

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2013



from the president



As physician, author and poet Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote, "The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving." He was discussing 19th century ideologies, but his words seem to apply well to efforts here at the Forest Preserve District today.

Take St. James Farm Forest Preserve for instance. Starting June 1, the new entrance on Winfield Road will be open year-round, allowing visitors to explore the grounds during every season. The entrance was part of the first phase of the St. James Farm Master Plan, which the Board of Commissioners approved three years ago to guide the District as it moves forward with the development of this historic site. (If you've never visited St. James Farm, you may want to stop by May 25 for a preview during our annual "Family Field Day," which focuses on the buildings, works of art and natural areas that grace this preserve.) I had the pleasure of meeting owner Brooks McCormick when the District was negotiating the purchase of St. James Farm over a decade ago, and I believe that Mr. McCormick, who was a conservationist as much as he was a businessman and philanthropist, would be pleased with where we're headed.

Of course St. James Farm is one of 60 DuPage County forest preserves; we have similar developments to look forward to at Mayslake Hall, the Greene Farm Barn, the Ben Fuller House and Oak Meadows Golf Preserve, just to name a few. And the much-anticipated restoration of the West Branch of the DuPage River, which spans not one but three preserves (see "New Beginnings" on Page 21), means that the future of this irreplaceable resource will be equally exciting.

Regardless of which forest preserve developments engage you this year, I hope you'll make time to enjoy them with family and friends. (I know that I will!)

D. "Dewey" Pierotti Jr.

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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For schedules and agendas,
visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2013, Vol. 49, No. 2

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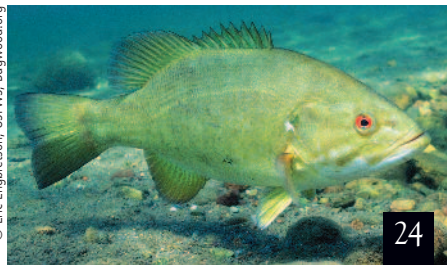
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On the cover: Yellow warbler © J. Fuhrman/VIREO

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

MAYSLAKE REMODEL TO MEAN FEWER MUDDY PAWS

This spring the District will begin work on a reconfigured entrance, a 0.5-acre fenced small-dog area, 1,440 feet of limestone trails, reseeded grassy areas, two minishelters and underground drain tiles at the off-leash dog area at Mayslake Forest Preserve in Oak Brook. The area will be closed when construction starts, but a temporary fenced-in area will be available south of the parking lot.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the following donors who contributed to its efforts between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2012.

Gifts of Note

Dr. Lawrence DuBose —
\$6,400 Kline Creek Farm
Douglas Charitable Fund —
\$5,847 Mayslake Peabody Estate
Irene Bowman Loving Trust —
\$4,877 Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Robert R. McCormick Foundation —
\$3,000 Employee matching contribution
International Paper Foundation —
\$2,500 Outdoor Explorers Summer Camp
Lyndell F. Bowman Trust —
\$2,336 Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Ecolab Community Relations Council —
\$1,800 Outdoor Explorers Summer Camp
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bamford —
\$1,500 Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Spraying Systems —
\$1,000 General Fund

To make a tax-deductible contribution, get info on sponsorship opportunities for your business, and learn how your financial support benefits the Forest Preserve District, scan here or visit dupageforestgiving.org.



BOARD OKS OAK MEADOWS MASTER PLAN

The Board of Commissioners has approved a master plan for Oak Meadows Golf Preserve in Addison, which calls for increased stormwater storage, enhanced wetlands, trail connections and a redesigned, flood-resistant 18-hole course with a clubhouse. The District will now begin to assess permit requirements, outline construction schedules and budgets, and seek grants and funding. To view the master plan, which includes the new course layout, visit “Plans and Projects” under “Forest Preserve News” at dupageforest.org.

ACCESS TO DUNHAM COMING SOON

The District is working with the village of Wayne and the Wayne Historical Society to build a 2-acre picnic area, 23-car parking lot, short trail and scenic overlook at Dunham Forest Preserve in Wayne. Work should begin in 2013 and when completed in 2014 will provide access to the 6-year-old preserve and an adjacent historic train depot that Wayne will use as a community center. Dunham currently stands primarily as agricultural land, but long-term plans call for the transition of the 374-acre site to natural habitat.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS

A 1.2-mile segment of the West Branch Regional Trail at Timber Ridge Forest Preserve in West Chicago has reopened following adjustments to prevent slippery surfaces on the boardwalk. Another section funded in part by a \$100,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will connect West DuPage Woods Forest Preserve in West Chicago with Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve in Winfield.

Two additional DCEO grants will support projects along the North Central DuPage Regional Trail, one for \$500,000 for a bridge over County Farm Road between Mallard Lake and Hawk Hollow forest preserves in Hanover Park and another for \$470,000 for a section of trail along Schick Road near Hawk Hollow.



THANK YOU Volunteers

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 21 – 27, the Forest Preserve District applauds its 992 long-term and 3,940 one-time volunteers. Last fiscal year these dedicated individuals donated more than 86,000 hours with an in-kind value of more than \$1.8 million. The District will honor its volunteers and recognize those with milestone accomplishments on May 2 at its annual banquet.



FOREST PRESERVES GAIN STATE STATUS

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has given Illinois Nature Preserve status to 1,589 acres of Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve in Naperville; 50 acres of Springbrook received Illinois Land and Water Reserve status as did 121 acres at Belleau Woods Forest Preserve in Wheaton. The District will continue to own, manage and maintain these lands as it has in the past, but dogs, horses and bicycles will need to remain on maintained trails within the state-designated areas, a requirement similar to current District regulations in such high-quality natural areas. The picnic shelter, model airfield and off-leash dog area at Springbrook are not within any state-designated areas, so they will operate as usual, and because Springbrook Marsh is within the less-restrictive land and water reserve, anglers can continue to fish there as well.

E-NEWS *Essentials*



Sign up for the District's new monthly e-newsletter, and get the latest on DuPage forest preserves delivered right to your inbox. To get started, scan this QR code or visit dupageforest.org, where you can also explore the District's redesigned website, which features streamlined navigation and links to Google maps with driving directions to and from every forest preserve parking lot. Give us your feedback at forest@dupageforest.org.

\$3.1 MILLION TO FUND WETLAND WORK AND NEW REC AREAS

Canadian National Railway Company will provide more than \$3.1 million in forest preserve enhancements in exchange for the temporary use of 5 acres in north-central Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne, which it will use as it works on tracks on its own property. When finished, CN will not only restore the site but also improve nearby wetlands. Additionally, it will fund the design and construction of an off-leash dog area at nearby Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve in Hanover Park, which will replace the area at Pratt's Wayne Woods, and a new model airfield at Pratt's Wayne Woods on Stearns Road, which will replace the current field off Powis Road. Work may begin on the two areas this summer.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR FRIENDS FOUNDATION

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors has gained four new members — Ron Austin, Mattine Gallentine, Deanna Salo and John Sheerin — and continues to seek volunteers willing to provide leadership on its marketing, fundraising and finance committees. The newly established organization, a 501(c)(3) public charity, supports fundraising efforts to enhance the District's conservation-, recreation- and education-related initiatives. Details are available through the Office of Fundraising and Development at (630) 871-6400.



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.

Yellow-rumped warbler
(*Setophaga coronata*)

FOREST JEWELS

by **RON SKLENEY**, NATURALIST,
WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

Twice a year, DuPage County's forest preserves play host to hundreds of thousands of weary travelers: migrating birds looking for places to fuel up as they move between their summer and winter homes. But this season, none of these visitors likely excites birders as much as the warblers, the jewels of the spring migration.

Worldwide, two groups of birds share the common name "warbler," Old World species from Africa, Asia and Europe and New World species from the Americas. Despite the name, which New World species likely acquired from explorers who thought they were the same as the ones back home, the two do not belong to the same family. New World warblers are in the Parulidae family, and of its roughly 116 members, DuPage birders have recorded over two dozen.

Habitat preferences depend on the species and time of year, but the majority of New World warblers require woodlands, forests or dense brush, the reason birders also call them "wood warblers." Most of these treetop denizens are insectivores for at least part the year, and our forest preserves' abundance of prey, particularly insect larvae, provides the fuel they need for their incredible journeys.

Warblers' spring migration is triggered by changes in daily sunlight and an evolutionary timetable established over thousands of generations. The end result is a schedule that

places these birds in northern climes during the springtime food frenzy, that eruption of tender insects set in motion by the presence of newly sprouted trees and shrubs. Because this takes place in such a narrow window, the best time to see migrants in this region is from the end of April through the end of May; by June most are in breeding territories further north. They will pass through again in the fall on their way to their winter homes in Central and South America, but now is when their breeding plumage makes them breathtaking to watch and easier to identify.

It's hard to pick the most beautiful warbler that visits DuPage, but the Blackburnian, named for English naturalist Anna Blackburne, should be on the shortlist. Its brilliant orange throat (it's the only warbler in North America with this particular marking) pops against the surrounding black plumage, making it slightly reminiscent of the red and orange paint jobs hot rodders used to enhance their roadsters in the '50s and '60s. Many people hooked on birding likely owe it to their first sightings of this bird, which uses forest preserves such as West DuPage Woods in West Chicago (especially the Elsen's Hill area) and Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook as layovers this time of year.

Another showoff is the American redstart, which doesn't have "warbler" in its name but is a Parulidae just the same.



▲ Blackburnian warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)



▲ Black-throated green warbler (*Dendroica virens*)



▲ Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)



▲ American redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)



▲ Blackpoll warbler (*Dendroica striata*)

(Because the adult males are decked out in black, orange and white, I like to call them the “Halloween birds.”) Like members of the flycatcher family, they love to snatch airborne insects. Redstarts will even fan their tails to flash their patches of orange or yellow to “scare” their prey. Birders can spot them at a number of locations, especially Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien.

The black-throated green warbler features a yellow face and olive crown and back, but birders often hear this migrant before they see it. It’s known for its familiar but ceaseless “zee-zee-zoo-zoo-zee” song. The Back 40 at Willowbrook Forest Preserve in Glen Ellyn is a great place to see and hear them.

With its black cap and white-banded wings, the blackpoll is not the most colorful warbler, but its stamina earns it a spot at the top of any birder’s life list. Its five- to six-week trip north takes it 3,500 miles from Brazil to Alaska via the Gulf of Mexico. In fall it heads to New England before beginning an 80-hour nonstop flight south over 2,000 miles of open water. You can spot blackpolls taking some well-deserved breaks at several forest preserves, including St. James Farm in Warrenville and Salt Creek Park in Wood Dale.

But not all warblers use DuPage merely as a stopover. The yellow warbler raises its family in our area’s shrubby

wetlands, brushy fields and forest edges, where you can spot its solid buttery plumage and hear its “sweet, sweet, sweet, I’m so sweet” song. Some species even stay year-round, such as the yellow-rumped, our most common warbler. You can see them hunting for insects in spring, when the gold patches on their faces, rumps and sides pop against their crisp gray and white feathers, but will also find them in winter foraging heavily on berries.

As with all wildlife, though, warblers are not immune to changing and difficult situations. When spring weather arrives in March instead of April, a phenomenon that happened here just last year, many trees and shrubs bud early — up to two or three weeks early — triggering dormant insects to emerge ahead of schedule to take advantage of the new shoots. As a result, when migrating warblers arrive, there’s far less food. And they face manmade stressors as well, such as the negative effects of logging and tar-sand mining in Canada’s boreal forests, invaluable nurseries for 325 species of warblers and other birds.

Warblers are a big part of DuPage birding life, and like works of art at a museum, many of these forest jewels will take your breath away. Check out the calendar of events starting on Page 8 for programs like “FullersBird Fridays” and “Birding at Willowbrook,” and see for yourself! •

spring calendar

See pages 10 through 20 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	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	apr			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

April

- 1** April Fools' Adventure
Basic Design With Collage Begins
- 4** Sit and Stitch
- 6** The Return of the Large Predators
Spring Into Volunteering
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Busy as a Bee
Fishing for Trout
- 8** Digital Photography Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 12** FullersBird Fridays
- 13** Birding Field Trip
Classical Notes at Mayslake
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** An Egg-cellent Geocaching Adventure
- 15** Adult Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 16** Birding at Willowbrook
Exploring Watercolors Begins
- 17** Archery for All Ages
- 19** FullersBird Fridays
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 20** Helping Hands at Herrick Lake
Landscaping With Native Plants
Sheep Shearing
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 21** Go Green! A Celebration of Conservation
Sheep Shearing
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Art Appreciation Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Teen Open Art Studio Begins
- 23** Birding at Willowbrook
Fishing Flowing Waters
Music at Mayslake
- 24** Geocaching for Active Adults
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 26** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
- 27** Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 29** Compass Class 101
Forest Fitness Walk
- 30** Birding at Willowbrook
Fishing Clinic for Active Adults Begins

May

- 1 Archery for All Ages
- 3 Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
Sit and Stitch
- 4 Archery for All Ages
Birding Field Trip
Bird Study Merit Badge Begins
Meet the Beaver
- 5 Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6 Forest Fitness Walk
- 7 Birding at Willowbrook
- 8 Cycling for Active Adults
- 10 FullersBird Fridays
Native-Plant Sale
- 11 International Migratory Bird
Day Celebration
Music at Mayslake
Native-Plant Sale
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12 Fishing Clinic for Kids
- 13 Forest Fitness Walk
Kayaking Basics
- 14 Birding at Willowbrook
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery
Workday
- 15 Archery for Active Adults
Archery for Kids
- 17 FullersBird Fridays
- 18 Archery for All Ages
Art and Soul
Mayslake at Night
Music Can Tell a Story
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19 Geocaching
- 20 Forest Fitness Walk
- 21 Birding at Willowbrook
Fishing 101
- 22 Kayaking Basics
- 23 Classical Notes at Mayslake
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
Kayaking for Active Adults
- 24 FullersBird Fridays
- 25 Family Field Day at St. James Farm
- 27 Memorial Day Remembered
- 29 Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery
Workday
- 31 Archery for Adults
Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays

June

- 2 St. James Farm Sunday Tour
- 3 Adult Painting Begins
Basic Design With Collage Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Kayaking Basics
- 4 Exploring Watercolors Begins
Fishing for Bass
- 7 Archery for All Ages
FullersBird Fridays
Sit and Stitch
- 8 Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9 Field Exploration
Just for Kids Fishing Derby
St. James Farm Sunday Tour
- 11 Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery
Workday
- 12 Archery for All Ages
Archery Fun Shoot
Digital Photography Begins
- 13 Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker
WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake
- 14 FullersBird Fridays
- 15 Paddle With a Ranger
- 16 St. James Farm Sunday Tour
- 17 Ropes for Scouts
- 18 DuPage Junior Golf School Begins
Fishing off the Beaten Path
- 19 Geocaching
- 20 Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery
Workday
- 21 Fishing for Bass
Mammoth Hike
- 22 Ride the Trails
- 23 Archery for All Ages
Blackwell History Hike
St. James Farm Sunday Tour
- 24 Girls Write! Begins
- 25 Archery for All Ages
Music at Mayslake
- 26 Archery for All Ages
Kayaking Basics
- 27 Busy as a Bee
- 28 Busy as a Bee
- 29 Celebrating the Fourth
- 30 Celebrating the Fourth
St. James Farm Sunday Tour

spring 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 June 29

Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S FARM CHORES

Kids, learn firsthand how 1890s children helped around the house and farm. On Mondays, help with mom's chores; on Thursdays, dad's.

June 3 – Aug. 29 (except July 4)

Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Spread a blanket on the ground, and enjoy an hour of popular children's stories from the 1890s.

June 3 – Aug. 26

Mondays at 10 a.m.

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 June 30

Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

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.

Apr 15 – May 20	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Mondays		

Jun 3 – Jul 15	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Mondays (except Jul 1)		

April Fools' Adventure

Enjoy some April Fools' jokes, and go on a search to see what doesn't belong on an 1890s farm. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 1	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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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 May 1. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 15	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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Archery for Adults

Learn the history and basic techniques of archery at this adults-only clinic. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Registration begins May 17. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 31	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Archery for All Ages

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

Apr 17	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
May 1	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
May 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
May 18	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Greene Valley
Jun 7	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 12	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jun 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 25	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 26	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell



Archery for Kids

Kids, learn basic archery techniques. Equipment provided. Ages 7 – 17 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 1. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 15	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
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Archery Fun Shoot

Sign up for this tournament for novices, which has awards for the top three competitors. Bring your own equipment; no crossbows. Some equipment available for loan at no cost. Ages 7 – 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 29. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 12	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
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Art and Soul

Get a personal look at how artists visualize inspiration during an evening of art and song with a concert, visual arts gallery and a live art event. Proceeds benefit ArranmoreArts programs at Mayslake. Adults only. \$40 per person. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566, or visit arranmorearts.org.

May 18	7:30 – 11 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art Appreciation

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

Apr 22 – Jun 10	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Mondays (except May 27)		

Basic Design With Collage

Explore basic elements of design by working with magazines and found, altered and re-purposed papers during this six-part class. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 1 – May 6	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Mondays		
Jun 3 – Jul 8	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Mondays		

Birding at Willowbrook

Learn the basics of birding, and search for feathered friends during a leisurely stroll in the Back 40. Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Donation suggested. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

Apr 16 – May 21	8 – 9:30 a.m.	Willowbrook
Tuesdays		

Birding Field Trip

Meet fellow birding enthusiasts, and search for resident and migratory species. Bring binoculars. Ages 8 and up; under 14 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 933-7681.

Apr 13	7 – 11 a.m.	West Chicago Prairie
May 4	7 – 11 a.m.	West Chicago Prairie

Bird Study Merit Badge

Boy Scouts, meet the requirements for the Bird Study merit badge in this two-part program that includes bird identification, binocular basics, bird-banding demonstrations and more. Ages 11 – 17. \$50 per Scout. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

May 4	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 11	10 a.m. – noon	Willowbrook



Canoe, Kayak and Rowboat Rentals

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville
Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Rentals begin April 6 at Blackwell and May 4 at Herrick Lake and are available weekends through the end of September and daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. For information, call (630) 933-7248.



spring calendar

Cultural Events

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

ALLIANCE OF FINE ART'S "BEST OF THE BEST"

View the finest works of local artists at this annual show. Free. For details, call (630) 206-9566.

Through April 28

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "CYMBELINE"

Falsely accused of betraying her lover, Imogen must flee to the hills to escape her death. Disguised as a boy and with the help of a shepherd and his two sons, she must prove her honesty and chastity, restore her good name, and defeat her evil stepmother. Tickets \$26 – 37. For tickets, call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

June 19 – July 21

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Sundays 3 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL"

A Dutch librarian finds a laundry claim ticket in a returned book 113 years overdue and follows a string of clues that takes her around the world and into surprising revelations of a long-forgotten past. Tickets \$26 – 37. For tickets, call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

March 30 – April 28

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Sundays 3 p.m.

RESTORATION-IN-PROGRESS TOURS

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

Wednesdays 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

YELLOW HOUSE ARTISTS' EXHIBIT

Enjoy an exhibit of oil pastels by the Yellow House Artists. Free. For details, call (630) 206-9566.

June 12 – July 26

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Blackwell History Hike

Learn about the natural and cultural history of one of DuPage County's most popular forest preserves on this ranger-led 2-mile hike. All ages; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 10. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 23	1 – 3 p.m.	Blackwell
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Busy as a Bee

Learn how to plant a bee-friendly garden, examine a hive, meet beekeepers, and get a taste of honey in this one-hour program. Ages 7 – 12 with an adult. \$6 per person. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 7	9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m. and 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Jun 27	9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m. and 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Jun 28	9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m. and 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Celebrating the Fourth

Experience one of the country's first holidays through 1890s games, music and speeches, including the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Bring a picnic, and help make ice cream. Ceremony begins at 2:30 p.m. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 29	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Jun 30	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Classical Notes at Mayslake

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

Apr 13	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Mayslake Baroque Glories
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May 23	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake Music for Film and Theatre
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Compass Class 101

Learn one of the oldest survival skills, how to use a compass; then, complete a compass course. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 15. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 29	5 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
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Camp FBW

Children ages 4 – 12 will learn about nature art, camping and ecosystems through projects, hands-on experiences and exploration in a variety of half-day camps that may be combined for full-day adventures. The camps will be held at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook Monday through Thursday. To register, call (630) 850-8110, or see "Kids Camps" under "Things To Do" at dupageforest.org.

Fee (per half-day session):

\$100 DuPage County residents
\$125 nonresidents

Jun 24 – 27

Ages 4 – 6

Plant Power, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Lil' Buggers, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
Lil' Campers, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 7 – 9

Nature Art, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Camp FBW Rocks!, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 10 – 12

Bird Brains, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Jul 8 – 11

Ages 4 – 6

Little Artists, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Habitat Hunters, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 7 – 9

Critter Camp, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Eco Explore, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Camping Adventures, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 10 – 12

Adventure Camp, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Wildlife Explorers

Children ages 6 – 8 will learn about the environment and how they are part of nature. Each day will involve games, activities and stories. The camp will be held at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, which includes a cookout. To register, call (630) 942-6200, or see "Kids Camps" under "Things To Do" at dupageforest.org.

Fee (per session):

\$100 DuPage County residents
\$125 nonresidents

Session 1: Jun 17 – 20

Session 2: Jul 15 – 18

Session 3: Aug 5 – 8

Kline Creek Farmhands

Children ages 7 – 12 will experience life on an 1890s farm, including chores, domestic activities and games. The camp will be held at Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, call (630) 876-5900, or see "Kids Camps" under "Things To Do" at dupageforest.org.

Fee (per session):

\$100 DuPage County residents
\$125 nonresidents

Session 1: Jun 10, 13, 14

Session 2: Jun 17, 20, 21

Session 3: Jun 24, 27, 28

Session 4: Jul 8, 11, 12

Session 5: Jul 15, 18, 19

Session 6: Jul 22, 25, 26

Session 7: Jul 29, Aug 1, 2



Wild by Nature

Children ages 9 – 12 will discover the natural history of DuPage County through safe exploration and play in wild places. The camp will be held at Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn on Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien from 9 a.m. Wednesday to 9 a.m. Thursday for an overnight camp out. To register, call (630) 942-6200, or see "Kids Camps" under "Things To Do" at dupageforest.org.

Fee (per session):

\$100 DuPage County residents
\$125 nonresidents

Session 1: Jun 24 – 27

Session 2: Jul 22 – 25



Horse Sense

Campers ages 10 – 14 will enjoy this hands-on experience with horses, which will include an introduction to the day-to-day activities and experiences of a working barn. This well-rounded program also includes arts and crafts, games, and supervised lead-line rides. The camp will be held at the Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. To register, call (630) 668-6012.

Fee (per session):

\$203 DuPage County residents
\$232 nonresidents

Session 1 (13-1-HS): Jun 3 – 7

Session 3 (13-3-HS): Jun 17 – 21

Session 5 (13-5-HS): Jul 8 – 12

Session 7 (13-7-HS): Jul 22 – 26

Session 9 (13-9-HS): Aug 5 – 9

Riding Sense

Campers ages 12 – 14 will discover all the fun of the "Horse Sense" camp described above plus the wonders and challenges of a riding program. This camp includes the grooming and bathing of horses, hayrides, arts and crafts, and a one-hour daily riding lesson. The camp will be held at the Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. To register, call (630) 668-6012.

Fee (per session):

\$342 DuPage County residents
\$376 nonresidents

Session 2 (13-2-RS): Jun 10 – 14

Session 4 (13-4-RS): Jun 24 – 28

Session 6 (13-6-RS): Jul 15 – 19

Session 8 (13-8-RS): Jul 29 – Aug 2

Session 10 (13-10-RS): Aug 12 – 16



spring calendar



© Mike Shimer



Cycling for Active Adults

Tour several forest preserves during this 15- to 18-mile ranger-led bike ride along a section of the North Central Regional Trail. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 24. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 8	9 a.m. – noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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Digital Photography

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

Apr 8 – May 13 Mondays	7 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner</i>
Jun 12 – Jul 17 Wednesdays	7 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate</i>

DuPage Junior Golf School

Learn golf fundamentals and etiquette during a fun five-part program with one on-course and four practice-center clinics. Ages 7 – 14. \$95 per person. To register, visit dupagegolf.com, or call (630) 451-3471.

Jun 18, 20, 25, 27 and Jul 2	9:30 – 11 a.m.	Oak Meadows
Jul 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30	9:30 – 11 a.m.	Oak Meadows



Family Camping

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The family campground is open weekends and holidays May 3 through Sept. 29 and daily June 28 through July 7. Nature programs are offered all season. For permits and information, call (630) 933-7248.

An Egg-cellent Geocaching Adventure

Learn how to operate a handheld GPS unit; then, use it on a high-tech hunt for hidden caches of eggs. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 14	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 14	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Exploring Watercolors

During this six-part class, explore and enhance your artistic style while painting in a beautiful and relaxed setting. Adults only. \$125 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 16 – May 21 Tuesdays	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate/Advanced</i>
Apr 16 – May 21 Tuesdays	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner</i>
Jun 4 – Jul 16 Tuesdays (except Jul 2)	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate/Advanced</i>
Jun 4 – Jul 16 Tuesdays (except Jul 2)	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner</i>

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the heritage of St. James Farm at this annual event featuring canine and equestrian performances, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, guided tours, kids activities, archery, fishing, food, and more. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 25	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Field Exploration

Observe birds, butterflies and wildflowers in bloom. Ages 8 and up; under 14 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 933-7681.

Jun 9	8 – 11 a.m.	West Chicago Prairie
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Fishing 101

Learn the basics of fishing through indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Adults only. Free. Registration begins May 7. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 21	4 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
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Fishing Clinic for Active Adults

Get started or reacquainted with fishing through this two-part series for active adults that includes indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 16. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 30	9 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
May 2	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

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 two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 26	4 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
May 3	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
May 31	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell

Fishing Clinic for Kids

Kids, learn about different kinds of fish, the best ways to catch them and rules you need to remember. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 29. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 12	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Fishing Flowing Waters

Learn techniques for fishing in rivers and streams at this intermediate-level clinic. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 9. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 23	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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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 two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 4	6 – 8 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Jun 21	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell

Fishing for Trout

Learn different methods of trout fishing. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins March 25. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 7	Noon – 2 p.m.	Blackwell
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Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker

Learn to fish on the bottom for a variety of species. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 30. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 13	6 – 8 p.m.	Meacham Grove
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Fishing off the Beaten Path

Take a hike, and go fish! Join a ranger for a 2-mile hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 4. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 18	4 – 7 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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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. Free. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 8	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 15	8:30 – 10 a.m.	West Branch/Hawk Hollow
Apr 22	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Apr 29	8:30 – 10 a.m.	West DuPage Woods
May 6	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 13	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm/Timber Ridge
May 20	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Jun 3	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 throughout spring. Adults only. \$6 per person per hike; \$40 for a 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 12 – Jun 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods Fridays
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Geocaching

Try a popular treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 19	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 8	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 19	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

spring calendar



Geocaching for Active Adults

See a geocaching demonstration, and then use a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 10. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 24	10 a.m. – noon	Mayslake
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Girls Write!

Learn different writing techniques at this girls-only five-day camp. Ages 10 – 11. \$140 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Jun 24 – 28	9:30 a.m. – noon	Mayslake
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Go Green! A Celebration of Conservation

Celebrate conservation through a day of fun while learning how to help change and support our planet. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts and games, and discover ways to “get your green on” and be eco-friendly. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 21	Noon – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Golfing

Forest Preserve District golf clubs are open late March through late November. Outings and leagues are available at these three distinct facilities for golfers of all abilities. For details and specials, 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

Helping Hands at Herrick Lake

Celebrate Earth Day by removing litter from a popular forest preserve. All ages; under 14 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 days in advance.

Apr 20	9 a.m. – noon	Herrick Lake
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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.

Apr 19	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Wayne Grove
May 23	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Jun 11	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Hawk Hollow

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Have a flock of fun celebrating avian migration. Activities ongoing. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

May 11	8 a.m. – noon	Willowbrook
	8 – 9:30 a.m.	Bird Walk for Adults <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>
	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Bird Walk for Beginners <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>
	9 – 11 a.m.	Bird-Banding Demonstration <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>
	10 a.m. – noon	Kids Activity Station
	10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Kids Bird Walk <i>Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>

Just for Kids Fishing Derby

Join the 27th year of this friendly fishing competition that's just for kids 15 and younger. Bring your own gear. Bait provided while supplies last. Free. Register at the event. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 9	8 a.m. – noon	Blackwell
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Kayaking Basics

Learn the basics of kayaking, including parts of the boat and paddling strokes. Equipment provided. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Registration begins two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 13	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
May 22	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Jun 3	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 26	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove

Kayaking for Active Adults

Try your hand at kayaking after learning basic techniques, watercraft safety and preserve information. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. \$20 per person. Registration begins May 9. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 23	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
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Landscaping With Native Plants

Learn how to add native plants to your landscape designs. Topics include sunlight and water requirements, seasonal changes, visual arrangements, and general tips for success. Adults only. \$3 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 20	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mammoth Hike

Hike to the site where a woolly mammoth was unearthed decades ago, and hear the story of its discovery. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 7. Call (630) 942-6200.

Jun 21	10 a.m. – noon	Blackwell
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Mayslake at Night

Experience nighttime sights and sounds while exploring the woods, lakeshore and grounds around Mayslake Hall. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9581.

May 18	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Meet the Beaver

Learn about the natural and cultural history of these interesting rodents, and explore a real beaver dam. Ages 7 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 20. Call (630) 942-6200.

May 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Willowbrook
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Memorial Day Remembered

Honor America's soldiers through traditional speeches and activities of the 1890s "Decoration Day," the precursor to today's Memorial Day. Held in partnership with the Center for History. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

May 27	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Historic Country Estate

St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Spend time exploring this multifaceted preserve, from its natural areas and historic dairy and equestrian buildings to its sculptures and other art. It opens May 25 for "Family Field Day at St. James Farm" (see calendar listing) and is then open daily beginning June 1 from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

COVERED WAGON TOURS

Enjoy a 30-minute guided covered wagon ride, and learn about the natural and cultural history of St. James Farm along the way. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

June 1 – Oct. 30

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

spring calendar



Music at Mayslake

Enjoy a spring lineup of diverse performers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 general admission; \$18 seniors, students and groups of six or more. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

Chicago New Arts Trio

This virtuosic trio combines voice, piano and flute with different genres for "Songs Old and New."

Apr 23	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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5th House Ensemble

The innovative "Caught: The Web" for wind quartet pairs chamber music with a telling story of life online.

May 11	8 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
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The Longo Brothers

"Composers, Please!" combines piano with stories about the life and music of Gershwin, Porter, Berlin and more.

Jun 25	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music Can Tell a Story

Learn how music can tell a story through the use of various instruments, rhythms, melody and dynamics. Ages 4 – 12 with an adult. \$8 per person. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

May 18	Noon – 2 p.m.	Mayslake
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Native-Plant Sale

Get your garden off to a great start with plants adapted to DuPage County conditions, and get expert advice from a naturalist ready to guide you with plant selection and garden design. Proceeds support educational programming at the District. Catalog available at dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale. Presale orders begin April 1. Call (630) 933-7208.

May 10	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
May 11	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake

Paddle With a Ranger

Join a ranger for paddle on 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 June 3. Call (630) 850-8110.

Jun 15	10 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
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The Return of the Large Predators

Learn the stories and facts behind wolf, cougar and bear sightings in northern Illinois. Ages 14 and up. Free. Registration begins March 23. Call (630) 942-6200.

Apr 6	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Ride the Trails

Tour several forest preserves during this ranger-led 15- to 18-mile bike ride along the North Central Regional Trail. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 10. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 22	9 a.m. – noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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Ropes for Scouts

Scouts, work toward merit badges by learning about different types of rope, how to whip and fuse them and how to tie basic knots. Scouts ages 8 – 12 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 3. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 17	5 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
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Horse-Drawn Hayrides

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Take a 30-minute ride through the prairies and woodlands of Danada Forest Preserve, and learn about the features of this historic preserve. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 children ages 5 – 12; children under 5 free. Groups of 15 or more are encouraged to reserve private hayrides. Call (630) 668-6012.

May 4 – June 30 (except May 25 & 26)
Saturdays and Sundays
Noon – 3 p.m.



Sheep Shearing

Watch as farmhands shear sheep. Then, learn how washed wool becomes spun yarn. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 20	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Apr 21	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Sit and Stitch

Enjoy some camaraderie and pick up pointers while you work on your own crocheting, quilting or knitting in the farmhouse. Ages 10 and up; under 15 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 4	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
May 3	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jun 7	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Spring Into Volunteering

Show Earth a little kindness, and help clean up one of DuPage County's most popular preserves. All ages; under 14 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.

Apr 6	9 a.m. – noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

The overlook is open Saturdays and Sundays May 4 through Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting. Due to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities, however, it may be closed during these times. For additional information, call (630) 792-2100.

St. James Farm Sunday Tours

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

The Artwork of St. James Farm

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

Jun 2	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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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.

Jun 9	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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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.

Jun 16	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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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.

Jun 23	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Behind the Scenes by Covered Wagon

Enjoy the standard covered-wagon route as well as areas you might not otherwise encounter. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free.

Jun 30	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Teen Open Art Studio

Enhance your techniques in pastels, acrylic paint, watercolor, charcoal and more during this 10-part class for intermediate and advanced students. Teens only. \$225 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 22 – Jul 1	6 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
Mondays (except May 27)		

spring calendar



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 seed. 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.

Apr 20	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex
Apr 24	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex
May 14	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex
May 29	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex
Jun 11	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex
Jun 20	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Grounds & Resources Complex



Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative vegetation or planting seed. Ages 8 and up; under 14 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.

Apr 6	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Apr 6	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Apr 13	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 21	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
Apr 27	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
May 5	9 a.m. – noon	Springbrook Prairie
May 11	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods
May 18	9 a.m. – noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jun 8	9 a.m. – noon	Fullersburg Woods

WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake

Enjoy an evening with the internationally acclaimed Elmhurst College Jazz Band under the direction of Doug Beach. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 cabaret seating; \$20 general admission; and \$18 for seniors over 65, students, and groups of six or more. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

Jun 13	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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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 April 15. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 27	7 – 9 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Trout Fishing

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne

Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve in Wood Dale

Spring trout season opens April 6 at 6 a.m. Anglers 16 and up must possess valid Illinois fishing licenses with Inland Trout Stamps. For details, call (630) 933-7248.



New Beginnings

by **JOHN "OLE" OLDENBURG**, OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

During the 1930s, low-level radioactive thorium "sand tailings" — waste from mineral-extraction operations — stored at the Rare Earths Facility in West Chicago made their way into Kress Creek and the West Branch of the DuPage River and ended up as sediment buried in the riverbed in front of two dams and in nearly every floodplain for over 8 miles. Removing the sand tailings would be an arduous task, but it would give us an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We would do more than merely clean up a contaminated waterway: We would rebuild it from the riverbed up.

It took eight years, but in October 2012 members from the multiagency team, including the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DuPage County, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and companies Severson Environmental, Arcadis, and Wills-Burke-Kelsey Engineering, tipped their hard hats to the last buckets of radioactive thorium.

Work to restore habitat along the West Branch will be ongoing, but since October I've already put my paddle to the river several times and traveled through this regenerating landscape.

It seems fitting to start this narrative near the wastewater treatment plant north of Roosevelt Road, one of the starting points of contamination along the West Branch and of the river's renewal. Along the west bank, intentionally shaped shallow hollows planted with pickerel weed and arrowhead replace the voids created by excavated tailings. Interspersed with mounds of vegetation, the depressions create "hummock and hollows" that catch runoff and river swells and then store the water until it can seep into the ground. Over 20 acres of functioning wetlands just like this — habitat for frogs, toads and aquatic insects (dining egrets, too) — now line the river.

Downstream my canoe pulses around boulder clusters and the edges of emerging habitat that's been sorely absent in our urban streams. Water willow thickets — onetime plugs now 30 inches tall — grow in 10 inches of water amid crenulated lines of cobbles that spill into the river, where they create pockets that hold deposits of silt and sand anchored with masses of water willow roots. Within these underwater



niches, newly hatched fish find protection from predators and rushing floodwaters while the larvae of dragonflies, mayflies and similar aquatic insects latch onto submerged stems before crawling out of the water and transforming into winged adults.

The 5-year-old reconstructed floodplains in this area are particularly exciting because they've already withstood a 125-year flood and several 10-year events while becoming more robust. They've also validated engineering techniques used to address erosion. For example, at one bend near Wilson Street a series of rock "bank bars" angled into the eastern shore protect the outside bank, or "cut bank," by bumping the path of the water, called the "thalweg," toward the center of the channel.

South of Wilson, the created Sanctuary Pond serves as an overwintering pool and nursery for fish. The groundwater-fed pond supplies cool water to this stretch of river, where wild rice, iris and dark green rush spatter the eastern banks and where restored uplands near the Catbird Trail yield calcium-rich seeps and fens, specialized wetlands that support marsh marigolds, turtleheads, sedges and skunk cabbage.

Further downstream, strategically placed boulder clusters restabilize habitat within the riverbed and create hydraulic diversity (as well as basking spots for spiny soft-shell and other turtles). Water rushes over and around the boulders, swirling and creating calm "eddies" favored by loafing smallmouth bass that conserve energy in the still waters as they wait to ambush unsuspecting prey.

South of the confluence with Kress Creek, District crews have removed invasive vegetation in gaps along the eastern shoreline, creating nearly a mile of uninterrupted floodplain. They even encouraged some landowners on the opposite bank to plant native buffer zones of their own, illustrating how private conservation partners can support bigger restoration efforts.

Throughout the restored river, crews have submerged "root wads," sections of tree trunks embedded in the banks

root-side out, and “mushroom caps,” trunks buried upside-down in the riverbed with the roots splayed out 360 degrees. Both create habitat for fish (30-foot-long rows of multiple root wads suspended over trunks and boulders in pools can harbor lunkers) and help weaken the force of flood waters. Perhaps more importantly, they trap leaves and twigs and create the genesis of the river’s food web, a mix of carbon-based water-saturated debris that’s first broken down by microbial bacteria and zooplankton that feed aquatic insects, which later become meals for waterfowl and fish.

As I pass the last house and the river widens, I view expansive verdant hummock and hollow floodplain wetlands on both banks and a restored savanna to the east. Within this secluded spot you can forget the pressures of the day and experience on a landscape scale what a river valley can become. Along this particular stretch, I was startled last fall by a large bird that launched from a boulder and rose with every stroke of its wide wings until it grasped a limb on a towering oak snag downstream, which yielded to the bird’s momentum. It was a bald eagle, the first I’ve seen fishing this river. (Few navigate our smaller waters.) The sighting was an honor and, I felt in some way, a “nod of thanks.” As I slid my paddle back into the water deliberately without a sound, I was overwhelmed with hopefulness for this river’s biologically vibrant future.

Just short of Mack Road, bank barbs gently bounce my canoe toward the center and away from the remnant fen they’re protecting. The fen is adjacent to the channel that quietly carries water from McKee Marsh, which makes its own periodic contributions to the river. The bridge at Mack Road signals an upcoming take-out point as well as one of the river’s riffle canoe chutes (this one near the east bank), which help passing paddlers avoid the surrounding cobbles and boulders. The flow here can be upward of 7 feet per second, quite a thrill for any DuPage paddler used to the typical 0.5-foot velocity. But below the surface, darters, mottled sculpins, riffle beetles and other species physiologically adapted to be reproductively successful in these swift conditions may soon begin



West Branch

hanging out in the spaces between the rocks.

The river now cuts through a substantial residential landscape with manicured lawns, although some owners have opted for native selections. Restored areas on forest preserve property immediately north and further south of Butterfield Road do not quite match their mature counterparts upstream, but they’re progressing. Riffle and wetland complexes near the Cenacle Trail, for instance, are beginning to stabilize as water willows mature along the cobbles. And further downstream through Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve in Warrenville and McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, dramatically altered sections of the West Branch are starting to stabilize as well.

At both preserves, the Civilian Conservation Corps installed islands and limestone dams in the 1930s to improve boating, swimming and fishing. But over time, ecologists realized the dams were a problem. Among other issues, they created upstream pools that trapped sediment and decaying plant and animal materials, which stripped oxygen from the water. Removing the two dams and bringing back the historic channel needed to be part of the greater restoration plan.

Today at Warrenville Grove, a rock weir, boulder cascades and riffles now stand in place of the old dam. They not only look great but also create healthier, more diverse habitats that allow fish to move upstream and meander between large wetland marshes while sediment and larger materials — including my canoe — can continue down. And at McDowell within the former upstream pool, waters from the confluence of the river and Ferry Creek now flow between an expansive “point-bar wetland,” crescent-shaped land that bumps out from an outside bend of a meandering river. This spring, the greening vegetation will mark the continuation of the healing process that will eventually meld the floodplain habitat with this last section of restored river.

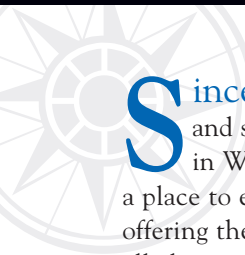
At this point, my journey down the West Branch is at an end, but as this functioning aquatic ecosystem made from flowing water, wood, rocks and vegetation matures, the benefits it offers local wildlife and those who enjoy and steward its resources will certainly carry on. •



Restored riffle habitat

Down by the Old Mill Stream

by JAY JOHNSON, OFFICE OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Since 1923 the woodlands, picnic areas and shorelines of Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve in Warrenville have offered DuPage County residents a place to escape from the daily grind. But 160 years ago, offering the right kind of grind was what this site was all about.

In 1847 landowners built a dam across the West Branch of the DuPage River to pool and then channel the water toward their new gristmill. Outside, the force of the river cranked a wooden waterwheel; inside, interconnected gears drove a large circular millstone that ground grains into different grades of flour. By one account, in one January the mill produced 3,000 bushels of feed and 1,200 bushels of rye flour.

The upstream pond was more than a power source for the miller, though. Farmers from miles around brought their children to swim there while they waited in line at the mill, and the area became one of the best beach destinations for local families. The pond even served as a baptismal pool and sheep bath. Yes, a sheep bath. Farmers needed an efficient way to clean their livestock's wool in the spring before they sheared the animals, and the dam downstream of the pond slowed the river enough for such a chore. It was still a tricky task, requiring farmers to don as many layers of jeans, coats and shirts as they could find to keep warm in the early May waters.

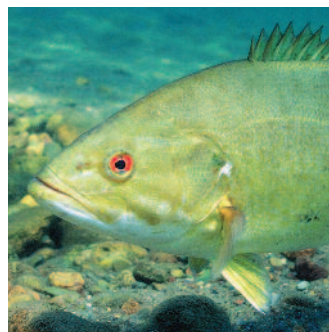
Over the decades the site housed two different gristmills and a sawmill, each subject to repairs due to floods or ice damage. There were even fires in 1879 and 1897, the results of friction-generated heat from the gears' nonstop operation. The mill lost in the '97 disaster was the last, and 26 years later the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County purchased

the land and surrounding 42 acres, making Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve a permanent recreational destination.

Although it was no longer needed for power, the dam received new life in the 1930s from the Civilian Conservation Corp, which also added trails and a footbridge. Recent habitat-restoration work along the West Branch (see "New Beginnings" on Page 21) included the dam's removal, an undertaking that required the Forest Preserve District to temporarily close the preserve's main entrance for most of 2012, but you can see remnants of the dam's limestone abutments from the 1930s and walk across the historic millrace as you listen to water gurgle over re-created natural riffles.

But Warrenville Grove isn't just a mix of 19th and 21st century scenic features; it's a mix of pastimes, too. As Leone Schmidt's "The Life and Times of Warrenville" recounts, "The water held fish in abundance, drawing fishermen from the neighboring towns to the Warrenville mill pond in great numbers." Anglers still reel in crappie, bass and other sunfish as well as northern pike and catfish but now likely use spinners or plastic curly-tailed grubs on small jigs dropped downstream of the bridge or from the ADA-compliant pier. A 450-foot trail connects the parking lot to the pier and two canoe launches, and there's even a path that hugs the shoreline that paddlers can use as a portage if they're not interested in navigating down the river's main channel.

One paper reported in June 1885 that "picnics are an everyday occurrence with us. They come from Wheaton, from Turner [West Chicago], from Naperville, and elsewhere to rusticate in our beautiful rural retreat." Today's



▲ Smallmouth bass
(*Micropterus dolomieu*)



▲ Black walnut
(*Juglans nigra*)



▲ Virginia waterleaf
(*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)



▲ Indigo bunting
(*Passerina cyanea*)

visitors can still picnic along the river but can also walk, peddle or push a stroller along a 0.7-mile stretch of the West Branch Regional Trail. The trail cuts north-south across the 126-acre preserve and along a “dry-mesic” woodland — one that rests on high, dry land — that’s anchored with sugar maples, hackberries, bur oaks and black walnuts, including one of the District’s largest. In spring the ground blossoms with white trout lily, Virginia waterleaf, May apple, swamp buttercup and feathery false Solomon’s seal while returning rose-breasted grosbeaks, scarlet tanagers, wood thrushes, red-eyed vireos and indigo buntings animate the leafy canopy.

Its access to the West Branch Regional Trail makes Warrenville Grove a well-placed, even if not well-known, trailhead. To the south, the trail leaves forest preserve property but shortly joins McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville, where it continues for 3.3 miles. To the north, it ends at the Aurora Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path. From there, you can zigzag your way east and then back west to Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville, where the regional trail picks up again for another 3.9 miles. You can also head due east and reach Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton and the start of the 5.8-mile Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail. Maps of all of these routes are available online at dupageforest.org and in our free trails guide, which you can request from Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248.

Today’s Warrenville Grove may no longer be the place to go grind grain, but you’ll be hard-pressed to find a forest preserve that continues to yield such a wide appeal. •

Quick Look at Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve



For a detailed map of Warrenville Grove, visit dupageforest.org.

directory



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.

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.

KLINE 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

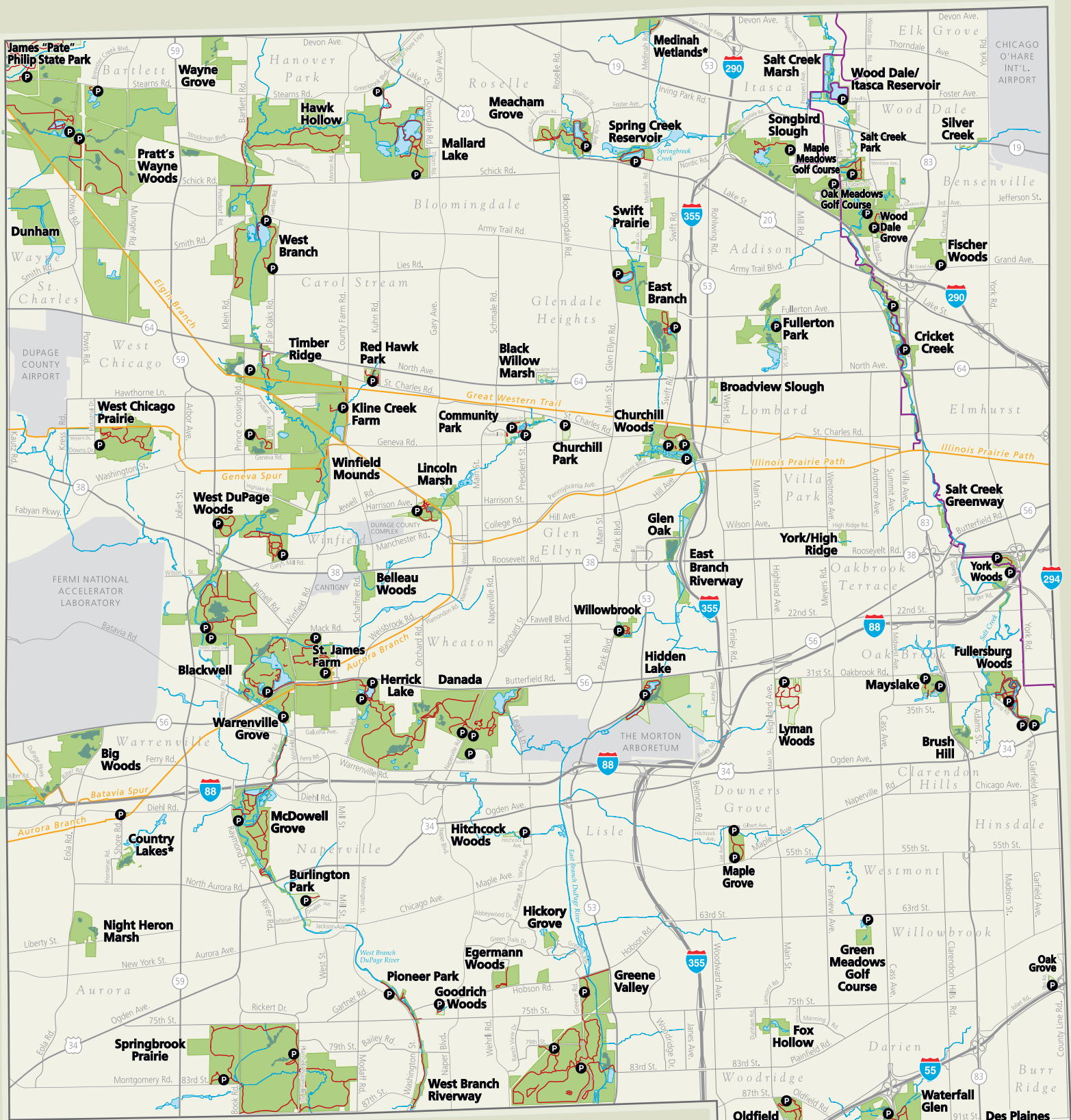
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

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.



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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