

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2025**



Why the River Bends

Tidy Trails, Healthy Habitats

Summer Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



As summer arrives here in DuPage County, trees and flowers are in full bloom throughout our forest preserves, and our packed program calendar is in full swing. Long days and warm weather bring one of the busiest times of the year. With more visitors, keeping our preserves clean and safe becomes even more imperative. Thankfully, District staff and volunteers are up to the task. You can learn more about our amazing volunteers (and how to become one yourself!) on Page 16.

Speaking of hard-working helpers, be on the lookout for pollinators as you explore the preserves this summer. As their nationwide habitat and population numbers decrease, the District remains committed to treating our preserves as havens for native species that protect pollinators.

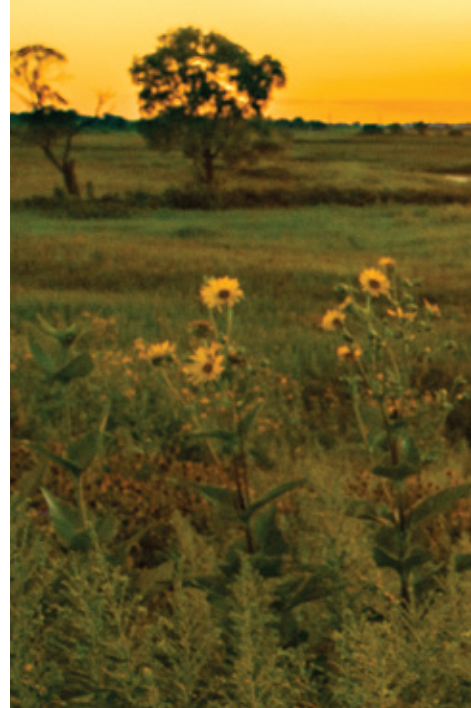
While you're out catching rays (wearing sunscreen of course!) the District will be doing likewise. Construction is set to start on a ground-mounted solar panel array at our headquarters at Danada and on the new Grounds and Natural Resources Maintenance Campus at Blackwell, which will have a powerful 500-kilowatt array to cover all the site's electric needs. Solar power is already in use at our Fleet building at Blackwell and at the golf cart storage building at The Preserve at Oak Meadows, but leading the pack is the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center — our first net-zero-designed facility — that has ground- and roof-mounted collectors. Each of these projects underscores our commitment to improving the quality of life for all DuPage County residents by powering our operations while drastically reducing our greenhouse gas footprint and environmental impact.

Summer 2025 is set to be an excellent one for the Forest Preserve District, so fill up your water bottle, lather up your sunscreen, keep some bug spray handy, and I'll see you on the trails!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dan Hebreard".

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



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dupageforest.org

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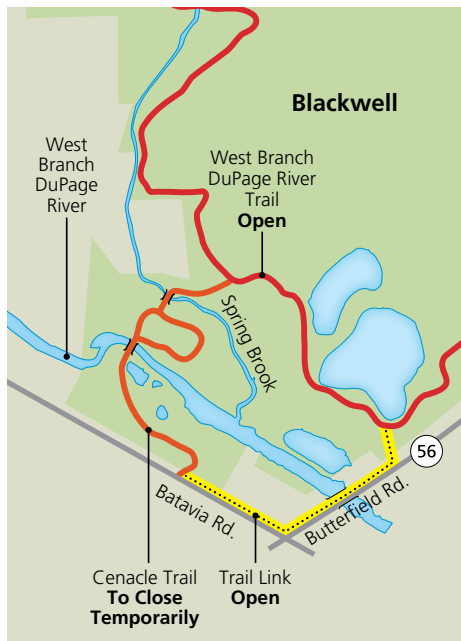
19 **Map**

On the cover: Spotted sandpiper

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



THE FINAL STRETCH AT SPRING BROOK

This summer the Forest Preserve District will begin to restore the third and final stretch of Spring Brook at Blackwell. Crews will stabilize the streambank to prevent future erosion and replace the Cenacle Trail bridge so stormwater can flow easier downstream. Pending contract approval by the board of commissioners, the District expects work to begin in July with the majority completed by the end of the year.

The District has already restored 1.9 miles of Spring Brook through Blackwell and St. James Farm. This final 0.7-mile stretch ends where the brook flows into the West Branch DuPage River.

The Cenacle Trail will temporarily close during construction, but visitors who normally use it to reach Blackwell and the West Branch DuPage River Trail can instead use the existing trail link along Batavia and Butterfield roads. The District will post detour signs as the project progresses.

COLLECTIONS Corner

When you go fishing in a DuPage forest preserve, you join a long tradition.

Indigenous people lived here for thousands of years partly because fishing was so abundant. Fish that lived in the same waters we drop a line in today were a crucial part of their diet.

By the end of the 19th century, fishing in DuPage had shifted from a means of subsistence to a leisurely activity; a fishing adventure was a refreshing break from work or a peaceful weekend activity. But there was more to it than lazing away a hot afternoon, pulling bass or bluegill from the pasture creek with a worm, hook, and simple cane pole. A spinner bait (top) and reel (bottom), which are part of Kline Creek Farm's collection, evidence a quiet pastime turning into a roaring industry.

Because of modern manufacturing, tackle and gear became increasingly affordable and available through local merchants and mail order giants like Sears, Roebuck & Company. Anglers could buy specialty rods made from steel, wood, or bamboo and quality reels machined from brass and steel. Sellers offered machine-made line of braided cotton, linen, or silk as well as snelled and treble hooks and fabricated sinkers and floats. There was also a range of artificial lures, including flies, casting spoons, spinner baits, plugs, minnows, frogs, crickets, crawfish, and, of course, worms — genuine or rubber.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF THIS FALL!

Join The Conservation Foundation & Endeavor Health Take A Hike! Challenge

For eight weeks, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 27, enjoy the healthy benefits of being active and spending time outdoors. It's a great opportunity for all ages — plus you can earn a prize for completing the challenge!

Participation is free. Register at TheConservationFoundation.org/take-a-hike.



Endeavor Health™



THANK YOU *for Being a Friend*

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$500 or more during the first quarter of 2025. The Friends engages the community in philanthropy to advance the District's mission. Your generosity makes a difference for wildlife and wild areas in DuPage County through programs and projects.

Gift of \$5,000 or More

Marilyn Schweitzer and Michael Firman
Tyndale House Ministries

Gift of \$2,500 – \$4,999

Anonymous
Edward Jones — Financial Advisor
Mike Dyer
GreenState Credit Union
Kerschen Family Fund
Kiersten Laren

Gift of \$1,000 – \$2,499

Anonymous (two)
Mary Ellen and Patrick Mauro
The McLean Fund
Edith M. Podrazik

Gift of \$500 – \$999

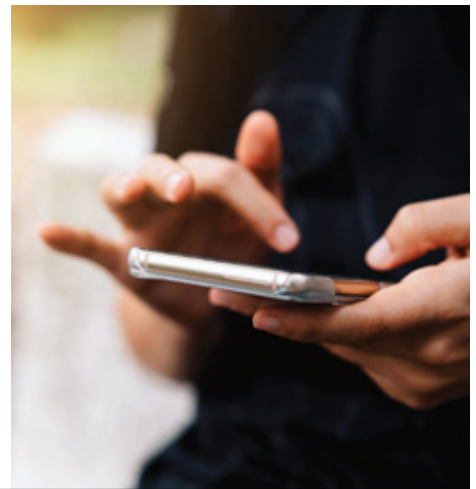
Anonymous (three)
Claudia and David D'Hooge
Kathy Isoda
Ronald Johnson and Lisa Savegnago
Neuco
David and Loretta Nienke
Martha and Bruce Sanders
John Schroeder
John and Maria Shalanko
David and Faith Slowinski

To make a donation, discuss your giving plans or learn more, visit dupageforest.org/friends.org or contact Partnership & Philanthropy at 630-871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org.

VISITOR SERVICES *Saturday Phone Hours*

Now through Aug. 30 (except July 5), Visitor Services is available on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer your calls, emails, and online chats. The office won't be open for in-person visits, but you'll still get answers to all those questions you missed during the week.

Get in touch at 630-933-7248 or permits@dupageforest.org, or use our chat box at dupageforest.org.



STATE GRANT TO HELP FUND NEW BRIDGE AT BLACKWELL

The Forest Preserve District has received a \$1.06 million grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program to help fund the replacement of Blackwell's Cenacle Bridge. ITEP, an Illinois Department of Transportation initiative, supports projects that improve pedestrian and bike travel.

The bridge is part of Blackwell's 0.6-mile Cenacle Trail, which connects Batavia Road with the regional West Branch DuPage River Trail. Engineering on the \$2.2 million project is expected to start later this year with construction beginning in 2027.

Built 100 years ago, the Cenacle Bridge provided access to a Catholic retreat house that once stood on this site. After a century of spanning the West Branch DuPage River, though, the bridge has deteriorated beyond routine maintenance and no longer meets modern safety standards.

Replacing the bridge has long been a goal for the District and is a certified project under the 2019 Master Plan. In addition to the ITEP grant, the project has secured \$300,000 in committed federal transportation funds and anticipates \$250,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.



Why the River Bends

by **ERIK NEIDY**, NATURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR

You're standing on skis at the peak of a steep mountain. You have two choices. You can crouch, tuck in your poles, and head straight down as fast as you can screaming "Here goes nothing!" Or you can start down the slope more slowly at an angle, first to the right and then gradually cutting back across to the left. The latter choice lets you gently weave down the slope at a more manageable speed. It also illustrates how natural rivers and streams curve and twist across the landscape in a series of bends, called meanders.

Like many land formations, a meandering river begins with a glacier. As the enormous frozen mass moves over land, its immense weight combined with the grinding action of the ice erodes the rocks and soil beneath. When the climate warms (or the glacier reaches lower, warmer elevations) and the ice melts, the resulting meltwater carries the finely ground sediment downhill. The continuous flow eventually carves channels into the land – the beginnings of a river.

Meanders follow, beginning with a slight bend in a river's course. Water flows faster on the outside of a bend than on the inside. This difference in speed erodes the outside and deposits the sediment on the inside. Over time, this erosion makes the bend more pronounced and the river's path more winding. In DuPage, you can see natural examples of meanders along the West Branch DuPage River in Hawk Hollow and Klein Creek at Timber Ridge.

Today, though, many DuPage rivers are far from natural. In the 1830s and '40s, farmers wanting to create "workable"

land more suitable for agriculture removed many meanders to maximize the number of acres they could plant and to make it easier for equipment to maneuver along the banks. They also deepened rivers and streams so stormwater would remain within the banks and out of their fields. In the end, they effectively turned gently winding waterways into channelized ditches.

A straight stretch of river isn't necessarily bad. Over decades straight sections can form, albeit temporarily. But from an ecological standpoint, they often don't feature the natural processes that benefit wildlife and humans alike.

Meandering rivers have shallow and deep areas of fast- and slow-moving water, so they attract aquatic animals with



▲ This satellite view of Klein Creek shows the twists and turns of a natural meandering stream.



▲ The restored Spring Brook, a tributary of the West Branch DuPage River, is again enriched with bends, riffles, and pools.



▲ Riffles along the West Branch DuPage River at Warrenville Grove mix vital oxygen bubbles into the water.

different habitat preferences. Fish like to rest in deep pools or on the edge of eddies. Dragonfly larvae, on the other hand, don't mind hanging out in rushing riffles. Straightened rivers with more uniform conditions can't offer this range of environments.

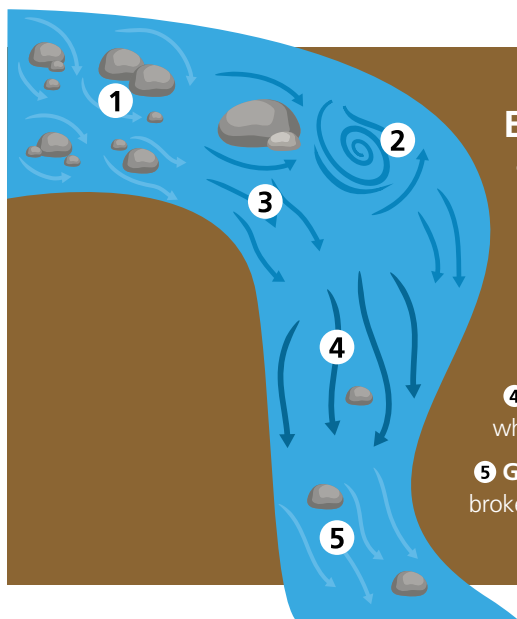
Winding rivers help combat water pollution and flooding, too. Because stormwater spills easily over their banks, it can settle in surrounding floodplains, where deep-rooted grasses and flowers act like sponges, soaking up water, pollutants, and excess nutrients. Any water that remains seeps slowly through filtering layers of soil and rock before reaching underground aquifers. In deepened, channelized waterways, heavy rains surge downstream unimpeded, carrying pollutants and flooding hazards with them.

Meandering waterways also have higher levels of dissolved oxygen, a must for animals like fish, mussels, tadpoles, and developing aquatic insects, which all breathe underwater. Riffles — stretches where shallow, turbulent water rushes over rocks — are primarily to thank. As the choppy current comes in contact with the air, oxygen bubbles continuously form and dissolve in the water. Channelized rivers seldom have riffles,

so they're unable to generate nearly as much dissolved oxygen.

Because of the great value of meanders, over the past four decades the Forest Preserve District has successfully returned bends to many of the county's waterways and planted surrounding floodplains with native vegetation. Of the forest preserves' 42 miles of rivers and streams, 32 miles have been restored with help from partners such as the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup and DuPage County Stormwater Division. You can see results along the West Branch DuPage River and its tributaries at West Branch, West DuPage Woods, Blackwell, Warrenville Grove, McDowell Grove, and Springbrook Prairie. At Churchill Woods there's now a more natural-flowing East Branch DuPage River; at The Preserve at Oak Meadows and Fullersburg Woods, a revitalized Salt Creek.

An untouched river bend is the product of thousands of years of physical forces, and by understanding those forces and mimicking their results, we've been able to return channelized waterways to their natural selves, ensuring their stability and continued health. It's an understanding that benefits not only our rivers but also our appreciation of the greater natural world — with all its twists and turns. •



Elements of a Healthy Meandering River

- 1 Riffle** Shallow, fast-flowing section that tumbles over rocks. Looks bubbly and choppy. Where vital bubbles of oxygen mix into the water.
- 2 Eddy** Small whirlpool where current reverses course. Forms behind obstacles like rocks or logs.
- 3 Run** Smooth, swift current with more uniform flow. Usually deeper than a riffle and without the chop. Gradual increase in elevation as you "run" down into a pool.
- 4 Pool** Like a smooth mini pond within a river. Deeper outer area of a meander where water slows and fish often overwinter.
- 5 Glide** Relatively smooth-flowing section after a pool. Some gentle waves but not as broken up as a riffle. Gradually shallows as you "glide" out of a pool.

summer calendar

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28	29	30	sep			

July

- 1

Painting in Reverse on Glass
- 2

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 3

The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 5

Mayslake Hall Family-Friendly Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6

Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10

Nature Journaling for Beginners
- 11

Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begins
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 12

Art Workshop: Botanical Monoprints From Nature
Family Forest Walk
Plein Air Workshop: Painting in the Landscape
Second Saturday Family Program
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 15

Pre-K Nature Play
- 18

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 19

The Art of Conservation
Mayslake Hall Family Friendly Tour
- 23

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 24

Cocktails & Conservation: Tequila & Turtles, Bourbon & Bees
Nature Journaling Series Six-Week Class Begins
- 25

Hoofprints Through History
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
Watercolors Six-Week Class Begins
- 26

Family Forest Walk
- 28

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery

Save the Date! Fall Festival at Danada

Danada Equestrian Center

The Forest Preserve District's largest event returns again for two days! Festivities will include equestrian performances and demonstrations in the outdoor arena, wagon rides, children's activities and entertainment, barn tours, and more. All ages. Free admission and parking; small fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 11 & 12 • 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "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 "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

August

- 1** Fresh Air Friday
Moonlight Moth Walk
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Rides
- 2** Archery: Open House
Mayslake Hall Family Friendly Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** One Sheet Art Journal Four-Week
Class Begins
- 5** Mosaics
- 8** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9** Fullersburg Days
Nature Journaling for Families
Nature Study Explorers
Second Saturday Family Program
- 10** Archery: All Ages
Fullersburg Days
- 13** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Waycar Wednesday
- 15** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 16** Kayaking Basics
Mayslake Hall Family Friendly Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildflower ID
- 18** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 19** Kayaking Basics
- 21** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 23** Make a Botanical-Themed
Glass Dish
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 26** Nature 101: Biking in the Preserves
Three-Part Program Begins
- 30** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Archery: Adults

September

- 3** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 4** Vultures: Nature's Cleanup Crew
- 5** Fresh Air Friday
- 6** Accessible Nature Walk
Paddle With a Ranger
Wildflower ID
- 7** Wild Baby Brunch
- 8** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 10** Archery: Adults
Evening Hike Club
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 12** Bird Walk
- 13** Paws and Play
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Kayaking Basics
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Urban Coyotes
- 17** Evening Hike Club
Kayaking Basics
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 18** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
A Night for Nature
- 19** Bird Walk
Moonlight Moth Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 20** County Trash Sweep: Preserve
Cleanup
County Trash Sweep: Roadside
Cleanup
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wild Baby Brunch
- 21** Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Evening Hike Club
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wednesday Wilderness Walk
- 26** Bird Walk
- 27** Not-So-Haunted Family Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery

Riding Lessons 27260

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. \$44 – \$320 per DuPage County resident; \$56 – \$380 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.



Plants & Wildlife

Bird Walk 27434

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.

Sept. 12	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Salt Creek
Sept. 19	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Sept. 26	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks

Cocktails & Conservation: Tequila & Turtles, Bourbon & Bees 27155

Grab a signature cocktail as you learn about our local turtles and bees, endangered species included. Stroll through the preserve with our experts, who will identify and talk about how we monitor these animals. Then, try your hand at tracking a turtle and recording bee sightings. Ages 21 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 24	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Oak Meadows
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Moonlight Moth Walk 27423

See how ecologists study moth conservation and biodiversity in the preserves on a guided walk, and then take part in a moth-monitoring science project. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 1	9 – 10:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
Sept. 19	8 – 9:30 p.m.	Danada

Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

Shop online for native trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage conditions, and then pick up your plants at St. James Farm! (Plants must be ordered in advance; there will not be any in-person sales at the farm.)

Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Starting Aug. 1 at 8 a.m.

Review the catalog and order online at dupageforest.org/fall-tree-shrub-sale.

Orders are processed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last and are subject to nursery availability.

Sept. 12 & 13

Pick up your plants at St. James Farm.

Nature Detectives: Signs of Fall 27176

Bring your family on this signs-of-fall 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.

Sept. 21	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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A Night for Nature

Join us as we raise funds for the Friends of the Forest Preserve District 501(c)(3) to benefit wildlife and wild areas in DuPage County. This annual event includes fellowship, food and drinks, music, an auction, and wagon rides. Ages 21 and up. \$100 per person. Tickets available at dupageforest.org/friends. Questions? Call 630-871-6400.

Sept. 18	5 – 8:30 p.m.	Danada
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Paws and Play

Explore the new visitor center, and then take a self-guided walk through the restored preserve. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

Sept. 13	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Wildlife Center
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Urban Coyotes 27393

Examine the natural history, lifestyle, and social structure of coyote populations in urban areas to learn how to minimize human-coyote conflicts. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Sept. 16	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Wildlife Center
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Vultures: Nature's Cleanup Crew 27391

Celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day with us! Learn about their role in the ecosystem, their adaptations, and the threats they face. Then examine bones and feathers of DuPage County's resident turkey vultures. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Sept. 4	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Wildlife Center
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Wednesday Wilderness Walk 27386

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.

Sept. 3, 10, 17 & 24	8 – 10 a.m.	Lincoln Marsh
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How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "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 "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Wild Baby Brunch

Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of wildlife rehabilitation as you learn what it takes to care for baby wildlife. Peek through to observation window and watch as babies are fed and cared for. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

Sept. 7 & 20	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Wildlife Center
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Wildflower ID 27377

Learn basic wildflower identification tips, and then take a guided hike to put your new skills to the test to see what's blooming. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Aug. 16	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Wildlife Center
Sept. 6	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Wildlife Center

Ways to Play

Accessible Nature Walk 27169

Join us for a leisurely walk along a 1.2-mile paved path, where we'll look for wildlife and enjoy some fun group activities! All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 6	9 – 10 a.m.	Spring Creek
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Archery

Adults 27411

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

Aug. 31	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 10	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

All Ages 27405

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 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 10	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell
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Open House

Learn about equipment, try some of the basics with a certified instructor, and talk to representatives from local archery groups at this family-friendly event. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Aug. 2	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Challenge your friends and neighbors and show off your knowledge during this friendly quiz game with questions on 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.

July 3	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Aug. 21	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Sept. 18	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

Family Forest Walk 27424

Connect with nature and your family on a 1-mile guided walk. Get curious, learn about the natural world, and grow together while exploring the preserve. All ages. \$5 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 12	9 – 10 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
July 26	9 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake

Kayaking Basics 27406

Learn about equipment, strokes, and safety from a certified American Canoe Association kayak instructor. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 16	10 a.m. – Noon	East Branch
Aug. 19	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Sept. 14	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
Sept. 17	10 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake

Paddle With a Ranger 27414

Explore the West Branch DuPage River on a guided paddle! Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent one for \$20 per person. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 6	10 a.m. – Noon	Warrenville Grove
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summer calendar



Pre-K Nature Play 27162

Bring your little ones for a morning of nature play in the forest! Stretch, sing, move, and explore together in this guided program. Ages 2 – 5 with adult; younger siblings welcome. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 15	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Second Saturday Family Program

Bring the family for fun! In July we'll talk about medieval symbols as we make small shields and do a needlework activity. In August we'll horse around with equine-themed crafts (sorry, no real horses). Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

July 12	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 9	12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

HOUSE TOUR: FARM POWER

Join a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on nonelectric tools and machines used to help with household chores.

July 3 – Aug. 11 (except July 4)

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

STORY TIME

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

July 7 – Aug. 25 Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

TIME TO GO CHORIN'

Help with different historical household or barnyard chores around the farm. It can get messy, so make sure to wear shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

July 3 – Aug. 28 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mondays & Thursdays

Health & Well-Being

Evening Hike Club 27150

Boost your outdoor wellness in a friendly group setting on a quick-paced 3-to-5-mile hike through a popular preserve. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 3	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada
Sept. 10	6 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 17	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 24	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Fresh Air Friday 27172

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.

Aug. 1	9 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 5	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

Nature 101: Biking in the Preserves

Three-Part Program 27376

Bring your bike and enjoy scenic trails as you learn fundamental cycling techniques, the perfect way to connect with nature and get moving! Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 26	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/HQ
Sept. 2	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
Sept. 9	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Springbrook

Heritage

Fullersburg Days

Celebrate the history of one of the county's oldest preserves with hands-on activities, nature exploration, and old-fashioned fun! Fish with cane poles, make traditional corn husk dolls, and hear about the Civilian Conservation Corps and its role in shaping the preserve. Tour historic Graue Mill, examine the remains of a woolly mammoth in the nature center, and roast s'mores by the fire – the perfect end to an unforgettable day! All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

Aug. 9 & 10	1 – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "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 "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Hoofprints Through History 27175

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

July 25 10 – 11:15 a.m. St. James Farm

Nature Study Explorers

Learn from the nature-study movement of the late Victorian era as you explore nature with family and friends through an 1890s lens with crafts or science experiments. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Aug. 9 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Not-So-Haunted Family Tour of Mayslake Hall 27227

Experience Mayslake Hall with hands-on exploration, and hear some family-friendly spooky stories as you investigate some of the secrets built into Mr. Peabody's 100-year-old mansion. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Sept. 27 2 – 2:45 p.m. Mayslake

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride

Enjoy a 30-minute ride as you hear about the preserve's history 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? For St. James Farm, call 630-580-7025. For Danada, call 630-668-6012. (Also call Danada starting Aug. 1 for reservations for private group evening rides on Sept. 19, 20, 26 or 27.)

July 11, 18 & 25 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm
Aug. 1, 8 & 15 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm
Sept. 20, 21, 27 & 28 1 – 3 p.m. Danada

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.

Aug. 13 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Nature Art & Culture

The Art of Conservation 27224

Explore the intersection of science and art at Mayslake! Using local artist Joel Sheesley's work as inspiration, the Forest Preserve District's director of Natural Resources will trace how ecologists have restored areas in and around the West Branch DuPage River at some of your favorite preserves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 19 2 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Art and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

AT HOME WITH NATURE HOUSE TOUR

Learn surprising history of Mayslake Hall, the 1921 home of F.S. Peabody and architectural gem that 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.

July 1 – Sept. 30 (except July 4 and Sept. 1)

Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MIDWEST NATURE: ITS BEAUTY AND ITS PERIL

Explore our relationship to the beauty and resiliency of nature through the work of the Chicago Women's Caucus for Art. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Through July 26 (except July 4)

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

THE NATURAL WORLD

Connect with nature through works by the Chicago Alliance of Visual Artists. On Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. meet the artists, and enjoy signature mocktails at a special reception celebrating the connections we all share in nature and in art. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Aug. 4 – Sept. 20 (except Sept. 1)

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

summer calendar



Art Workshop: Botanical Monoprints From Nature 27216

Explore plants' geometry and relationship to the environment, and go home with a beautiful piece of artwork made with Gelli plates, which create silhouettes directly from native plants. For a full-day experience, also register for "Plein Air Workshop: Painting in the Landscape." Ages 18 and up. \$65 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 12	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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Make a Botanical-Themed Glass Dish 27212

Express forms from nature through art as you learn how to design and lay up a 5-inch glass dish of your own making. Pick up your kiln-fired project the following week. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Aug. 23	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Hall Family-Friendly Tour

Bring your family on a zippy tour through Mr. Peabody's home. Discover how visiting historic places can be fun as you look for symbols, decorations, and 1920s technology. Program includes stairs. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

July 5 & 19	10 – 10:45 a.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 2 & 16	10 – 10:45 a.m.	Mayslake

Mosaics 27218

If you've admired mosaics, such as at the entrance of the Portiuncula Chapel at Mayslake Peabody Estate, you'll love this class! Learn tips and tricks from pros on how to create your own original glass mosaic project, and take your finished piece home. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$75 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Aug. 5	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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Nature Journaling for Beginners 27158

Nature journaling connects us to nature through pictures, words, numbers, and art. Learn different techniques for nature observation and personal reflection regardless of your artistic ability. Materials provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 10	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Nature Journaling for Families

Bring the whole family for this drop-in nature journaling experience! Fold your own mini journal, and practice using drawings, words, and numbers to observe the natural world. Then, take a short self-guided walk with family-friendly prompts for inspiration. Bring your own art supplies or borrow ours. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Aug. 9	10 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Nature Journaling Series Six-Week Class 27221

Learn from a scientific illustrator from the Field Museum how to use various techniques to draw the plants, birds, and other animals you see in the preserves. The first and sixth classes are at Mayslake. The second and third meet at Fullersburg Woods, and the fourth and fifth are at Hidden Lake. Ages 18 and up. \$200 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 24 – Sept. 4	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Multiple Preserves
Thursdays (except Aug. 7)		

One Sheet Art Journal Four-Week Class 27215

Draw inspiration from nature in colors and textures as you create a journal from a large single sheet of paper using printing, markings with india ink, and collage. Cut and fold the sheet into a booklet, and continue to create. Ages 18 and up. \$195 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Aug. 4 – 25	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
Mondays		

Painting in Reverse on Glass 27209

Turn a flat piece of glass into a work of art at this course for beginners. Once you start, you'll never look at a plain glass surface the same way again! Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$75 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 1	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "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 "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 27186

Join these enriching meetups where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans. In July we'll discuss *Holmes, Marple and Poe* by James Patterson; in August, *A is for Arsenic* by Kathryn Harkup; and in September, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Titles subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 11, Aug. 1 & Sept. 5	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Plein Air Workshop: Painting in the Landscape 27219

Paint watercolors directly from nature with demonstrations and coaching that will help you interpret the landscape. For a full-day experience, also register for "Art Workshop: Botanical Monoprints from Nature." Ages 18 and up. \$65 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 12	10 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Watercolors Six-Week Class 27202

Explore the structure and coloration of plants and animals using museum-quality specimens and photography as you work with a scientific illustrator from the Field Museum on basic painting methods, color mixing, layering, and spatial dynamics. Ages 18 and up. \$200 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 25 – Aug. 29 Fridays	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Volunteer

County Trash Sweep

Celebrate National Cleanup Day, support wildlife, and beautify the preserves by picking up litter along trails, roadsides, and waterways. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Preserve Cleanup 27467

Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	McDowell Grove
Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Mallard Lake

Roadside Cleanup 27471

Ages 18 and up.

Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Cricket Creek
Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
Sept. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook

Volunteer Restoration Workday 27438

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

July 5 & 6	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug. 2, 3, 23 & 24	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Churchill Woods Glacial Ridge

July 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Glacial
Aug. 2, 16 & 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Glacial
Sept. 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Glacial

Springbrook Prairie

Sept. 21 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
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Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 27231

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).

July 2, 7, 12, 18, 23 & 28	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Aug. 2, 8, 13, 18 & 25	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 3, 8 & 13	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 19, 24 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell



Tidy Trails, Healthy Habitats

by **EMMA BURCK**, ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETER, and **MARY ANDRUSYK**, VOLUNTEER SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Picture your most recent visit to a forest preserve. You're breathing in the fresh air, feeling your worries wash away as you take in nature's beauty. Moments like these are why so many people love the preserves, but behind the scenes many hidden helpers — staff, partner organizations, volunteers — are working hard to keep the preserves clean for visitors and wildlife alike. So, who are some of these hidden helpers and why does their work matter?

Hidden Helpers: Volunteers on the Trail

If you're frequently in the preserves, you've likely noticed the work of these hidden helpers who keep trails clean and safe on a daily basis.

It Adds Up

One wrapper or bottle might not seem like much, but each piece contributes to a bigger problem. A 2021 report from Keep America Beautiful estimates there are **152 pieces of litter** in the U.S. for every person who lives here. Do you think you could pick up that much garbage every year?



Donned in orange reflective vests, Clean-Up Crew volunteers collect litter from forest preserve trails, waterfronts, and roadsides. In 2024 alone they picked up over 600 bags of trash!

"For my whole adult life, I've visited and taken advantage of many of our county forest preserves, and I've been grateful that local residents have such a great outdoor resource," 10-year Clean-Up Crew volunteer, David Y, said. "What I like about individual Clean-Up Crew is that it is totally unplanned and discretionary, so if my mood and the weather suit, I can simply gather my gear and go out for however long I like. And when I hike or drive past one of the preserves myself, I enjoy noting that the place looks good!"

David collected 189 bags in 2024. His single largest haul was from Belleau Woods: 18 bags of litter and a car tire.

If you encounter someone in a tan vest, you've just met a Trail Watch volunteer. These dedicated people walk or bike in pairs or small groups and report hazards or incidents to the Forest Preserve District, often collecting litter along the way.

Community and corporate groups volunteer their time as well. NOW Foods, a natural health company, has donated over 2,400 hours over the past 25 years. During their annual after-work clean-up, employees and their families volunteer together at East Branch, which is less than a half mile from their office. Efforts like theirs make a difference: In 2024, group volunteers collected 350 bags of litter in DuPage forest preserves.

Unexpected Litter Learning Moments

While our preserves hold hidden natural treasures, such as rare native plants or camera-shy wildlife, some visitors find unanticipated discoveries. Last summer, elementary-aged campers exploring Fullersburg Woods were surprised to find human artifacts that had made their way down Salt Creek. From an old sun dial to an anchor to old glass soda bottles, there was no shortage of treasures! But along the shoreline some finds were purely trash – bottle caps, straws, chip bags. As the campers pitched in to clean up, they questioned how litter got into the creek and how they could prevent it from getting there in the first place.

Real Consequences: How Trash Affects Wildlife

Litter – be it trash or treasure – not only pollutes land and water, it can also harm individual wild animals. Animals mistaking litter for food may eat it, resulting in blocked airways or digestive tracks, poisoning, or even death. Wildlife can also get tangled up in plastic bags or fishing line, restricting movement and possibly causing injury or death.

Over the years the Forest Preserve District's DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center has treated hundreds of animals injured by littered bags, fishing line and lures, and plastic and glass containers. The new visitor center, which opens later this year, will feature exhibits that address the hazards of litter and simple ways we can all help keep local wildlife healthy.



▲ Just a few people volunteering for a couple of hours can have a dramatic effect on the landscape of a forest preserve.



▲ Volunteering with the Clean-Up Crew is a great way to spend time together while helping a good cause.

Ways to Help While Enjoying the Preserves

There are a few easy ways you can do your part as you visit.

- **Leave no waste.** Keep any garbage with you until you find a trash or recycling bin. In most preserves they're by the parking lots.
- **Pick up trash.** Bring a bag and gloves on your next visit to help clean up litter.
- **Stay on the trails.** Stick to designated paths to protect plant life and prevent erosion.
- **Report issues.** Let the Forest Preserve District know about hazards or unusual sightings. You can do so at dupageforest.org. Just click on "Report a Concern."
- **Respect wildlife.** Observe animals from a distance, and avoid disturbing their habitats.

How to Volunteer

The Forest Preserve District offers lots of ways to pitch in and make a difference! Join our Clean-Up Crew, where you can clean trails, roadsides, and waterways on your own schedule. Organize your friends, family, or coworkers for a group clean-up day, a rewarding way to spend time together while helping the environment. Mark your calendar for our "County Trash Sweep" Sept. 20 (details on Page 15), and visit dupageforest.org/volunteer for more opportunities. We look forward to seeing you soon! •



▲ Litter can harm individual animals. (This particular squirrel was successfully freed and released back into the wild.)



▲ Trail Watch volunteers answer visitors' questions and keep an eye open for hazards on the trails.

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

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.

DUPAGE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

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

Animal Admittance and Phone Hours

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

Visitor Center

Thank you for your patience! The center is expected to open in 2025. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

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
630-451-3430

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

KLING 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

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

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office and Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

GOLF *Courses*

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

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

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

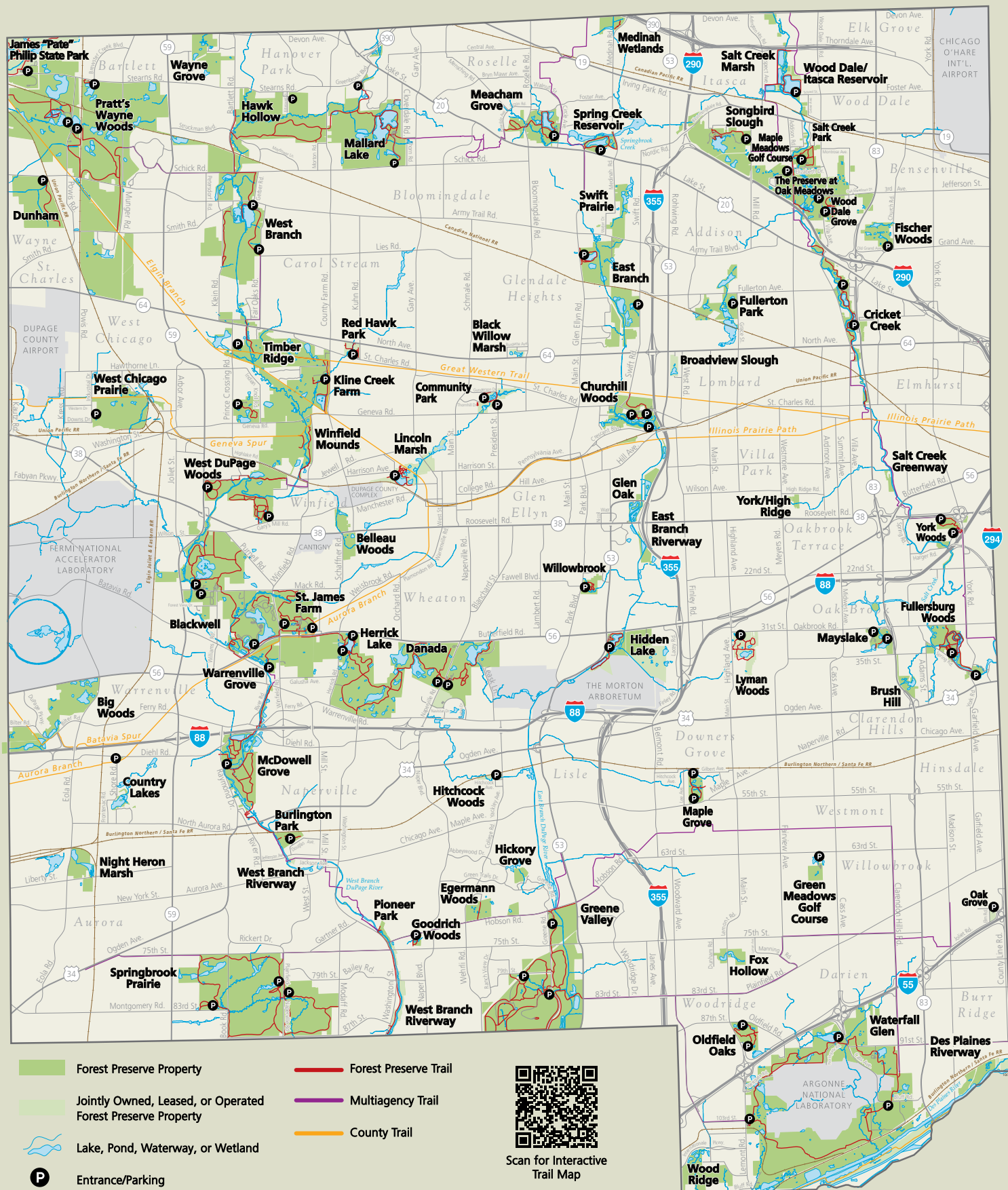
272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

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 before any registration-based program.





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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Wheaton, IL 60189

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2025**

A Night FOR Nature

A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • SEPT. 18 • 5 – 8:30 P.M.
DANADA FOREST PRESERVE

Danada House
35501 Naperville Road • Wheaton

Join us for fellowship, food and drinks, music, an auction, and wagon rides. Our annual event supports the restoration of habitat and the preservation of wildlife in DuPage forest preserves. Ages 21 and up.

Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at dupageforest.org/friends. Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.



Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County



Friends of the
Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County



Duck Race

A BENEFIT FOR WILDLIFE AND WILD AREAS

THURSDAY • AUG. 9 • 3 P.M.
FULLERSBURG WOODS
FOREST PRESERVE

Purchase a rubber duck for a chance to win \$500, and watch it race along the newly restored Salt Creek during Fullersburg Days!

\$25 per duck; \$100 for five. Purchase at dupageforest.org/friends. Questions? Call **630-871-6400**.