

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2013

Vitamin N

Take two hikes and feel
better in the morning!

Exploring
YORK WOODS

Camp McDowell
Goes To War



from the president



A little over 100 years ago the Illinois General Assembly passed a piece of legislation called the Downstate Forest Preserve Act. The men who voted for the bill likely had no idea that one of the agencies it would help create would ultimately protect over 25,000 acres for the people of DuPage County or that those 25,000 acres would hold so many remarkable stories.

As many fans of DuPage history know, the county's oldest forest preserve dates back to 1917. Back then it was called Forest Preserve No. 1, but today it's known as York Woods and is the cornerstone of decades of conservation efforts. The original intent of the acquisition, though, as detailed in this issue's article on "Frenchman's Woods," may surprise you.

Four years after the establishment of Forest Preserve No. 1 and a few miles to the south, Francis Stuyvesant Peabody was moving into his new 39-room country home, today's Mayslake Hall. Peabody died on the estate's grounds in 1922 only a year after his mansion's completion, but his passing would later give the property new life in the history books, albeit in chapters on "urban myths." In October you can learn the truth behind many of the legends that continue to surround Mayslake Hall during First Folio Theatre's "Searching for Peabody's Tomb." Details are on Page 12 in the Calendar of Events.

There's also a listing in our fall calendar for guided tours of McDowell Grove that focus on its years as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp. If you're a longtime DuPage County resident like myself, you've probably heard rumors about the "top-secret" radar base that operated out of the old camp in the 1940s. But as "Camp McDowell Goes to War" reveals on Page 17, the forest preserve played an even more clandestine role in our nation's efforts during World War II.

Recently, the Forest Preserve District set up an account on historypin.com, which you can reach from our website, dupageforest.org. It's a communitywide photo-sharing effort that we hope will help us uncover many more important chapters in the interesting story of DuPage County's forest preserves.

D. "Dewey" Pierotti Jr.
President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

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On the cover: Smooth blue aster © Chris M. Morris

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

© Amy Goldstein

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news & notes



DANADA READIES FOR WINTER WITH LOW-CAL HAY

Because of their temperament, the horses at the Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton are ideal instruction companions for the center's riding programs, but because many of the lessons are for new riders, some of the horses haven't been burning as many calories as others. As a result, a recent review of operations at Danada has reported that the herd is healthy but that some of the horses are overweight.

After consulting with an equine nutritionist, the center has decided to switch to an all-grass blend of hay, which has fewer calories than other blends but still gives horses the roughage and energy they need. Danada's horses eat commercial pellet food daily but rely on hay in winter and fresh grass in summer to supplement their diet.

The center hopes that reconfiguring feeding stations will also help by making it more difficult for horses with bigger appetites to crowd out more timid animals. Staff and volunteers also plan to spread out feedings to four a day to mimic the animals' slower summer grazing habits.

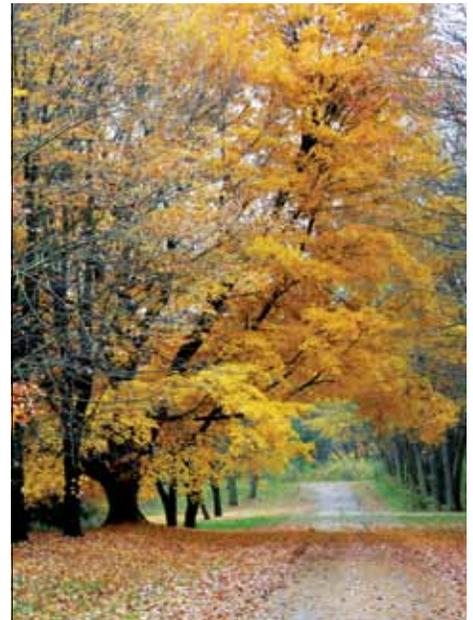
PUBLIC Meetings

Forest Preserve District commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Schedules and agendas are available in advance at dupageforest.org. Normally, commission meetings are at 9 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and planning sessions are at 9 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board discusses District business and hears public comments as well as staff reports; at commission meetings, the board also votes on agenda items.



2014 Permits

Annual permits for off-leash dog areas, private boats, and model boats and aircraft for 2014 go on sale Monday, Dec. 2, 2013. Camping and picnic reservations for 2014 begin Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014. Call (630) 933-7248, or stop by District headquarters at Danada Forest Preserve in Wheaton. Want a head start on your permit paperwork? Visit dupageforest.org, and click on "Things to Do" and "Permits and Fees" to download and print application forms in advance.



PRESERVE Improvements

The Forest Preserve District is working with a design firm on plans for water and sewer improvements at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrentville. The \$2,700,000 project is part of the first phase of the forest preserve's master plan, which the District's Board of Commissioners approved in 2010. The improvements will bring drinking water, sanitary sewers and fire-suppression systems to the preserve, which will allow the future development of the main and east farm areas. The District expects work to begin in late 2014.

The District has also recently selected an engineering design firm to draft plans for a bridge that will cross County Farm Road in Hanover Park and connect Mallard Lake and Hawk Hollow forest preserves. The bridge and a mile of new trails will link sections of the North Central DuPage Regional Trail that run through both preserves. The District expects to break ground on the \$3,500,000 project in late 2014 or early 2015.



PIN THE PICTURE ON THE PRESERVE

The Forest Preserve District is now on historypin.com, a site that's dedicated to bringing people together within communities and around the world to share their stories about the places they call home. Now, forest preserve fans can not only view photos and videos from the District's archives but also add to the collection by pinning their own historical forest preserve images to a map of DuPage County. You can link to the District's account from the home page of dupageforest.org. There's also a mobile app that allows you to superimpose historical photos from the website over real-time screen shots when you're visiting a pinned preserve.

CONNECT With Us 24/7

Looking for DuPage County forest preserve news between issues of *The Conservationist*? Then check out the "Follow Our Tracks" section of dupageforest.org. You can link to our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest and Historypin pages and even sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. Getting the latest on your favorite forest preserves has never been easier!

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the following donors who contributed to its efforts between April 1 and July 31, 2013. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org.

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 Windy City Ice Cream
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Gifts of Note

Gaea Foundation — \$12,000 for a blood-chemistry analyzer for Willowbrook Wildlife Center
 Wallace Hastings — \$5,000 for the Mayslake Restoration Society
 Commissioner Joseph Cantore — \$3,500 for improvements at Graue Mill
 BP Foundation — \$2,400 in honor of volunteer efforts of employee Patricia Banaszak
 Credit Suisse Americas Foundation — \$1,000 in recognition of Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County board member David Chase
 In Memory of Dale Bowling — \$1,000 for a tribute bench at Fullersburg Woods
 Ranch Spur Charitable Trust — \$1,000 for natural resource efforts
 Ania Routbort — \$1,000 for a tribute bench at Waterfall Glen
 Lee Sobier — \$1,000 for the animal adoption program at Willowbrook Wildlife Center



NATURE: Got Your Daily Dose?

© Amy Goldstein

Even if you're not a parent, you're likely familiar with the claim that kids today are getting too much "screen" time and not enough "green" time. It's a syndrome author Richard Louv has called "nature-deficit disorder."

But what about those of us in the "over 21" crowd? Should we care how long it's been since we walked along a tree-lined trail or looked at never-ending prairie instead of pavement? Well the studies are in, and survey says — yes. Absolutely.

If you guessed how most people would answer, "Would you rather look at forests or freeways?" you'd likely be right. But why do we prefer natural landscapes over manmade ones, and does the reason matter? Researchers worldwide — biologists, psychologists, ecologists — have been trying to put their collective finger on the answers for some time.

In one study, people reported how mentally fatigued they were before and after one of three activities: walking in an urban area, walking in a natural environment or sitting in a comfy chair. Couch potatoes everywhere were stunned to read that the participants who took walks in the park reported the

greatest increases in stamina when they were done. Research has even suggested that the more stressed people are the more relaxed they feel after spending time outdoors.

There have been more quantitative studies, too, that have looked at blood chemistry, brain activity and other physiological attributes. One showed that blood pressure, heart rate and levels of stress hormones decreased more after a walk in the woods than after a walk down a city street. Another measured blood pressure and nerve activity during simulated drives to see if merely driving through a natural setting had any effects. (Spoiler Alert: Drivers not only relaxed more quickly during their virtual travels through leafy landscapes but were also less likely to get stressed out later.)

So does this mean we're getting more out of nature than some nice-looking scenery? Richard Louv thinks so. As he explains in "The Nature Principle," "Nature has a direct positive impact on human health ... And many of us, without having a name for it, are using the nature tonic. We are, in essence, self-medicating with an inexpensive



© Jerry Edmondson

“Nature has a direct positive impact on human health ... And many of us, without having a name for it, are using the nature tonic.” — Richard Louv

and unusually convenient drug substitute. Let’s call it vitamin N — for Nature.”

The idea of a revitalizing “vitamin N” isn’t new, though. In the late 1800s Frederick Law Olmsted, whom many consider the father of landscape architecture in the U.S., was touting nature’s ability to operate “by unconscious processes to relax and relieve tensions created by the artificial surroundings of urban life.” He applied this belief to the parks he designed by allowing the natural scenery, when possible, to speak for itself, a principle that landscape architects at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County use today.

Decades after Olmsted, social scientists were beginning to study the effects of “vitamin G,” for green space, on people’s health and wellbeing, and psychologists were going toe-to-toe with Gordon Gekko with papers that supported the idea that “green is good.” But as researchers were agreeing that nature had a positive effect on people, theorists were asking why. Some suggested that after eons of being surrounded by nothing but trees, flowers and water, we’d become genetically linked to these environments. Biologist Edward O. Wilson called it “biophilia,” or “the connections that human beings

subconsciously seek with the rest of life.” For like-minded thinkers, the answer to the question, “Why do people respond well to nature?” was simple. We’re hardwired to do so.

Fortunately, whether you call it vitamin G or N or even vitamin O (for the great outdoors!) easy-to-swallow doses are no more than a 10-minute drive from any home or business in DuPage County.

Roughly 90 percent of the land in DuPage County’s forest preserves remains in a natural state, and thousands of acres have been restored to pre-agricultural-looking savannas, prairies and wetlands. Dozens of miles of trails carry visitors through these habitats, many without any manmade features in sight other than the trails themselves. Herrick Lake in Wheaton, Maple Grove in Downers Grove and Waterfall Glen in Darien all have stretches where you can walk or bike without spotting a single power line or water tower on the horizon.

If you’re interested in a quicker fix, parking lots at Mallard Lake in Hanover Park, Wood Dale Grove in Addison and Pratt’s Wayne Woods in Wayne are just yards away from picnic tables and benches that overlook sparkling lakeshores on sunny days. And a short walk from the lot near Graue Mill at Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook offers the sites of Salt Creek as well as the pleasing sounds of water rushing over the nearby dam.

So if we as grown-ups are not spending enough time outside, what’s holding us back? That’s one of the questions research hasn’t been able to answer. Do we have a lack of encouragement? Some physicians are already “prescribing” short hikes through nearby parks — trail maps included. Are we blaming the weather? Even after not-so-pleasant walks in blustery, cold conditions — we’re talking Canadian cold — people’s short-term memory and attention levels still improve.

In the end, whether from studies or instinct the message is clear. Now and again we all need a healthy dose of DuPage County’s forest preserves. Get yours today. You’ll be happy you did. •



© Macomb Paynes

fall calendar

See pages 10 through 16 for program descriptions.
Cancellation policies vary by program.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	dec			

October

- 1** Archery for All Ages
- 2** Archery for All Ages
- 4** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
- 5** Corn Harvest
Halloween Night Walks Ticket Sales Begin
Paddle With a Ranger
St. James Farm Saturday Tours
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Archery for All Ages
Bird Migration
Corn Harvest
- 7** Corn Harvest
Forest Fitness Walk
- 8** Mayslake Lecture Series
- 9** Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 10** Archery for Active Adults
- 11** FullersBird Fridays
Nature Art and Photo Show
- 12** Meet the Kitchen Maid
Nature Art and Photo Show
Rambo Scramble
St. James Farm Saturday Tours
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 13** Danada Fall Festival
Nature Art and Photo Show
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 17** Day at the Farm Field Trip
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 18** Day at the Farm Field Trip
FullersBird Fridays
- 19** Dairy Day at St. James Farm
St. James Farm Saturday Tours
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Archery for All Ages
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Art Appreciation Begins
The Artist's Way Begins
Compass Class 101
Day at the Farm Field Trip
Drawing Native Animals Begins
- 22** Exploring Watercolors Begins
- 23** Archery for All Ages
- 25** Fishing for Bass
Halloween Night Walks
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 26** Halloween Night Walks
Make a Difference Day
St. James Farm Saturday Tours
- 28** Forest Fitness Walk



November

- 2** Signs of the Civilian Conservation Corps
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Cast-Iron Cooking
Classical Notes at Mayslake
- 4** Forest Fitness Walk
- 8** Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 9** Signs of the Civilian Conservation Corps
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 10** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Adult Painting Begins
- 12** Digital Photography Begins
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 14** Owl Outing
- 15** Owl Outing
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Archery for All Ages
Introduction to Prescription Burns
- 18** Forest Fitness Walk
- 23** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Forest Fitness Walk
- 30** Holiday Sweets

December

- 1** Archery for All Ages
Holiday Sweets
- 2** Forest Fitness Walk
- 7** Acappellago Concert
Christmas on the Farm
Talons and Claus
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Christmas on the Farm
- 9** Forest Fitness Walk
- 12** Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 13** Holiday Market
- 14** Bird-Count Field Trip
Holiday Market
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Music at Mayslake
- 16** Forest Fitness Walk
- 30** Night Hike



© Peter Vagt

fall calendar



1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago
(630) 876-5900

Registration is not required for these free programs.

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith repair equipment and demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade. Demonstrations ongoing.

Through Dec. 28
Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES HOUSE TOURS

Enjoy the house decked in greens, savor the aroma of holiday treats, and see the table set for company.

Dec. 1 – 30
Thursdays – Mondays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

Tour the farmhouse, and get a glimpse of home life in the 1890s.

Oct. 3 – Nov. 30 (except Nov. 28)
Thursdays – Mondays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

MEET THE BEEKEEPERS

Learn about beekeeping equipment and the important role that bees play in our food supply. Then, ask the beekeepers your questions about honey and bees.

Through Dec. 29
Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Acappellago Concert

Enjoy the a cappella sounds of this chamber choir as they perform “Star in the East.” Adults only. \$17 per person; \$15 per student or senior. For tickets, call (708) 484-3797, ext. 2.

Dec 7 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

Adult Painting

Learn the basics of painting, including drawing, color mixing and elements of design, during this six-part class. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Nov 11 – Jan 6 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Mondays (except Nov 25 and Dec 23 and 30)

Archery for Active Adults

Try your hand at archery at one of DuPage County’s most scenic preserves. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins Sept. 26. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 10 10 – 11:30 a.m. Churchill Woods

Archery for All Ages

Learn basic archery techniques at popular forest preserve sites. Equipment provided. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 1	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct 2	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Oct 6	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct 20	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct 23	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Nov 17	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec 1	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake

Art Appreciation

Learn different ways of understanding visual arts and their roles in global traditions in this eight-part class, which includes a field trip. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 21 – Dec 16 1 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake
Mondays (except Nov 25)



© Jerry Kumerly

The Artist's Way

This 13-part class will help you experience more creativity in your life through writing, cooking, gardening, painting and other outlets. Purchase of the book "The Artist's Way" required. Adults only. \$165 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 21 – Feb 10 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Mayslake
Mondays (except Nov 25 and Dec 16, 23 and 30)

Bird-Count Field Trip

Join the DuPage Birding Club to search for and record resident species for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Bring binoculars. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 at least three business days in advance; groups of five or more must call 10 business days in advance.

Dec 14 8 – 11 a.m. West Chicago Prairie

Bird Migration

Learn about local trends and how and why birds migrate. Ages 14 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$2 per person; \$5 per family. To register, call (630) 942-6200.

Oct 6 2 – 3:30 p.m. Willowbrook

Cast-Iron Cooking

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire, and learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 16 and up; \$5 ages 5 – 15. Registration begins Oct. 21. Call (630) 933-7248.

Nov 3 1 – 3:30 p.m. Herrick Lake

Christmas on the Farm

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas with a visit inside the farmhouse. Say hello to an old-fashioned Santa, and take your picture in a sleigh. Stop by a warming fire for caroling and hot apple cider. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Dec 7 and 8 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Classical Notes at Mayslake

Enjoy an afternoon of classical music featuring members of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra. Adults only. \$25 general admission; \$23 ages 65 and up; \$7 students. For tickets, call (630) 941-0202.

Nov 3 3 p.m. Mayslake

Compass Class 101

Learn one of the oldest survival skills — how to use a compass — and then complete a compass course. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Oct. 7. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 21 4 – 5 p.m. Blackwell

Corn Harvest

Help pick, shock, shuck and store the corn that will feed the farm's cows and sheep over winter. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Oct 5 – 7 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Dairy Day at St. James Farm

Learn about dairy farming in the early 1900s and the role the CA&E Railroad played in getting milk to the Chicago area. Try your hand at making butter, and milk Maggie the Milking Cow. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 19 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. St. James Farm



Covered Wagon Tours

St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Enjoy the fall colors of native and ornamental trees during a 30-minute guided ride of St. James Farm. All ages. \$2 per person ages 13 and up; \$1 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

Through Oct. 30

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Cultural Events

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "SEARCHING FOR PEABODY'S TOMB"

In this Halloween show, join the spirits of Mayslake Hall as they take you in search of Mr. Peabody's Tomb. All ages. \$10 per person. For tickets, call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

Oct. 16 – 31
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays
7 – 10 p.m. ongoing
Fridays and Saturdays
7 – 10:30 p.m. ongoing

ILLINOIS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY ART EXHIBIT

Enjoy an exhibit from the society's annual members' show. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Nov. 5 – Dec. 11 (except Nov. 28)
Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

OAK BROOK ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

View works by several local artists. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Through Oct. 12
Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages. \$5 per person. Registration required for group tours. Call (630) 206-9588.

Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.
No tours Dec. 12 – Jan. 17

Danada Fall Festival

Join a celebration of the horse that features a parade of breeds, hayrides, grooming demonstrations, educational displays, face painting, food and more. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free admission and parking; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Call (630) 668-6012.

Oct 13 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Danada

Day at the Farm Field Trip

School and home-school groups, learn about chores and family life in the 1890s through many activities. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per student. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Oct 17, 18 and 21 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Digital Photography

Bring your camera and creativity to this five-part intermediate-level workshop held in partnership with the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Nov 12 – Dec 17 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake
 Tuesdays (except Nov 26)

Drawing Native Animals

Learn the basics or improve your skills in this six-part class that combines art with the study of animals. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 21 – Dec 16 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Mayslake
 Mondays (except Nov 4, 11 and 25)

Exploring Watercolors

During these eight-part classes, explore and enhance your own artistic style while enjoying the process of watercolor painting in a beautiful and relaxed setting. Adults only. \$150 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 22 – Dec 17 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake
 Tuesdays (except Nov 26) *Intermediate-Advanced*

Oct 22 – Dec 17 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake
 Tuesdays (except Nov 26) *Beginner*



© Manuel Diaz

Fishing Clinic for Beginners

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Sept. 20. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
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Fishing for Bass

Check out some of the most effective bass lures on the market, and try them on one of the county's best bass lakes. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Oct. 11. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 25	4 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
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Forest Fitness Walk

Join a naturalist for a brisk weekly walk, and enjoy some exercise as you take in the wonders of the woods. Adults only. \$6 per person per walk; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Oct 7	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Mallard Lake
Oct 28	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Nov 4	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov 18	8:30 – 10 a.m.	James "Pate" Philip State Park
Nov 25	8:30 – 10 a.m.	York Woods
Dec 2	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Dec 9	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Danada
Dec 16	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

FullersBird Fridays

Join these naturalist-led hikes, and see how the diversity of birds in a forest preserve changes in fall. Adults only. \$6 per person per hike; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Oct 4 – 18	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods Fridays
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Halloween Night Walks

Enjoy Halloween tricks and natural-history tales during a 75-minute walk through the woods after dark. These walks are a spook-tacular treat! All ages. Tickets required. Sales begin Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. at Fullersburg Woods. \$10 per person; maximum 10 per order. Call (630) 850-8110.

Oct 25 and 26	6 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Holiday Market

Shop a holiday market featuring a variety of artisan crafts. All ages. Free admission. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Dec 13	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec 14	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mayslake

Holiday Sweets

Learn how to make bright, colorful hard candies, and take home recipes to start your own holiday tradition. Programs begin on the half hour. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Nov 30 and Dec 1	12:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Home-Schoolers Nature Hike

Learn about natural and cultural history while exploring different forest preserves. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per family. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 942-6200.

Oct 17	1 – 4 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov 12	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Hawk Hollow
Dec 12	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Greene Valley



Golfing

The Forest Preserve District's three distinct courses are open through late November. Outings and leagues are available for golfers of all abilities. For general information, specials and tee times, visit dupagegolf.com.

Oak Meadows Golf Course, Addison, (630) 595-0071
18 holes and practice facility

Maple Meadows Golf Course, Wood Dale, (630) 616-8424
27 holes

Green Meadows Golf Course, Westmont, (630) 810-5330
9 holes

fall calendar



Introduction to Prescription Burns

Hear about the how, when and why of the District's prescription-burn program, and see a burn in progress, weather permitting. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins Nov. 4. Call (630) 933-7248.

Nov 17 1 – 3 p.m. Herrick Lake

Make a Difference Day

Share in this national day of helping others by joining a forest preserve workday. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 at least three business days in advance; groups of five or more must call 10 business days in advance.

Oct 26 9 a.m. – noon East Branch

Mayslake Lecture Series

Join Chicago historian Richard Lindberg for "A Plot to Buy the World Series: The Black Sox Scandal," a discussion on the 1919 series. All ages. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 8 7 – 8 p.m. Mayslake

Meet the Kitchen Maid

See the newly restored servant's room at Mayslake Hall, and hear about the work it took to run a wealthy household in the 1920s through a first-person portrayal of a British kitchen maid. All ages. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Oct 12 2 – 4:30 p.m. Mayslake

Music at Mayslake

Enjoy holiday music as you've never heard it as the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus presents "Making Spirits Bright." Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$27.50 premier seating; \$22.50 general admission; \$20 ages 65 and up, students and groups of 8 or more. For tickets, call (773) 296-0541.

Dec 15 3 and 7:30 p.m. Mayslake

Nature Art and Photo Show

Visit the Danada House, and view entries from local artists at the 39th year of this popular show, which features a new children's gallery. The show is presented by the Forest Preserve District and the Friends of Danada. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 668-5392.

Oct 11 and 12 1 – 4 p.m. Danada
Oct 13 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Danada

Night Hike

Begin your celebration of the new year by taking a nighttime hike through woodlands and meadows. Ages 8 and up. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9581.

Dec 30 7:30 – 9 p.m. Herrick Lake

Owl Outing

Meet a live owl, and learn about owls' hunting skills during a lecture and a hike. Flashlights recommended. Nov. 14 adults only. Nov. 15 all ages; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Nov 14 and 15 6 – 8 p.m. Fullersburg Woods



Horse-Drawn Hayrides and Sleigh Rides

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Relax on a ride through prairies and woodlands as you learn about this historic preserve. Hayrides are 30 minutes long; sleigh rides are 12 to 15. All are first-come, first-served. Wagons are used in place of sleighs when there is less than 4 inches of packed snow on the trail. All ages. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Groups of 15 or more should reserve private rides. Call (630) 668-6012.

HAYRIDES

Through Nov. 3
Saturdays and Sundays (except Oct. 12 and 13)
Noon – 3 p.m.

SLEIGH RIDES

Dec. 26 – 30
Daily,
Noon – 2 p.m.



Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

The overlook is open Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., weather permitting. Due to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities, however, it may close during these times without notice. For details, call (630) 792-2100.

Paddle With a Ranger

Join a ranger for a paddle along Salt Creek. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program, or rent one for \$20 per person. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Registration begins Sept. 23. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 5 1 – 3 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Rambo Scramble

In this 11th annual event, experience a championship golf course in its toughest form, including some pin placements you may never want to see again. All ages. \$65 per person; \$130 per two-person team. To register, call (630) 616-8424.

Oct 12 8 a.m. Maple Meadows

Signs of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Learn about the Civilian Conservation Corps' presence in DuPage in the 1930s, and visit historic CCC sites and structures during a one-hour tour. Download the free Historypin app on your phone to view related images along the way. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 871-7537.

Nov 2 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3 p.m. Pioneer Park
Nov 9 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3 p.m. McDowell Grove

St. James Farm Saturday Tours

Explore interesting aspects of this historic preserve. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

The Artwork of St. James Farm

Discover inspirations and interpretations of pieces installed throughout the grounds. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free.

Oct 5 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Cultural and Natural History

Learn about the farm's beginnings and its development during a leisurely one-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free.

Oct 12 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

The 1906 Burlington & Quincy Caboose

Hear about the onboard lives of the conductor and brakeman and CA&E Railroad's connection to St. James Farm. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free.

Oct 19 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Ever-Changing Flora

Examine blooming native plants along the trails and in the prairies during a relaxing half-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free.

Oct 26 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm



© U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region, Kaibab National Forest

Trout Fishing

*Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville
Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne
Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve in Wood Dale*

Fall trout season opens Saturday, Oct. 19 at 6 a.m. Anglers 16 and older must possess valid Illinois fishing licenses with Inland Trout Stamps. For details, call (630) 933-7248.



© Mike Shimer

Talons and Claus

Have your picture taken with Santa and his wildlife friends during a holiday open house. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free admission. \$10 per photo. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

Dec 7 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Willowbrook

Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday

Help the District's Habitat Improvement Program by lending a hand at the nursery. Weed and water plant beds, or collect and clean seeds. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 at least five business days in advance; groups of five or more must call 10 business days in advance.

Oct 9, 16, 19 and 25 8 – 11 a.m. Blackwell Grounds & Resources
Nov 2, 8 and 15 8 – 11 a.m. Blackwell Grounds & Resources

Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative vegetation or collecting seed. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 at least five business days in advance; groups of five or more must call 10 business days in advance.

Oct 5	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Oct 12	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Oct 12	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Oct 13	9 a.m. – noon	Churchill Woods
Oct 19	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Oct 20	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Nov 2	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Nov 2	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Nov 9	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Nov 9	8 – 10:30 a.m.	Lyman Woods
Nov 10	9 a.m. – noon	Churchill Woods
Nov 16	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Nov 23	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Dec 7	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Dec 7	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Dec 14	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods



Tubing and Snowshoeing

Mount Hoy at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

When 3 or more inches of snow covers Mount Hoy, take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill, or explore Blackwell's trails by snowshoe.

Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 23

Plus Dec. 23, 24, 26, 27, 30 and 31

Jan. 1 – 3 and 20

Feb. 17

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Inner tube rentals are \$5 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. (Only District inner tubes are permitted.) Snowshoe rentals are \$5 for two hours and \$10 per day and end at 2 p.m. For snow conditions, call the Outdoor Report at (630) 871-6422.

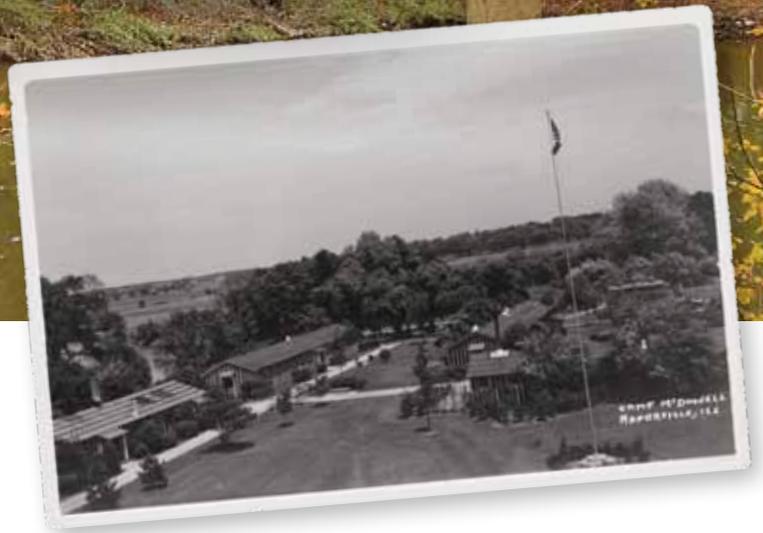
When Darkness Falls

Hike through the dark woods with a ranger, and discover what it's like to use your senses like a nocturnal predator. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Oct 12	6 – 8 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov 9	5 – 7 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

Camp McDowell Goes to War

by CHRIS GINGRICH, OFFICE OF EDUCATION



If you're into DuPage County history, you've likely come across stories about a secret camp that operated at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville during World War II. The people stationed there were learning a new technology called radar, and by some reports, the installation was one of the largest of its kind in the world. But recent research on McDowell Grove and its wartime activities has further unraveled the truth behind the legend — and revealed a part of the camp's past that you may never have heard.

There was a radar school at “Camp McDowell” between 1942 and 1943, but radar was not entirely new technology. Before World War II even began, researchers around the world had been working on the detection system. Radar was invaluable to Great Britain in defeating the German air force during the Battle of Britain in 1940, and U.S. military personnel were in England learning about radar systems prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

As the threat of war loomed, though, the military enlisted the help of engineering and technical schools to expand its radar training efforts. Several Chicago institutions offered classes for military personnel and for civilians who agreed to enlist after graduation. The programs were affiliated with the Navy as well as the Army Signal Corps, the branch that to this day develops and manages communications for the armed forces. One such radar school was at the Illinois Institute of Technology, which boasted

“the largest and most advanced Signal Corps pre-radar program in the Sixth Service Command.”

At Camp McDowell, civilian students practiced what they had learned in school by working on radar equipment. Stories over the years have said that the camp housed advanced systems, but several veterans recalled working on older units. One trainee stated that the camp had just a single piece of radar equipment. Newer devices, it seems, were solely for active-duty personnel at other camps.

Security at the radar school was top priority. Instructors locked up text books and manuals after every class, and cameras were strictly prohibited. But secrecy — who knew what about the school — seems to have been a lesser concern.

For most of the time that the radar school was in operation, the remainder of McDowell Grove Forest Preserve — its picnic grounds and fishing holes — was open to the public, so visitors and neighbors alike knew about the school's existence. One civilian guard who lived next door did describe buildings with false fronts that lowered under cover of darkness to expose equipment hidden within, but former students did not recall such decoys. To further cast doubt on the level of secrecy,



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To Ed GIERER
 1. Write Down Numbers The Red Phases.
 2. Write Name Address in Red Wax I.
 3. Add Names as Required.
 4. Read Back in (Numerical) Sequence in K.W. 1 - And Wait.
 5. Read Back Numerical in K.W. 2 - And Wait.



hometown papers at the time were reporting on students who were attending or had just finished their studies at “the Chicago Radar School at Camp McDowell, Naperville, Illinois.”

If details regarding the radar school seem inconsistent, they’re practically nonexistent about the next — and perhaps more intriguing — chapter of the Camp McDowell story, the arrival of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services.

Three months before the radar school closed, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County received a letter from Dr. George Claridge, a professor of astronomy and electrical engineering who left Harvard University to direct the school. In his letter, Claridge asked “for specific permission to prohibit the public from using McDowell Grove. The movement of any individual in the neighborhood of the Camp is liable to put suspicion on the part of the Guards of Camp McDowell; and in order to forestall any incident which may involve misunderstanding, and even shooting.” Claridge also requested permission “to use the first Island for handgrenade [sic] instruction, obstacle races and military drill.”

The District approved Claridge’s request and made the entire forest preserve off-limits to the public. Three months later, the OSS was at Camp McDowell.

As America’s wartime intelligence agency and the predecessor of the CIA, the OSS needed operatives who could not only complete daring covert missions but also communicate in the field, including behind enemy lines. The OSS operated a communications training school known as “Area C” in Virginia. As part of their

training, recruits sent messages to a radio station on Mackinac Island in Michigan known as “Area M.” But when the OSS needed more space to accommodate its growing number of recruits, it decided to move Area M and sent a communique stating that staff would be “instructed on what day to start the movement of their equipment to Camp McDowell.”

Communications training required expert instructors, and the OSS Camp McDowell program was led by Eugene Hubbell, a highly skilled operator who had managed radio communications for the Rockford police department. (In 1936 Hubbell had won an amateur Morse code radio contest with a rate of 52.2 words per minute.)

Naperville resident Madeline Drendel also worked at Camp McDowell, first with the radar facility and then with the OSS. In the unpublished memoir that she wrote for her family, she offered some insight into how personnel were to respond to questions about the clandestine camp.

“We were Detachment M,” she recalled. “Employees were to say they worked for a radar school.”

There were several hundred men with the OSS at Camp McDowell. It was a diverse group of trainees that included some “Nisei,” second-generation Japanese-Americans, who were recruited from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit comprised entirely of soldiers of Japanese descent. Many were volunteers who had relatives in U.S. internment camps or who had lived in the camps themselves.

For the OSS, the 442nd was an

◀ Radar school student LeRoy Daniels (second from left) poses with friends on a bridge outside Camp McDowell.



© Florey Daniels

◀ Eugene Hubbell was in charge of the OSS radio training program at Camp McDowell. Recruits learned to use double transposition ciphers like this one from “Area M” to encrypt messages using Morse code.

ideal place to recruit men with Japanese language skills, including Camp McDowell’s Joe Tobari, who recalled, “They asked for volunteers for a special group and I got in and they told me it was going to be a highly dangerous mission.”

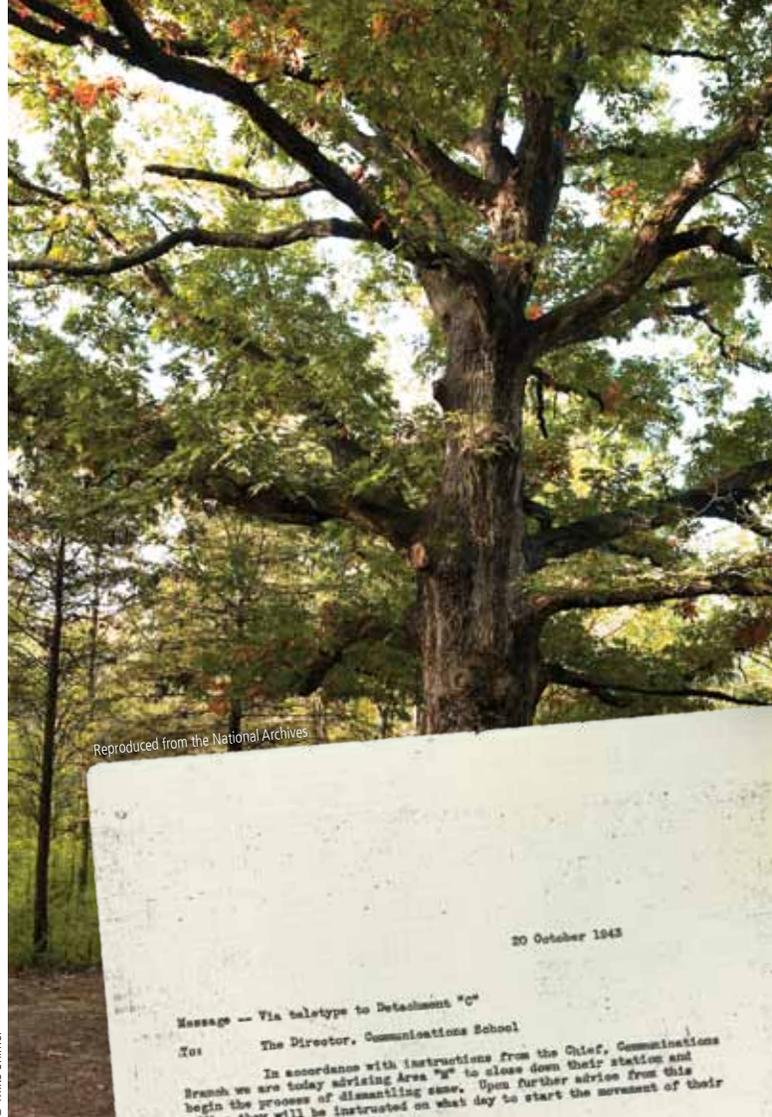
Dick Hamada also trained at Camp McDowell. “On December 29, 1943 the group left Camp Shelby [Mississippi] under the cloak of darkness. Traveling by Pullman, we arrived [at] Camp McDowell, Naperville, Ill. on January 3, 1944.” Once at the camp, Hamada underwent long hours of instruction on Morse code, eventually learning to transmit and receive 15 to 18 words per minute.

The OSS period at Camp McDowell and the recruits who trained there may explain some of the rumors that started to circulate about the camp. Security was tightened before the radar school closed, and because the OSS used the school as cover for its own activities, civilians living near the camp were likely not aware that it was operating under new management. Some speculated that the area had become a prisoner of war camp because so many of the personnel there spoke other languages. As OSS veteran Dick Beltz recalls, “It seems most of the students there were foreigners who didn’t speak much English.”

The exact number of OSS recruits who received training at Area M is unknown, but the need for the facility seems to have waned by 1944. Madeline Drendel, who turned down opportunities to transfer, separated from the OSS on May 22 of that year due to a “reduction in force” and “the closing of the project at Camp McDowell.” By then, Dick Hamada had joined OSS Detachment 101, which fought behind enemy lines alongside the Kachin people against the Japanese in Burma. Eugene Hubbell went to Africa and Europe, where he established and maintained communication networks for the OSS, and Joe Tobari, who suffered a knee injury while at Camp McDowell, returned to the 442nd following his recuperation and served in Italy.

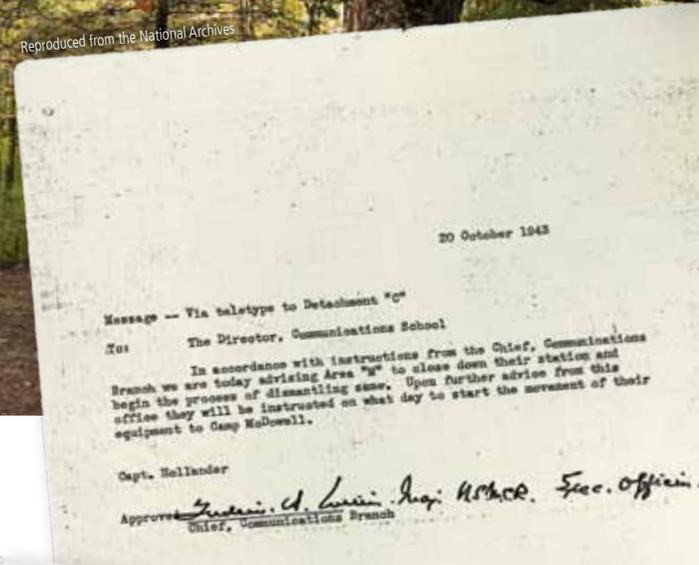
After the war ended in 1945, McDowell Grove Forest Preserve again opened to the public, and by 1946 the Forest Preserve District was accepting bids from parties who were willing to purchase and remove barracks and buildings from the old radar school. If secrecy was the goal, the OSS certainly achieved it during its time at Camp McDowell, but the legend and lore it also created will remain with this forest preserve for years to come. •

The author would like to thank the following for their assistance in researching this article: Tom Atkinson, John Whiteclay Cambers II, the families of Madeline Drendel and LeRoy Daniels, Dick Hamada, the Saving the Legacy Oral History Project at the American West Center at the University of Utah, Art Reinhardt, Ruth Burick, Dick Beltz, George Thomas, Harry Bredfelt, and the National Archives and Records Administration.



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© Drendel Family

▲ This letter directed the relocation of OSS activities from Michigan to Camp McDowell. Naperville resident Madeline Drendel was a secretary at the camp during its transition from radar school to “Area M.”

Frenchman's Woods

It was DuPage County's first forest preserve, and the county bought it to build a road.

By today's standards, it wasn't one of the more conservation-minded reasons to preserve over 70 acres, but it was 1917, and DuPage County was in its infancy. As the Chicago Daily Tribune reported, "commissioners of DuPage county, the road supervisors and the public spirited citizens" were "deeply interested in the project" to extend 12th Street from Chicago so motorists would have "a direct thirty mile drive without a turn through the southern edge of Wheaton."

Since then, 12th Street has been renamed Roosevelt Road, and that first acquisition, which early records referred to as "Forest Preserve No. 1," has become York Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook.

At 70 acres, what York Woods may lack in size it makes up for in history and location. About 40 acres of the initial 1917 purchase belonged to the Torode family. Nicholas Torode had first bought land in DuPage in 1835. A native of the Guernsey Islands, a French-speaking possession of the English Crown, Torode wanted his sons to have the right to vote and to inherit his property, so he moved his family to the United States, first to Ohio and then Illinois.

Torode became one of the earliest European settlers of York Township and one of the first to quarry limestone, which was literally the foundation for a growing county. He was so well-known that many in the area who assumed he came from part of France started calling the land around his property "Frenchman's Woods."

In 1845 his limestone went into a sawmill he later owned on Salt Creek. (The mill burned down in 1848, but four years later the waterwheel on Frederick Graue's gristmill,

which still stands today, was churning away along the same stretch of the creek.) The stone also went into Torode's own 10-room family home, which remained standing until the 1960s when the state razed the building to make way for the Tri-State Tollway.

Today, York Woods Forest Preserve stands in the southwest corner of the intersection of Roosevelt and York roads, which makes it a convenient green venue for visitors from the concentrated businesses, shopping centers and neighborhoods in this part of the county. Reaching the forest preserve from the south requires an extra bit of navigation, though. Traffic on northbound York cannot turn left onto Frontage Road, so drivers have to go to the interchange at Roosevelt and follow the signs back to southbound York.

The picnic grove at the parking lot on Frontage Road is one of the county's oldest. On weekdays it's not uncommon to see lanyard-draped office workers spending their lunch hours at this part of the preserve. The 100-person picnic shelter — a Civilian Conservation Corp original from the 1930s — is surrounded by 3 acres of mowed grass dotted with picnic tables and shade trees. Groups can reserve the shelter through Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248 but must do so at least three business days before their visit. Trail users can make impromptu stops at the smaller shelter to the northwest, which is available on a first-come first-served basis.

York Woods' location also makes it a key link in the recently completed Salt Creek Greenway Trail, a 32-mile, multiagency trail that connects Busse Woods Forest Preserve in Elk Grove Village to Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield with access to the Illinois Prairie Path along the way.

But for years, devoted regulars have taken to York Woods



▲ Old-field goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)



▲ Heath aster (*Aster ericoides*)



▲ Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)



▲ Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

for the sake of its own trails, some of the few in the forest preserves that remain asphalt. Stretches along the mile-long loop are lined on either side with trees that arch overhead forming leafy awnings. It's perhaps these century-old stands of bur and white oaks that make these woods such a sanctuary for frenzies of chickadees, downy woodpeckers, great horned owls, indigo buntings and white-breasted nuthatches. Because the woods are so heavy with oaks, the skies fill with browns and auburns this time of year instead of maples' more vivid yellows and oranges, but on gusty days, the wind through the large drying leaves can drown out the heaviest traffic on the surrounding roadways.

Around the trunks of many of these trees, the leaves on Virginia creepers are turning mauve, red and purple. This vine looks similar to poison ivy, which becomes scarlet in fall. Even the narrow serrated leaves that cover the crooked branches of smooth sumacs are turning crimson, a fitting complement to the shrubs' stiff cones of bright reddish orange berries that remain throughout winter.

But several species of plants are still in bloom. Fall, after all, is showtime for Ontario, New England, heath and other blue-, white- or purple-petaled asters and for Canada, old-field and grass-leaved goldenrods, just to name a few, which yield some of the season's brightest yellows.

Even in the small wetland along the south side of the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, autumn is settling in with dozens of species of sedges drying next to stands of spent cattails. Soon, the few lingering red-winged blackbirds will start their southbound journeys for their winter homes.

It's fall in York Woods and the perfect time to explore a DuPage forest preserve first. •

Quick Look at York Woods Forest Preserve



For a detailed map of York Woods, visit dupageforest.org.

directory



EDUCATION *Centers*

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189
(630) 668-6012

The center's office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Saturday, Sunday and select holidays.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 850-8110

The center is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on select holidays.

KLING CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 876-5900

The farm is open Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and select holidays.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

The estate is open only during scheduled programs and events.

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-6200

The center and the surrounding Willowbrook Forest Preserve are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are closed on select holidays.

GENERAL *Contacts*

HEADQUARTERS

Street Address
35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

The headquarters office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is closed on Saturday, Sunday and select holidays.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

Website

dupageforest.org

Email Address

forest@dupageforest.org

Main Number

(630) 933-7200

TTY

(800) 526-0857

THE CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION LINE

(630) 933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

(630) 871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(630) 933-7240

THE OUTDOOR REPORT

(630) 871-6422

VISITOR SERVICES

(630) 933-7248

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(630) 933-7681

GOLF *Courses*

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
(630) 810-5330

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale, IL 60191
(630) 616-8424

OAK MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 595-0071

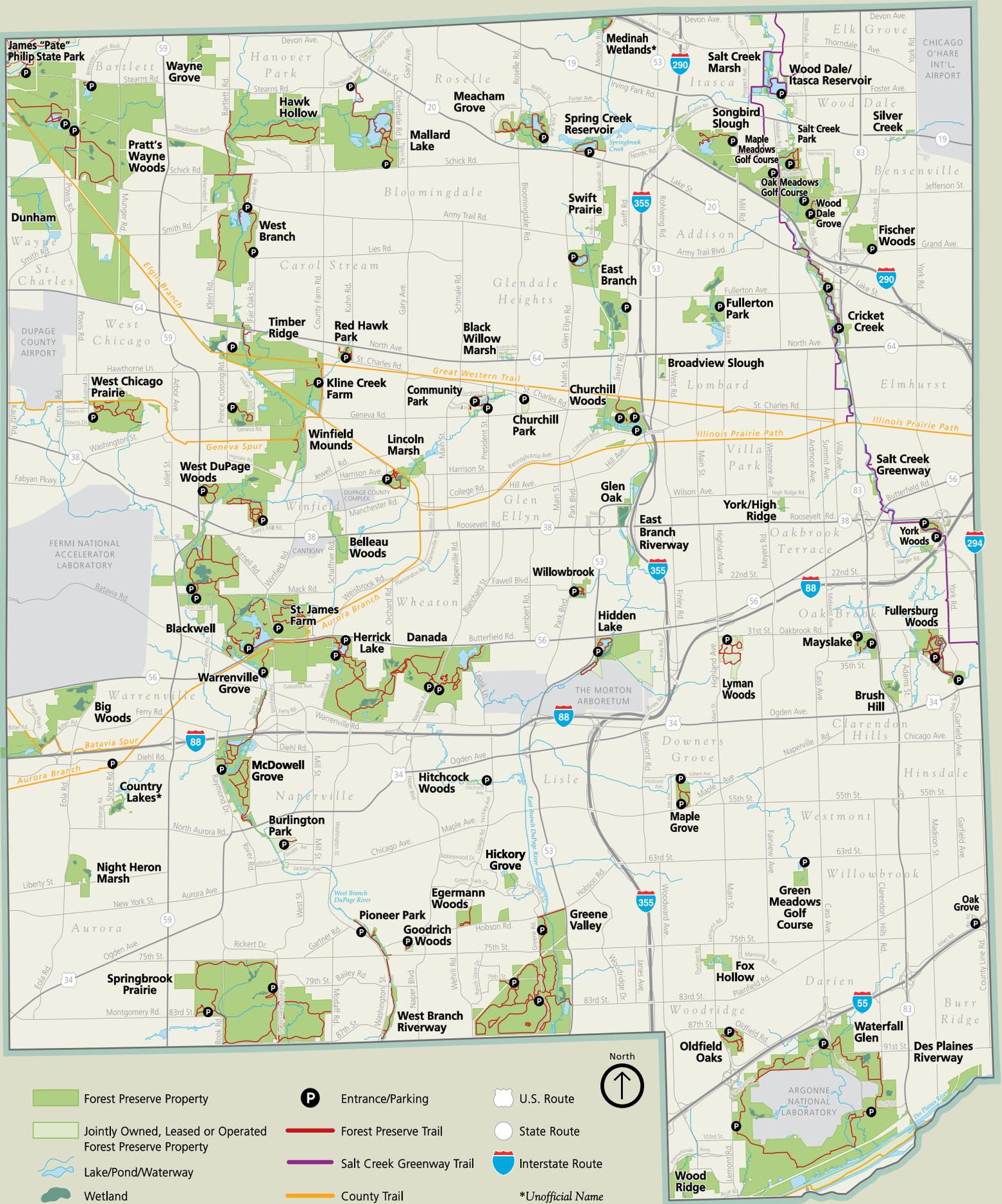


PRESERVE *Hours*

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

ACCESSIBILITY

Individuals with accessibility needs or concerns should contact the District's ADA coordinator at (630) 933-7683 or TTY (800) 526-0857 at least three business days before their visit.



- Forest Preserve Property
- Jointly Owned, Leased or Operated Forest Preserve Property
- Lake/Pond/Waterway
- Wetland

- P Entrance/Parking
- Forest Preserve Trail
- Salt Creek Greenway Trail
- County Trail

- U.S. Route
- State Route
- Interstate Route

*Unofficial Name





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Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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