering kindergarten through eighth grade, many focusing on nature's relationship with science, technology, engineering, and math. With time for team-building, exploration, and play, kids might not realize they're firing up new neurons as they're making new friends!

- Feb. 1** Descriptions go online at [dupageforest.org/camps](https://dupageforest.org/camps).
- Feb. 15** Early-bird registration starts for DuPage residents at [dupageforest.org](https://dupageforest.org).
- March 1** Open registration begins.

## The Indoor Riding Arena

*St. James Farm*

### RIDING YOUR HORSE IN THE INDOOR RIDING ARENA

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.

### OBSTACLE COURSE PLAY DATE 24309

Exercise and school your horse at your own pace through a series of obstacles, which may include bridge, cake top stand, fishing pole, maypole, carrying items, parallel parking, or gate work. Share the arena with up to three other riders, or register and pay for all four slots and have the arena all to yourself for one hour. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo. To register by phone instead, call 630-580-7027.

**Jan. 13, 14, 27 & 28**

**Feb. 10, 11, 24 & 25**

**March 9, 10, 23 & 24**

**11 a.m. – Noon, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.,  
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. and 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.**



## More Ways to Play

### SNOW TUBING

*Blackwell*

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are allowed. Rentals are \$10 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. Credit card or exact cash only. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

### Weekends Through Feb. 25

**Plus Dec. 26 – 31, Jan. 2 – 5, Jan. 8,**

**Jan. 15 & Feb. 19**

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### SNOWSHOES

*Blackwell & Fullersburg Woods*

Rentals are \$10 per day and are only available when there's plenty of snow on the trails. Credit card or exact cash only.

- When snow tubing at Mount Hoy is open, rent at the base until 2 p.m.
- Rent Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last rental at 2 p.m.) at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call 630-850-8110 in advance for availability.

# winter calendar



## Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike

24391

Experience the magic of an evening walk along lantern-lit trails on a self-guided, 1-to-2-mile journey. Follow the candlelight to roaring fires, roasting marshmallows, and hot chocolate. Hikes leave at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. Ages 18 and up. \$12 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 9 & 10      6 – 9 p.m.      Fullersburg Woods

## Health & Well-Being

### Fresh Air Friday 24306

Enjoy a relaxing 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.

March 1      10 – 11 a.m.      St. James Farm

## Living Green

### Climate Conversation: Reducing Waste With Worms 24405

Composting at home is a simple step anyone can take to help tackle climate change. Learn how you can transform your kitchen scraps and backyard cuttings into rich compost for your plants and gardens, and then create your own worm farm for home. Ages 21 and up. \$25 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 22      6:30 – 8 p.m.      Oak Meadows

### Cocktails and Conservation: Mason Jar Mixology 24291

Learn how to make tangy and refreshing cocktails or mocktails using infusions made with ingredients from native shrubs and trees. Grab a mason jar and make your own infusion to take home while enjoying info about native plants. Ages 21 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 18      6:30 – 8 p.m.      Oak Meadows



## Coming This Spring!

### NATIVE PLANT SALE

*Mayslake Peabody Estate*

Shop in person May 17 and 18 for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees! Support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District and purchase a ticket for an exclusive advanced shopping event May 16.

For details, including a list of plants and info on tickets for the May 16 advanced event, visit [dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale](http://dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale) after March 1. We'll see you there!



### Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan 24362

Share drawings or photos of your yard prior to a one-on-one one-hour online meeting, and get customized recommendations from a plant expert who will help you select native plants to match your gardening goals and growing conditions. Ages 18 and up. \$30 per session. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 5, 12, 19 & 26      3 & 6 p.m.      Online  
March 24      1, 3 & 6 p.m.      Online

## Registering on dupageforest.org?

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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.



## Heritage

### History of St. James Farm 24304

Get an in-depth look into St. James Farm's fascinating history through stories and historic photographs, and learn about the people who were part of its legacy. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 8                      10:30 – 11:30 a.m.                      St. James Farm

### Nature Study Explorers

Have you ever wanted to explore the outdoors just like kids in the 1890s? Join us as we take a step back in time and learn from the nature study movement of the late Victorian era. Create memories with friends and family as we explore nature through an 1890s lens. 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.

Feb. 10                      1:30 – 3:30 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm

### The Other McCormick of DuPage: Chauncey McCormick 24305

Chauncey McCormick of St. James Farm was a farmer, gentleman, and philanthropist whose influence is far-reaching but little-known. Get to know the life of this man who played a significant role the county's history. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

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

### Singing Bird: Native American Women in Illinois History 24435

Dressed in her native regalia, Kim Sigafus presents a history of native peoples in Illinois with a focus on native women, or what was considered "The Hidden Half." Come hear stories of Singing Bird (the wife of Blackhawk), Hononegah, and more. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 2                      2 – 3 p.m.                      Mayslake



### 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.

#### FARMHOUSE TOURS: CURING A COLD IN THE 1890S

Join us for a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on keeping the family healthy during the winter months. Learn about the kinds of foods that were prepared for ailing family members and the use of candy as medicine.

**Jan. 4 – Feb. 29**

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

#### FARMHOUSE TOURS

Join us in the farmhouse for a look at 1890s home life with themes that change to reflect the seasons.

**March 1 – 31**

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

#### MAPLE SUGARING

Discover how sap becomes syrup as you try tapping with tools from the 1890s, check the collection buckets, and watch sap thicken over the fire.

**March 2 – 31**

**Saturdays & Sundays 1 – 4 p.m.**



## Art and More at Mayslake

*Mayslake Peabody Estate*

### AT HOME WITH NATURE TOUR

Learn some of the surprising history of Mayslake Hall, a landmark and architectural gem and the former home of F.S. Peabody, 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. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

**Jan. 2 – March 30**

**Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

### DUPAGE ART LEAGUE WINTER EXHIBIT

The purpose of Mayslake Peabody Estate is to connect people to nature through art. Explore that connection with over 40 works by local artists of the DuPage Art League. Join us, too, on Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. for an artists' reception. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

**Jan. 9 – Feb. 17**

**Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.**

**Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### NATURE'S AMBIGUITIES

It's cold outside, but you can connect to nature through art in comfort inside beautiful and historic Mayslake Hall with this exhibit featuring dozens of works by the Downers Grove Artists Guild. Join us, too, on Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. for an artists' reception. Free. No Registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

**Feb. 20 – March 30**

**Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.**

**Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

## Nature Art & Culture

### Collage, Nature, and Image Transfers

Six-Part Program 24424

Explore how the connection to nature can inspire you to create an art journal using collage and other techniques. Learn three different ways to create image transfers for mixed media art, and create a final project you can trim into handmade cards or framed art. Ages 18 and up. \$140 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 23 – Feb. 27 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake  
Tuesdays

### Haiku Walk 24307

Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk. Then, create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 17 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

### Leslie Goddard as Rachel Carson 24434

Leslie Goddard presents a brand-new living history program, portraying biologist and author Rachel Carson, who warned the world of the potentially dire environmental impact of chemical pesticides in her best-selling 1962 book, *Silent Spring*. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 23 2 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

### Micro Minis Nature Collage

Six-Part Program 24423

Learn how to make detailed 2-by-2-inch nature-themed collage works using image transfers techniques, recycled papers, small embellishments, stenciling, stamping, and other elements. Ages 18 and up. \$140 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 19 – April 23 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake  
Tuesdays

## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

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

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://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.

### Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 24436

Sign up for these enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In January we'll discuss *Kickback* by Robert Parker; in February, *Founding Gardeners* by Andrea Wulf; and in March, *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf* by John Muir. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 5, Feb. 2 & March 1	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
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## Volunteer

### Volunteer Restoration Workday 24447

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).

#### Churchill Woods

Jan. 1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Feb. 3, 4, 10, 11, 24 & 25	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

#### Fullersburg Woods

Jan. 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Feb. 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
March 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods

#### Maple Grove

Jan. 6 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Feb. 10 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
March 9 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove

#### Oldfield Oaks

Jan. 3 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
Feb. 7 & 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
March 6 & 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks

#### Springbrook Prairie

Jan. 6, 10, 17, 24 & 31	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jan. 14 & 20	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
Feb. 3, 7, 10, 14, 21 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Feb. 18	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
March 2	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
March 6, 13, 16, 20, 24 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook

#### Wayne Grove

Jan. 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove
Feb. 10 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove
March 9 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove

#### West Chicago Prairie

Jan 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Feb. 10 & 24	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
March 9	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie

#### Willowbrook

Jan. 6 & 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Feb. 3 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
March 2 & 16	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook



# The Return of the Lakeside Daisy

© Steve

by **SCOTT KOBAL**, NATURAL RESOURCES

**S**ometimes the smallest of gems in a DuPage forest preserve needs a network of conservation agencies to thrive.

The lakeside daisy is a long-lived 4-to-12-inch-tall perennial in the aster family that grows in full sun in “alvar” habitats, gravelly areas with shallow soils where few other species can survive. (It may pop up occasionally in other habitats but is eventually overtaken by other plants.) Its dark green leaves are covered in white hairs and grow in a basal rosette, a circular array around the base of the plant. Atop each leafless stem is a single bright yellow flower head that blooms between late spring and early summer, its petals lasting only a week before fading and later dropping. Flowers in a community usually open at the same time. This likely increases the chance of pollination by bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, skippers, and other insects, but it also creates a carpet of gold on an otherwise barren-looking landscape. Throughout the day these vibrant blooms slowly turn in unison so they’re always facing the sun.

But the lakeside daisy is quite rare. In fact, it’s endangered in Illinois and federally listed as threatened by the U. S. Fish

and Wildlife Service. It’s considered endemic to the Great Lakes, meaning that globally, it only grows in the Great Lakes region. Northern Ohio, northern Illinois, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, and Ontario, Canada, are its only homes, and even in those areas populations are sparse. Gravel mining and foot traffic are likely reasons suitable habitat has dwindled.

Unfortunately, this daisy has to deal with reproductive challenges as well as a loss of habitat. Although a new individual plant may sprout from the underground network of stems of an existing one, lakeside daisies primarily spread via seeds. The species is self-incompatible, though, which means to successfully produce seeds, a plant needs to be pollinated by not only another lakeside daisy but also a lakeside daisy that’s genetically different. When populations shrink and become more isolated, the probability that plants are genetically related is high. Even if there’s the right habitat, if there’s no flow of new genes into a population, lakeside daisies will not produce viable seeds — and eventually plants — and the entire population will die out.

At one point, the lakeside daisy was gone from the wild in Illinois, but in the late 1980s conservationists who had



saved plants and seeds from other native areas were able to re-introduce the species in four counties to aid in the flower's recovery. But over time the vast majority of these populations either died out or significantly declined due in part to long-term habitat changes.

In DuPage, the Forest Preserve District received plants grown by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Seeds from that population were then taken to a second location in the early 2000s. By 2021, when ecologists conducted a statewide survey of the plant, the population in DuPage County was labeled "critically significant" and deemed the largest in Illinois.

But even though the population was large, there were some concerns. First of all, the plants were growing in an area that was predominantly clay, not gravelly like the daisy requires. Additionally, the plants were from the same seed source, so there was little genetic variation. Despite the fact that the plants were doing well at the time, ecologists feared they would eventually die out if no action was taken.

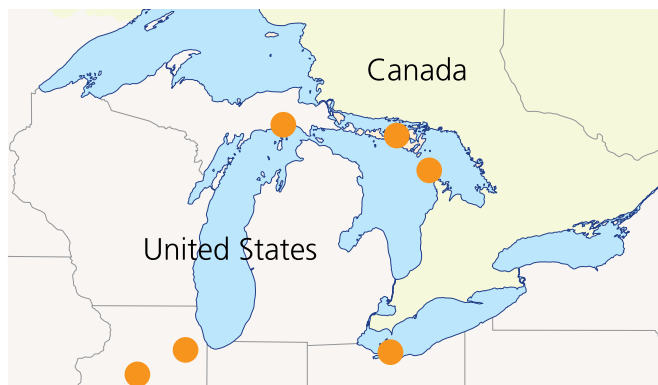
With this information the Forest Preserve District decided to ensure that this critical population survived and flourished. First, in an area near the existing population crews added gravel in the right size and shape for plants to grow. After that, the Chicago Botanic Garden joined the effort. The garden had been growing lakeside daisies as part of a study on the species and contacted the Forest Preserve District to place plants from the study in the preserve. Working with the Chicago Botanic Garden and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the District placed over 100 plants into the newly created gravel habitat. Because many of these plants have a different genetic background than the ones initially at the site, this will help strengthen the genetic diversity of the population.

With authorization from the Ohio office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Preserve District also sowed seeds collected from Ohio. (Ohio has the largest natural population of lakeside daisies in the U.S.) Seeds planted in April 2023 germinated in mid-July, aided by the much-needed summer rains that followed the drought the area experienced earlier in the year. As expected, these seedlings have taken root better in the newly created gravel habitat than in the clayey areas where the original plants grew.

The work is not over, though. To protect the new plantings, the Forest Preserve District is working to control invasive species and aggressive native species, such as Indian grass, that can shade out or outcompete the daisies and provide fuel for fires that would be detrimental to the flowers' survival.

Because not enough suitable habitat remains in Illinois, the lakeside daisy is likely to remain state-endangered. The DuPage population is able to thrive due to the dedicated stewardship of Forest Preserve District staff and outreach and cooperative efforts with other conservation agencies and organizations.

This is a conservation and endangered species success story that fulfills the mission of the Forest Preserve District and creates a living legacy we can all be proud of. •



▲ Worldwide, the plant's dispersal is limited to a few parts of the Great Lakes region.



▲ Lakeside daisies only grow in gravelly shallow soils.



▲ Forest Preserve District crews prepare a planting site for a patch of lakeside daisies.



▲ Ecologists use preserved seeds as well as plants grown from those seeds to augment existing colonies.

# 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.

### 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  
630-850-8112

Open mid-April – mid-November  
Thursdays & Fridays 10 a.m. – 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

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](http://dupageforest.org).

## GOLF *Courses*

### THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

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

### MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

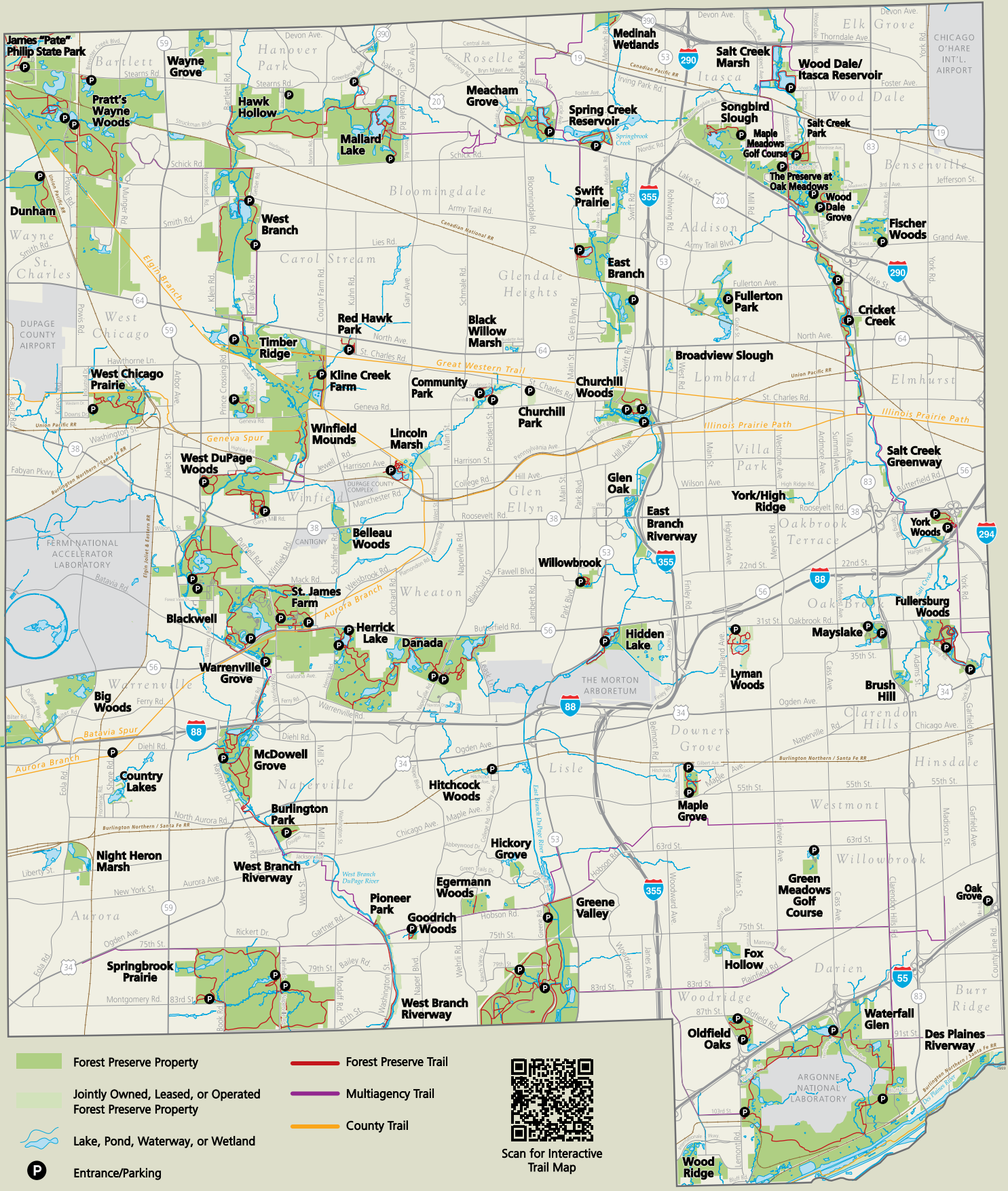
272 S. Addison Road  
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

### 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 Property
- Jointly Owned, Leased, or Operated Forest Preserve Property
- Lake, Pond, Waterway, or Wetland
- P Entrance/Parking
- Forest Preserve Trail
- Multiagency Trail
- County Trail



Scan for Interactive Trail Map



**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

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# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2024**

## DUPAGE FOREST PRESERVE SUMMER CAMPS

— THE NATURE OF FUN —



For kids entering kindergarten through eighth grade

**Feb. 1**  
Descriptions go online at [dupageforest.org/camps](http://dupageforest.org/camps).

**Feb. 15**  
Early-bird registration starts for DuPage residents.

**March 1**  
Open registration begins.

