

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2014

Ferns and Friends

Meet Your Local Cryptogams

IT'S A SNAP

Top Tips for Nature Pics

Observe Your Preserve

ONLINE EXPLORATION



from the president



During the 19 years I've served as president of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, I've seen many impressive projects that have resulted from strong partnerships. Several ongoing initiatives show how joint ventures like these can affect so many different aspects of the District's operations.

By collaborating with the St. Charles Park District, Wheaton Park District's Cosley Zoo, the Peggy Notebaert Museum and Brookfield Zoo, the District is continuing its efforts to bolster local populations of state-endangered Blanding's turtles through a captive-rearing and release program.

In Oak Brook, Mayslake Peabody Estate is continuing its long-standing partnership with First Folio Theatre, which for over 15 years has brought an array of works from William Shakespeare, Noel Coward and award-winning modern playwrights to the grounds and the interior of the 1920s estate.

And countywide, the District is working with the villages of Winfield and Carol Stream and with the road districts of Winfield and Wayne townships to improve public access by adding 4 new miles to the West Branch Regional Trail, which will connect with Timber Ridge, West Branch, Winfield Mounds and West DuPage Woods forest preserves.

But I believe that the District's most successful partnerships over the years have been with the people of DuPage County. From ballot boxes to inboxes, you've voiced your support of the District's state-mandated mission "to acquire and hold lands ... for the education, pleasure and recreation of its citizens." You've called for the protection of undeveloped natural areas, which create matchless habitats for native plants and animals and unbeatable flood-control areas and stress-relief destinations for humans. You've made it known that DuPage County's 25,000 acres of forest preserve land need to be here for tomorrow's visitors as well as today's and should never be sacrificed for private use.

The Forest Preserve District remains the award-winning agency it is in no small part to the continued support of its partners. And to every one of you, I say thanks.

D. "Dewey" Pierotti Jr.

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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For schedules and agendas, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

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On the cover: Lady fern © Robin Brewer

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



4



6



8



22



24

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news & notes



COMING Soon

This summer, work will continue on a new off-leash dog area at Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve in Bartlett and model airfield at Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne. Construction should end by fall 2014, but the areas will not open until the turf firmly takes root. Until then, the existing airfield and dog area at Pratt's Wayne Woods will remain open.

The new airfield will feature a 300-foot asphalt runway, a smooth 4-acre mowed turf area and 23 acres of overfly area. The 34-acre off-leash dog area will have fenced turf areas for large and small dogs, a separate fenced trail, a double-gate entry system and a 57-car parking lot.

The existing areas at Pratt's Wayne Woods are near the high-quality Brewster Creek ecosystem, which often causes the areas to flood. The new locations will not only minimize flooding issues but also allow the District to restore the valuable ecosystem.

Canadian National is funding the construction of the sites as part of a cooperative agreement with the District, which is allowing the company to construct a new railway connection next to Pratt's Wayne Woods.

VIEW MEETINGS ONLINE LIVE AND ON DEMAND

Starting April 1 the public will be able to watch live streaming or previous recordings of Forest Preserve District commission meetings and planning sessions on dupageforest.org.

Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 3S580 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.



THANKS, VOLUNTEERS!

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 6 – 12, the Forest Preserve District applauds its 907 long-term volunteers and 80 group volunteers. Last fiscal year these dedicated individuals donated more than 74,000 hours with an in-kind value of more than \$1.638 million. The District will honor its volunteers and recognize those with milestone accomplishments on May 1 at its annual banquet.



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KEEPING IT GREEN

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center has named the Forest Preserve District a 2013 winner of the Governor's Sustainability Award, which recognizes organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

In addition to citing the District's role as a steward of more than 25,000 acres of open space, the center recognized the agency's long-standing dedication to the use of alternative fuels, which has significantly reduced emissions generated by vehicles and equipment. In fact in the last fiscal year alone, the fleet prevented the creation of 619,014 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

The ISTC has presented the Governor's Sustainability Award annually since 1987 and selects winners through a rigorous examination led by technical experts.



ACCOLADES FLOCK TO KLINE CREEK FARM

At its annual meeting in January, the DeKalb County Lamb and Wool Producers presented Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago with the group's Distinguished Service Award for the farm's commitment to agriculture, education and the promotion of the lamb and wool industry.

Kline Creek Farm's staff and volunteers have raised Southdown sheep since 1997. The flock has won numerous awards at state and county fairs and has been a part of countless educational opportunities for the public. On April 26 and 27, it will take center stage at the 1890s living-history farm during the "Sheep Shearing" weekend, which features demonstrations of shearing, herding and more. See the listing on Page 20 for details.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the following donors who contributed to its efforts between Nov. 1, 2013, and Feb. 28, 2014. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org.

Special-Event Business Sponsors

Cedric Springs
Honest Tea
I Have A Bean

Gifts of Note

Lieselotte Gengler
\$5,000 — Mayslake Hall Restoration Society

Robert R. McCormick Foundation
\$2,581.99 — The Friends of Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Harold and Mary Bamford
\$1,500 — Annual support of Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Mary Alipour
\$1,001 — St. James Farm

Seth Becker
\$1,000 — Annual support of Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Exxon Mobil
\$1,000 — Mayslake Hall Restoration Society in recognition of volunteer hours contributed by Marilyn LeMire

Hoghton Family Charitable Trust
\$1,000 — Grant to the Friends for the purchase of microscope digital imaging equipment and a spectrophotometer for the aquatic monitoring program

Carol O'Neal
\$1,000 — Tribute bench at Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Paobu Sports
\$1,000 — Recreational activities

Roux Associates Inc.
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center's Adopt-An-Animal program



© Julie Falk

IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE

With the arrival of the spring breeding season, Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn reminds residents that it is normal for wild animals to leave their young alone for several hours at a time while they look for food. Human intervention may be helpful, though, if an animal is injured or truly abandoned. Call Willowbrook at (630) 942-6200, or email willowbrook@dupageforest.org for guidance. Calls are answered daily 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and after-hours recordings provide general information.

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!

Fiddleheads and Fronds

by **SCOTT KOBAL**, FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT ECOLOGIST

Of all the plants that grow in DuPage County, no group seems to attract more curiosity and questions than the ferns. “True” ferns and closely related plants called “fern allies” make up only 29 of the 1,000 native species that grow in the county, but their intricate, often delicate symmetry makes them appealing to many forest preserve visitors.

Ferns and fern allies are members of an ancient division of plants that dates back to the Carboniferous Period 359 million years ago — if not earlier. Similar to grasses, trees and flowers, they’re “vascular plants,” which means they have stems, roots, leaves, and internal tissues that carry water and minerals and convert light, carbon dioxide and water into food, a process better known as photosynthesis.

Unlike other vascular plants, though, ferns and fern allies don’t use seeds to reproduce. In fact for decades botanists didn’t know how they did it, referring to them as “cryptogams,” meaning “hidden reproduction.” Eventually, scientists discovered that the plants relied on a method that predated seed production by roughly 40 million years: spores.

Spores are dust-sized, single-celled bodies that develop inside sacks called “sporangia.” The specific way a plant produces spores and the ensuing path those spores take to develop into new plants determines if a species is a “true fern” or a “fern ally.” The sporangia develop on a plant’s “fertile” leaves, versus its “sterile” ones, but because sporangia can be different shades of red or brown, some first-time observers may mistakenly think they are signs of disease or pests.

Once the spores mature, the plants release them into the air, but few land in appropriate places to grow, and for those that do, the road to becoming a plant is complex. Unlike a seed that becomes a coneflower or an acorn that develops into an oak, a spore does not grow directly into a fern or fern ally. For most species, the spore first develops into a tiny heart-shaped plant, which then develops the male and female reproductive parts



© Robert Klips

◀ Sporangia on a frond of spinulose woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*)

◀ Sensitive fern
(*Onoclea sensibilis*)



▲ Maidenhair fern
(*Adiantum pedatum*)

▲ Water fern
(*Azolla caroliniana*)

▲ Christmas fern fiddlehead
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

that release the cells that join to create a new plant.

To grow, ferns and their allies require specific temperatures, moisture levels and soil pH. Some require rock with particular mineral compositions. Like flowering plants, some can handle a range of conditions while other less-tolerant species have restricted distributions. In DuPage County, the majority of ferns grow in moist woodlands.

This time of year ferns are helping to fill in the bare spring soil, although in a slightly different manner than other plants. Fern leaves, which are also called “fronds,” develop underground and emerge in tight coils, which help them push through the soil. Because the young leaves resemble violin scrolls, they’re known as “fiddleheads.” (Specialty grocery stores carry certain species of fiddleheads in their produce department. Cooks prepare them like asparagus. Several kinds of ferns are carcinogenic, though, so never pick your own.)

One of the more common species of fern is the sensitive fern, which also grows in marshes and other habitats. Its name may suggest it’s a less-than-hardy species, but “sensitive” refers only to the sterile fronds on the plant, which die back after the first frost. In southern Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne, sensitive ferns and marsh ferns were so numerous when the District purchased the land in the late 1980s it named the area Fern Meadows.

Lady fern has an elegant appearance, as does the spinulose woodfern with its “spinule-” or spine-tipped leaves.

Common horsetail ▶
(*Equisetum arvense*)



Rattlesnake fern, which usually grows singly rather than in clumps, gets its name from its fertile leaves, which look like the snakes’ tails. Ebony spleenwort is one of the ferns that remains green year-round; you can see it through winter, provided the snow isn’t too deep. A personal favorite, though, is the maidenhair fern with its finely textured, somewhat frilly fronds and curved, fingerlike stalks. Unfortunately, this fern has become rare in DuPage County.

Ferns are familiar to most visitors, but fern allies likely are not. To add to the confusion between the two groups, some allies have “fern” or “moss” in their common names.

Like true ferns, fern allies grow in different circumstances, sizes and shapes. Horsetail and its relatives do just fine in the gravel along railroad tracks and in other degraded habitats, but bulblet fern and purple cliff brake can survive only in shaded cliffs and canyons rich in the mineral dolomite. The water fern, a true aquatic species, floats, but bracken fern

requires dry soil. The marsh club moss is so tiny that people often mistake it for a moss; the leaves of an ostrich fern can span over 3 feet. And although glade quillwort has narrow grasslike leaves, the always green trailing ground pine and other “ground pines” and “ground cedars” look like miniature trees (while adding to the list of confusing common names).

You can see images of all of these ferns and fern allies at dupageforest.org/ferns. DuPage County’s list may be short, but the beauty these plants bring to our forest preserves is endless. •

spring calendar

See pages 10 through 21 for program descriptions.
Cancellation policies vary by program.



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
apr	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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			jun		

April

- 1** Eco 30: Picture Your Preserve Photography Exhibit Begins
Eco 30: Transformation Tuesdays
- 3** Spring Break Spruce Up
- 4** Sit and Stitch
Spring Break Spruce Up
- 5** Art at Mayslake: Bookbinding Workshop
Eco 30: Kids Happy Hour
Spring Into Volunteering
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Eco 30: Organic Gardening
Introduction to Prescription Burns
The Return of the Large Predators
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 8** Eco 30: Transformation Tuesdays
Landscaping With Native Plants
- 9** Eco 30: Homemade 101
- 10** WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake: Ben Paterson Trio
- 11** FullersBird Fridays
- 12** Eco 30: Geocaching Cache In-Trash Out
Eco 30: Kids Happy Hour
Helping Hands at Herrick Lake
Volunteer Restoration Workdays
- 13** Eco 30: Design Your Veggie Garden
- 14** Forest Fitness Walk
- 15** Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
Eco 30: Transformation Tuesdays
- 18** FullersBird Fridays
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 19** Navigating and Wayfinding: Orienteering for Beginners
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Art at Mayslake: Finding Your Writer's Voice Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 22** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors Begins
Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
Eco 30: Transformation Tuesdays
Lectures at Mayslake: Chicago's Sweet Candy History
- 23** Archery for All Ages
Eco 30: Worms Eat My Garbage Workshop
- 25** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
- 26** Eco 30: Recycling Extravaganza
Sheep Shearing
Volunteer Restoration Workday
When Darkness Falls
- 27** Eco 30: Bike Your Preserve
Fishing for Bass
Sheep Shearing
- 28** Forest Fitness Walk
- 29** Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
Eco 30: Transformation Tuesdays
Fishing Clinic for Active Adults Begins
- 30** Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday



May

- 2** FullersBird Fridays
Sit and Stitch
- 3** Boy Scout Merit Badges: Bird Study Begins
Navigating and Wayfinding:
 Orienteering for Beginners
Plowing
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Weekend River Trip Begins
- 4** Archery for All Ages
Lectures at Mayslake: The Ups and Downs of
 Dining in the Gilded Age
Plowing
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Art at Mayslake: Basic Designs With Collage Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 6** Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Digital Photography Begins
Navigating and Wayfinding:
 Geocaching for Active Adults
- 8** Archery for All Ages
WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake:
 Frank Caruso and Friends
- 9** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
FullersBird Fridays
Native-Plant Sale
- 10** Native-Plant Sale
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Fishing Clinic for Kids
Fishing for Muskie
- 12** Forest Fitness Walk
- 13** Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
Lectures at Mayslake: How a Garden
 Can Make a Difference
- 14** Archery for Active Adults
Archery for All Ages
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 15** Cycling for Active Adults
Day at the Farm Field Trip
- 16** Day at the Farm Field Trip
Fishing With Slip Bobbers
FullersBird Fridays
- 17** Archery the Traditional Way
Birding Field Trip
International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
Paddle With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Day at the Farm Field Trip
Forest Fitness Walk
Kayaking Basics
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 20** Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook
Fishing 101
- 22** Kayaking Basics
Mayslake at Night
- 23** Fishing for Panfish
FullersBird Fridays
- 24** Family Field Day at St. James Farm
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Navigating and Wayfinding: Geocaching
- 26** Memorial Day Remembered
- 27** Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
- 28** Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 29** Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker
- 30** Archery for All Ages
FullersBird Fridays
- 31** Boy Scout Merit Badges:
 Reptile and Amphibian Study Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday

spring calendar



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June

- 2** Forest Fitness Walk
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 3** Home-Schoolers Nature Hike
Twilight Tuesdays
- 5** Evening in the Country
Fishing by Kayak
- 6** Archery for Adults
Sit and Stitch
- 7** Birding Field Trip
Glad Rags and Giggle Water:
A 1919-Themed Fundraiser
Navigating and Wayfinding: Geocaching
St. James Farm Saturday Tours:
Cultural and Natural History
- 8** Field Exploration
Just for Kids Fishing Derby
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Kayaking Basics
- 10** Twilight Tuesdays
- 11** Archery for All Ages
- 12** Fishing Flowing Waters
WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake:
Elmhurst College Jazz Band
- 14** Archery for All Ages
St. James Farm Saturday Tours:
The 1906 Burlington & Quincy Caboose
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** DuPage Junior Golf School Begins
Fishing off the Beaten Path
Twilight Tuesdays
- 20** Fishing Clinic for Beginners
Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday
- 21** Archery the Traditional Way
Mammoth Hike
St. James Farm Saturday Tours: Nature Walk
- 22** Blackwell History Hike
Trek Sawmill Creek
- 23** Art at Mayslake: Drawing and
Painting From Nature for Kids Begins
Art at Mayslake: Girls Write! Begins
Navigating and Wayfinding:
Compass Class 101
- 24** Archery for All Ages
Twilight Tuesdays
- 25** Archery Fun Shoot
Kayaking Basics
- 26** Ride the Trails
- 28** The Buzz on Pollinators
Celebrating the Fourth
Paddle With a Ranger
St. James Farm Saturday Tours:
The Artwork of St. James Farm
- 29** Celebrating the Fourth



© Brian Tang





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 April 30. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 14	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 23. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 6	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Archery for All Ages

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

Apr 23	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
May 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
May 8, 30	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
May 14	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 11	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jun 14	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Jun 24	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Archery Fun Shoot

Join this tournament for novices with awards for the top three competitors. Bring your own equipment; no crossbows. Some equipment for loan at no cost. Ages 7 – 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 11. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 25	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
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Archery the Traditional Way

Learn techniques of traditional archery using World Archery Federation-style targets. Bring your own equipment; no crossbows. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 5. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 17	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
Jun 21	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell

Art at Mayslake

Explore your creative side in an inspiring setting. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Adult Painting

During these eight-part classes for all skill levels, learn about color mixing, composition and elements of design. Mondays except May 26. Adults only. \$165 per person.

Apr 7 – Jun 2	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Jun 9 – Jul 28	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Basic Designs With Collage

Learn the basics with various materials and techniques at this eight-week course. Mondays except May 19 and 26. Adults only. \$165 per person.

May 5 – Jul 7	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Bookbinding Workshop

Create a handmade journal with collage and Coptic stitch bookbinding. Adults only. \$65 plus \$15 supply fee per person.

Apr 5	9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Digital Photography

Bring your camera and creativity to this five-part workshop for beginners held in partnership with the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club. Wednesdays except May 14. Adults only. \$150 per person.

May 7 – Jun 11	7 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Drawing and Painting From Nature for Kids

Work on the basics or improve your skills by combining art with nature in this six-part program. Mondays except July 14. Ages 9 – 11. \$125 plus \$10 supply fee per person.

Jun 23 – Aug 4	5 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
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Exploring Watercolors

Enhance your artistic style while painting in a beautiful, relaxed setting at one of the six-part programs below. Tuesdays except May 27. Adults only. \$125 per person.

Apr 22 – Jun 3	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Intermediate</i>
Apr 22 – Jun 3	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Beginner</i>

spring calendar



Finding Your Writer's Voice

Learn about the power of voice and how to sharpen yours to keep readers turning the pages at this six-part program. Mondays except May 26. Adults only. \$125 per person.

Apr 21 – Jun 2 7 – 9 p.m. Mayslake

Girls Write!

Learn different writing techniques at this girls-only five-day camp. Ages 10 – 11. \$140 per person.

Jun 23 – 27 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake

Birding Field Trip

Look for resident and migratory species. Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Groups of 10 or more must register. Call (630) 933-7681.

May 17	7:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Jun 7	7:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie

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.

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 an hour of mom's chores; on Thursdays, dad's.

June 2 – Aug. 28

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 2 – Aug. 25

Mondays at 10 a.m.

Birding Tuesdays at Willowbrook

Learn the basics, and look for feathered friends during a Tuesday stroll in the Back 40. Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Registration not required. Call (630) 942-6200.

Apr 15 – May 20 8 – 9:30 a.m. Willowbrook

Blackwell History Hike

Learn about the preserve's natural and cultural history on a 2-mile ranger-led hike. All ages; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 9. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 22 1 – 3 p.m. Blackwell

Boy Scout Merit Badges

Scouts ages 11 – 17, meet badge requirements in these two-part programs. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Bird Study

Learn bird identification and binocular basics, and see banding demonstrations and more. \$50 per Scout.

May 3	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 17	10 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook

Reptile and Amphibian Study

Learn the natural history of snakes, turtles, lizards and more during hikes and hands-on demonstrations. \$40 per Scout.

May 31	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 7	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods

The Buzz on Pollinators

Learn about native pollinators, meet a beekeeper and find ways to be pollinator friendly with hikes, crafts and activities at this family-friendly event. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9586.

Jun 28 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mayslake

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 28, 29 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

All camps fill on a first-come, first-served basis.
For registration forms and waivers, visit
dupageforest.org/kidscamps.



Camp FBW

Ages 4 – 12

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook

Learn about nature art, camping and ecosystems through projects and hands-on exploration in half-day camps you can combine into full-day adventures. For details, call (630) 850-8110.

**Per Half-Day Camp: \$110 DuPage resident
\$135 Nonresident**

Session 1 June 23 – 26

Ages 4 – 6 Habitat Hunters 1, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Habitat Hunters 2, 12:30 – 3 p.m.
Lil' Campers, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 7 – 9 Critter Camp, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Feathered Frenzy, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Camping Adventures, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Session 2 July 7 – 10

Ages 4 – 6 Bugtastic, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Petite Artists, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Plant Power, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 7 – 9 Eco Explore, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
Camp FBW ROCKS!, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Ages 10 – 12 Outdoor Adventures, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Go! Camp Environmental Science Merit Badge

Ages 11 – 17

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center in Oak Brook

Boy Scouts, have fun exploring the environment while fulfilling requirements you'll need to advance to Eagle Scout. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Wednesday and overnight 10 a.m. Thursday – 9 a.m. Friday. For details, call (630) 850-8110.

\$175 DuPage resident, \$200 Nonresident

Aug. 4 – 8

Kline Creek Farmhands

Ages 7 – 12

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Experience life on an 1890s farm, including chores and games. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. For details, call (630) 876-5900.

Per Session: \$100 DuPage resident, \$125 Nonresident

Session 1 June 9, 12, 13	Session 2 June 16, 19, 20
Session 3 June 23, 26, 27	Session 4 July 7, 10, 11
Session 5 July 14, 17, 18	Session 6 July 21, 24, 25
Session 7 July 28, 31 and Aug. 1	

Horse Sense

Ages 10 – 14

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy hands-on experiences with horses and the daily activities of a working barn plus arts and crafts, games, and supervised lead-line rides. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. For details, call (630) 668-6012.

Per Session: \$203 DuPage resident, \$232 Nonresident

Session 1 June 2 – 6
Session 3 June 16 – 20
Session 5 July 7 – 11
Session 7 July 21 – 25
Session 9 Aug. 4 – 8

Riding Sense

Ages 12 – 14

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy all of the fun of "Horse Sense" plus a daily one-hour riding lesson. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily. For details, call (630) 668-6012.

Per Session: \$342 DuPage resident, \$376 Nonresident

Session 2 June 9 – 13
Session 4 June 23 – 27
Session 6 July 14 – 18
Session 8 July 28 – Aug. 1
Session 10 Aug. 11 – 15

Wild by Nature

Ages 9 – 12

Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in Darien

Discover natural history through safe exploration and play in wild places. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Monday at Willowbrook; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Tuesday at Blackwell; overnight 9 a.m. Wednesday – 9 a.m. Thursday at Waterfall Glen. For details, call (630) 942-6200.

Per Session: \$100 DuPage resident, \$125 Nonresident

Session 1 June 23 – 26	Session 2 July 28 – 31
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Wildlife Explorers

Ages 6 – 8

Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Learn how you're part of nature through games, activities and stories. 9 a.m. – noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Willowbrook and 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Thursday for a cookout at Herrick Lake. For details, call (630) 942-6200.

Per Session: \$100 DuPage resident, \$125 Nonresident

Session 1 June 16 – 19	Session 2 July 14 – 17
Session 3 Aug. 4 – 7	



spring calendar



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Cycling for Active Adults

Tour several forest preserves during this 15- to 18-mile ranger-led ride. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins May 1. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 15	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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Day at the Farm Field Trip

School and home-school groups, learn about 1890s chores and family life through fun activities. Ages 6 – 12 with an adult. \$5 per student. To register, call (630) 876-5900.

May 15, 16, 19	9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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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, call (630) 451-3471, or visit dupagegolf.com.

Jun 17, 19, 24, 26	9:30 – 11 a.m.	Oak Meadows
Jul 1	9:30 – 11 a.m.	Oak Meadows

Eco 30

Celebrate 30 days of living green. For details, call (630) 850-8110.

Bike Your Preserve

Get a safety check from a forest preserve police officer, and then pedal along 5 miles of Fullersburg Woods trails. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required.

Apr 27	Noon – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Canoe, Kayak and Rowboat Rentals

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville
Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Rentals begin April 5 at Blackwell and May 3 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.

Design Your Veggie Garden

Learn how to optimize space and yields and minimize crowding. Ages 16 and up. Free. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 13	11 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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Geocaching Cache In-Trash Out Volunteer Workday and Passport Release

Learn about habitat restoration and geocaching, and pick up a 2014 geocaching passport. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 by April 7. Groups of five or more must call by March 31.

Apr 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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Homemade 101

Test simple alternatives against commercial products, leave with recipes and samples, and learn why green cleaning can be better for your health, the environment and your wallet. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 9	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Kids Happy Hour

Stop by the lower level of the visitor center for earth- and kid-friendly activities and crafts. Best for ages 4 – 10 but open to all ages. Free. Registration not required.

Apr 5, 12	1 – 3 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Organic Gardening

Discover the rewards of growing organic veggies and herbs at home. Topics include pest control and soil amendments. Ages 16 and up. Free. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 6	11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Picture Your Preserve Photography Exhibit

Enjoy an exhibit of DuPage forest preserve images taken by local photographers. All ages. Free. Registration not required.

Apr 1 – 30	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Recycling Extravaganza

Load up your car with recyclables, and head for this drive-through community event instead of the landfill. See the calendar at dupageforest.org for accepted items. All ages. Free. Registration not required.

Apr 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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Transformation Tuesdays

Transform your life by making simple changes to become greener. Visit facebook.com/fullersburgwoods each Tuesday in April for fun challenges for you and your family.

Apr 1 – 29

Worms Eat My Garbage Vermicomposting Workshop

Learn how worms transform organic waste into soil through this hands-on composting class. Leave with a starter kit for home. Ages 16 and up. \$15 per person. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 23 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Evening in the Country

Pack a picnic dinner to enjoy on the grounds, explore the buildings and join special party activities in celebration of Kline Creek Farm's 25th anniversary. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 5 5 – 8 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the farm's heritage 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 24 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. St. James Farm

Field Exploration

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

Jun 8 8 – 11 a.m. West Chicago Prairie

Fishing 101

Learn the basics of fishing through indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Adults only. Free. Registration begins May 6. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 20 4 – 6 p.m. Mayslake

Fishing by Kayak

Join this intermediate paddling clinic, and learn how fishing from a kayak differs from fishing from shore. 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 May 22. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 5 4 – 6 p.m. Hidden Lake

Fishing Clinic for Active Adults

Get started or reacquainted with fishing through this two-part program that includes indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 15. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 29 9 – 11 a.m. Mayslake
May 1 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 25 4 – 6 p.m. Blackwell
May 9 5 – 7 p.m. Blackwell
Jun 20 5 – 7 p.m. St. James Farm



Covered Wagon Tours

St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville

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 – Sept. 28
Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

spring calendar

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Cultural Events

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "SALVAGE"

The life of an owner of a collectables store turns topsy-turvy when a mysterious woman enters with valuable items that should no longer exist. Ages 14 and up with an adult. \$22 – 37 per person. For tickets, call (630) 986-8067, or visit firstfolio.org.

March 26 – April 27

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Sundays 3 p.m.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE FACULTY ART EXHIBIT

Take in a diverse range of works from instructors who teach at Mayslake. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Through May 2

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER ART EXHIBIT

Enjoy the artwork by the talented people who support the District. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

May 13 – June 20

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) 206-9566.

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

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

Fishing Clinic for Kids

Learn about different kinds of fish, the best ways to catch them and rules to remember. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 28. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 11

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Hidden Lake

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 May 29. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 12

6 – 8 p.m.

Fullersburg Woods

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 April 14. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 27

4 – 6 p.m.

Hidden Lake

Fishing for Muskie

Learn how to tell the difference between a muskie and a northern pike, and learn the structure and habitat muskie prefer. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins April 28. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 11

1 – 3 p.m.

Mallard Lake

Fishing for Panfish

Learn how to fish for crappie, bluegill and other panfish with small artificial baits. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 9. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 23

5 – 7 p.m.

Cricket Creek

Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker

Learn to fish on the lake bottom for a variety of species. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins May 15. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 29

5 – 7 p.m.

Meacham Grove

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 3. Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 17

4 – 7 p.m.

Waterfall Glen



© Mike Shimer

Fishing With Slip Bobbers

Learn one of the most effective techniques for fishing with live bait. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Registration begins May 2. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 16	5 – 7 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Forest Fitness Walk

Enjoy some brisk 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.

Apr 7	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 14	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Apr 21	8:30 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Apr 28	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Lyman Woods
May 5	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 12	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Herrick Lake
May 19	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne Woods
Jun 2	8:30 – 10 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Jun 9	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

FullersBird Fridays

See how the diversity of birds changes throughout spring at these naturalist-led Friday hikes. Adults only. \$6 per person per hike; \$40 per 10-program pass. To register, call (630) 850-8110.

Apr 11 – May 30	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Glad Rags and Giggle Water A 1919-Themed Fundraiser

Experience the styles and trends from the year World War I ended and prohibition in Illinois began. Enjoy food, music, a silent auction and more. Proceeds benefit the Mayslake Hall Restoration Society. Adults only. \$65 per person. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

Jun 7	6:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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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 by April 7; groups of five or more must call by March 31.

Apr 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake
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Home-Schoolers Nature Hike

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

Apr 18	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	James "Pate" Phillip
May 27	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Hawk Hollow
Jun 3	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

International Migratory Bird Day

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

May 17	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.	Beginners Bird Walk <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>
	9 – 11 a.m.	Bird-Banding Demos <i>Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>
	10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Kids Bird Walk <i>Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.</i>



Family Camping

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The campground has over 60 wooded and semiwooded sites and is open on Friday and Saturday nights in May and June and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights July through September. It's also open daily June 27 through July 6. Nature programs are offered all season. For permits and information, call (630) 933-7248.

spring calendar



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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 March 24. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 6	1 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Just for Kids Fishing Derby

Join the 28th 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 8	8 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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Kayaking Basics

Learn the basics 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 19	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 22	5 – 7 p.m.	East Branch
Jun 9	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jun 25	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove

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. \$5 per person. To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 8	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Lectures at Mayslake

To register, call (630) 206-9566.

Chicago's Sweet Candy History

Join historian Leslie Goddard for the history behind Chicago's tasty treats, and explore what made the city such a powerful location for candy makers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Apr 22	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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How a Garden Can Make a Difference

Hear author and speaker Shawna Coronado discuss how converting her front yard into a vegetable garden transformed her life and community. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person.

May 13	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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The Ups and Downs of Dining in the Gilded Age

Learn about the eating habits of wealthy 1920s families through a first-person portrayal of a cook and butler, and try an authentic treat from the era. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. An optional \$5-per-person tour of Mayslake Hall begins one hour before each program.

May 4	Noon – 2 p.m. 3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Golfing

Forest Preserve District golf courses are a great way to enjoy open space. Outings and leagues are available at these three distinct facilities for golfers of all abilities. For details, availability and specials, visit dupagegolf.com.

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

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

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



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. \$1 per person. Registration begins June 7. Call (630) 942-6200.

Jun 21	9 – 11 a.m.	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 begins May 5. Call (630) 206-9581.

May 22	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Memorial Day Remembered

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

May 26	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Native-Plant Sale

Fill your garden with plants adapted to DuPage, and get advice on selection and design. Proceeds support educational programming. For plant lists and presale orders, visit dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale. Call (630) 933-7208.

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

Navigating and Wayfinding

To register, call (630) 933-7248.

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 June 9.

Jun 23	5 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
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Geocaching for Active Adults

See a demonstration, and then use a GPS unit to find hidden caches. Ages 50 and up. Free. Registration begins April 23.

May 7	10 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
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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.

May 25	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 7	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Orienteering for Beginners

Learn basic map and compass skills that will help you navigate through all types of terrain. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration begins two weeks prior.

Apr 19	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
May 3	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

Paddle With a Ranger

Join a ranger for a paddle on Salt Creek. Bring your 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 two weeks prior. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 17	8 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 28	8 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Plowing

Watch members of the Illinois Draft Horse and Mule Association use draft animals to prepare Kline Creek Farm's fields for spring planting. Weather permitting. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

May 3, 4	10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Horse-Drawn Hayrides

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Enjoy a ride through prairies and woodlands as you learn about this historic preserve. These 30-minute rides depart every 45 minutes. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Passengers pay the driver on a first-come, first-served basis (cash or check only). Groups of 15 or more should reserve private rides, which have different fees and dates. Call (630) 668-6012.

May 3 – June 29 (except May 24 and 25)
Saturdays and Sundays
Noon – 3 p.m.

spring calendar



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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 12 and up. \$1 per person. Registration begins March 23. Call (630) 942-6200.

Apr 6	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Ride the Trails

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

Jun 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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Sheep Shearing

Watch sheepdogs herd the flock and farmhands shear sheep, and learn how wool becomes yarn. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 26, 27	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Sit and Stitch

Enjoy camaraderie and pick up pointers while working on your 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 2	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jun 6	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm



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Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

The overlook is open Saturdays and Sundays May through October from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting, but may close without notice due to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities. Call (630) 792-2100.

Spring Break Spruce Up

Help prepare the kitchen garden, clean the animal pens, repair fences and spruce up around the farm. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 3, 4	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Spring Into Volunteering

Show Earth some kindness and help clean up a popular preserve. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. To register, call (630) 933-7681 by March 31; groups of five or more must call by March 24.

Apr 5	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Reservoir
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St. James Farm Saturday Tours

Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

The 1906 Burlington & Quincy Caboose

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

Jun 14	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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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 28	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 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 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free.

Jun 7	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Nature Walk

Examine blooming native plants along the trails and in the prairies during a relaxing 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. Free.

Jun 21	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Trek Sawmill Creek

Join a ranger-led hike and discover what lurks in and around Sawmill Creek. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration begins June 9. To register, call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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Twilight Tuesdays

Stop by the visitor center, or walk and discover the insects, birds and mammals that begin to stir when the sun starts to set. All ages; under 16 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 850-8110.

Jun 3, 10, 17, 24	5 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Volunteer Native-Plant-Nursery Workday

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seed. Ages 12 and up; under 18 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 19, 30	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
May 3, 14, 19, 28	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Jun 2, 14, 20	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help restore a natural area by removing nonnative plants or seeding. Ages 8 and up; under 18 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 5, 6, 12, 19, 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Apr 6	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Apr 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Warrenville Grove
Apr 26	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
May 4	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
May 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
May 17	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jun 8	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jun 8	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Jun 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods

WDCB Jazz Salon at Mayslake

Enjoy jazz in the suburbs. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 premier seating; \$20 general admission; \$18 for seniors over 65, students, and groups of six or more. An optional \$5-per-person tour of Mayslake Hall will begin 30 minutes before each program. For tickets, call (630) 206-9566.

Apr 10	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Ben Paterson Trio</i>
May 8	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Frank Caruso and Friends</i>
Jun 12	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake <i>Elmhurst College Jazz Band</i>

Weekend River Trip

Paddle the West Branch DuPage River, and spend the night under the stars during this guided two-day trip, which ends on May 4 at 1 p.m. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$50 per person. Registration begins April 21. Call (630) 933-7248.

May 3	12:30 p.m.	McDowell Grove
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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 14. Call (630) 933-7248.

Apr 26	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 5 at 6 a.m. Anglers 16 and up must possess valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. For details, call (630) 933-7248.

◀ Getting those unusual angles can give you a new perspective of the forest preserves.

Picture This

by JAYNE BOHNER, OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

My house has bare walls. It's not that I'm a minimalist but rather that every time I see a framed landscape or dewy blossom there's a sense of indifference. I'm not a professional photographer. Even "hobbyist" is a stretch. But I know that every time I hit the trails at a DuPage forest preserve, I see images more striking and personal than any in the housewares aisle. Fortunately, with the help of 21st-century technology and some advice from photographer and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County volunteer Mike Shimer, my walls might soon get some color.

"Auto" is not a four-letter word.

Over the past 10 years, camera prices have plummeted while technology has gone through the roof. Some cameras with a lot of automatic features also let you manually focus your shot or adjust how much light the lens takes in. This can unleash some crazy creativity, but don't be afraid to rely on preset options at first, such as the "program mode," which automatically controls how wide the lens opens and for how long.

"Digital cameras are very sophisticated and can make quick, complicated decisions that you or I can't in a lot of cases," Mike says. "I know many professionals who put

their cameras in program mode in situations they're not comfortable with."

When you're ready to experiment, take a few shots on auto first. You can use them as reference points to compare against more tailored shots or, if necessary, as backups.

Let your phone be your friend.

"There are some very good professionals that shoot exclusively on a smartphone, tweaking every electron out of it. Of course the best part is that in most cases you always have yours with you," says Mike.

Even smartphones can help you ►
create stunning landscapes.





© Mike Shiner

He's a fan of some of the special settings his phone has, too. "I like shooting landscapes. I think they reveal the scene closely to the way you witnessed it. So one feature I especially like on my phone is the panorama setting."

Like cameras, many phones also have a setting for close-ups that allows the lens to focus on objects only a few inches away. This can help you capture subtle details, such as the texture of a flower's petal.

Snap, snap, snap.

Those in the under 30 crowd might not remember, but pictures were once shot on film, which you had to purchase and then pay to have developed. So it's understandable that many casual photographers got in the habit of thinking carefully before pressing the shutter release. But today, inexpensive data cards can hold up to a thousand high-quality images, so there's no reason to be stingy.

"The best thing that happened to us picture lovers is the digital camera. Shoot several shots of your subject if you can. Try different settings. You'll get more pictures you like, and each time you go out you'll get better," Mike suggests.

Get in the habit, though, of regularly downloading and backing up your photos, even ones from your phone, and of editing copies and not the originals. It may seem as if there's nothing technology can't do, but even the best software can't restore corrupted files.

Try a turtle's-eye view.

On average, most of us, and our camera lenses, see the world 4 to 6 feet above the ground, but so many plants and insects hang out in knee-high habitat. Putting your lens on even ground with some of these subjects can give you unexpected results. Don't want to dust yourself off when you're done? Bring a thin picnic blanket to place between you and the trail.

The right angle, a recent rain, an automatic camera in close-up mode, and native prairie smoke can produce a pleasing image. ➤

◀ Capturing wildlife can take a lot of time and luck — or a trip to the District's Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn.

Give yourself some time.

"Sometimes you get home and your images do not seem to have the impact you felt just two hours ago," explains Mike, "but keep in mind there's more to the process of memories. There's the visual element, but there's also smell, weather, mood and the one you're with. Sometimes it takes a couple of days for my mind to tell me what to make of a shot or to show me what I might have missed when I first captured it."

Don't be afraid of a little blur.

When you finally start to review your photographs, don't immediately delete ones that weren't completely in focus. Sometimes a little bit of blur can give an image a sense of motion or really draw the eye to the subject.

"Don't be a slave to the rules of what makes a great picture. The rules are meant to be bent, possibly broken. I do it all the time. For instance, everyone is worried that the light is too low. 'My pictures are going to be blurry and not usable.' But here are some new words: They might be 'moody' and 'more interesting' instead," Mike explains.

Don't forget why you fell in love with the forest preserves in the first place.

You know you're in the groove when you start to picture your surroundings framed by a camera lens, but don't lose site of the real experience. Wait too long for your camera to boot up or fumble with a setting and you may miss the visceral aspect of seeing a red fox on the trail or an indigo bunting on a blade of big blue stem. Photography is a great way to preserve those fractions of seconds in time in a DuPage forest preserve, but don't forget to capture the other elements that make those visits so worthwhile.

And I'll see you at the frame shop. •



© Tim Good

explore

Observe Your Preserve

by DAVID GURITZ, OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Miles of trails, waterways and lakeshore give you and your family a front-row seat to the landscapes and wildlife of DuPage County's forest preserves, and for over 20 years Forest Preserve District of DuPage County ecologists, naturalists, rangers and volunteers have worked to catalog the species that make up these areas to better understand the nature of biological diversity and how to protect and preserve it. Now, casual forest preserve visitors can join their efforts by becoming observers for the District's new website, Observe Your Preserve.

A component of the District's long-standing website, dupageforest.org, Observe Your Preserve is an online field guide that offers general information as well as a cross-referencing tool you can access at home or in the preserves and can support by sharing discoveries from your own adventures. Although space prohibits detailed instructions on how to access all of the site's great features, hopefully this introduction will spark your interest and get you to visit and register at dupageforest.org/observe as soon as you're done reading!

Like the "Habitats, Plants and Animals" section of dupageforest.org, Observe Your Preserve has detailed descriptions of native species, but the innovative site goes further. Let's say you're at home and want to know what a great blue heron is and where and when you'll likely see or hear one in DuPage County. From the main page of Observe Your Preserve, you merely click on "Species" and "Birds" and type the name of the bird in the search box. Once you're on the great blue heron page, you'll see photos, a general description, notes on where you might find one in a forest preserve (in this case, bodies of water in Blackwell in Warrenville, Hidden Lake in Downers Grove and Fullersburg Woods in Oak Brook, among others) and a color-coded chart that shows which

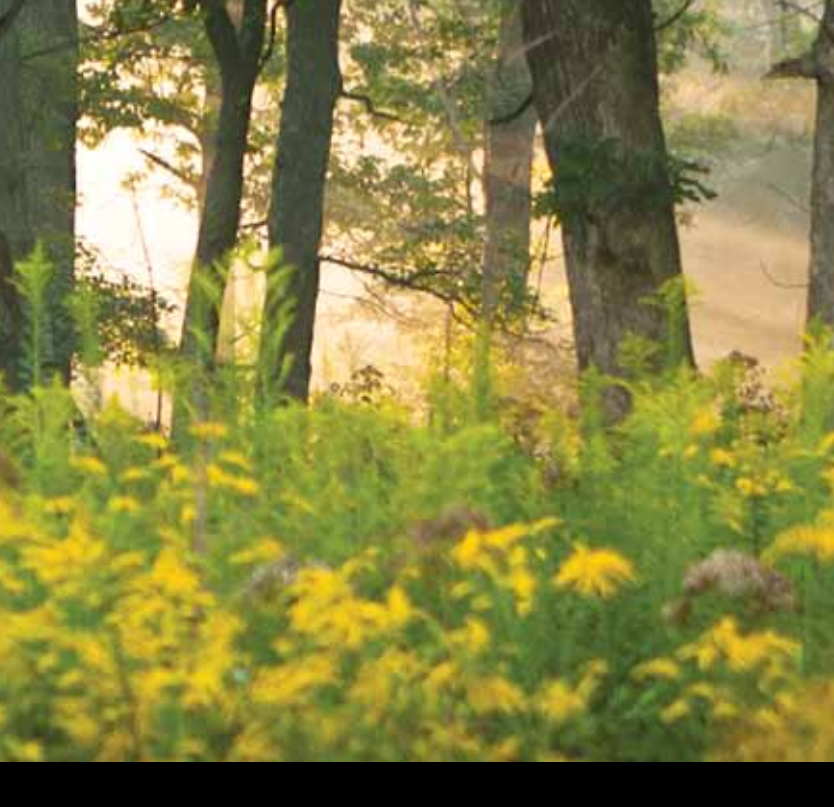


© USFWS Midwest Region

Although the District hopes to receive posts of rare, threatened, or endangered plants and animals, such as the Blanding's turtle, to protect the species it may not publish them on the site.

time of year and day the species is most active (midday May – August). You can see which habitats the great blue heron prefers (Wonder what a "monoculture marsh" is? Click on it and find out!) and read posts by fellow observers. You can also jump to individual forest preserve pages, where you'll find lists of other resident species, points of interest, and information on past and present habitat-improvement projects.

Once you register with Observe Your Preserve, if you're in a forest preserve with a tablet or smartphone that has a cellular data connection, the site can use your location (with your permission) to help you pinpoint trails, species, habitats and points of interest that ecologists, naturalists and registered visitors have already logged. However, you can also input text and photos to build a personal online archive. (Don't worry. Easy-to-follow videos on the website show you how to register and post.) The information the District receives from these kinds of posts may help ecologists and naturalists affirm existing data or



© Mike Shiner

© Jon Marshall, DJ Case & Associates

discover previously undocumented accounts. It's one of the key benefits of having a site like this tailored to DuPage County.

Observe Your Preserve also gives you a way to participate in research. After all, although the District knows a great deal about the county's preserves and resources, there are always opportunities for new discoveries. To that end, once you register you'll be invited to participate in special species monitoring projects. In spring you might be asked to help listen for frog songs, look for blooming woodland wildflowers or count migrating birds. In summer, you might be on the lookout for monarch butterflies or singing insects; in fall, the arrival of winter migrants and owl calls. In winter, projects might focus on animal tracks or coyote sightings.

For enthusiasts who want to get involved even more, the Forest Preserve District is designing programs that will help people enhance their observation skills and is focusing on ways to apply those skills and the website to its amphibian, bird, butterfly, dragonfly or rare-plant volunteer monitoring programs. For instance, researchers may opt to investigate whether or not populations of certain plants or butterflies are growing or declining in an area over time after reviewing

volunteers' posts. In some cases, this may lead to a better understanding of the scope of stewardship activities at a site or provide baseline information that might relate to future habitat restoration projects.

The District hopes Observe Your Preserve will also serve as a resource for teachers, home-schoolers and youth-group leaders and is working to help DuPage County schools incorporate the site into curricula to meet the upcoming national Next Generation Science Standards. And in 2015 the District will launch its Centennial BioBlitz, which will bring scientists and educators from across the region to survey the biological diversity at Danada and Herrick Lake forest preserves in Wheaton and Blackwell and St. James Farm forest preserves in Warrenville with the help of the website.

Ultimately, the goal of Observe Your Preserve is to encourage forest preserve fans from young students to lifelong learners to be more familiar, excited and engaged with the biological and cultural resources that make the preserves such interesting places to visit.

So visit Observe Your Preserve today at dupageforest.org/observe, and make sure to use the feedback form to share your ideas, report any glitches and ask any questions (or to give the site a thumbs up!) We look forward to reading all of your great observations this spring! •



© Sam Fraser-Smith

◀ Observers can post questions to the site, too. Is this shiny emerging vine dreaded poison ivy? There aren't any "leaves of three" here. It's Virginia creeper.

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 April through October from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. November through March hours may vary. It 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

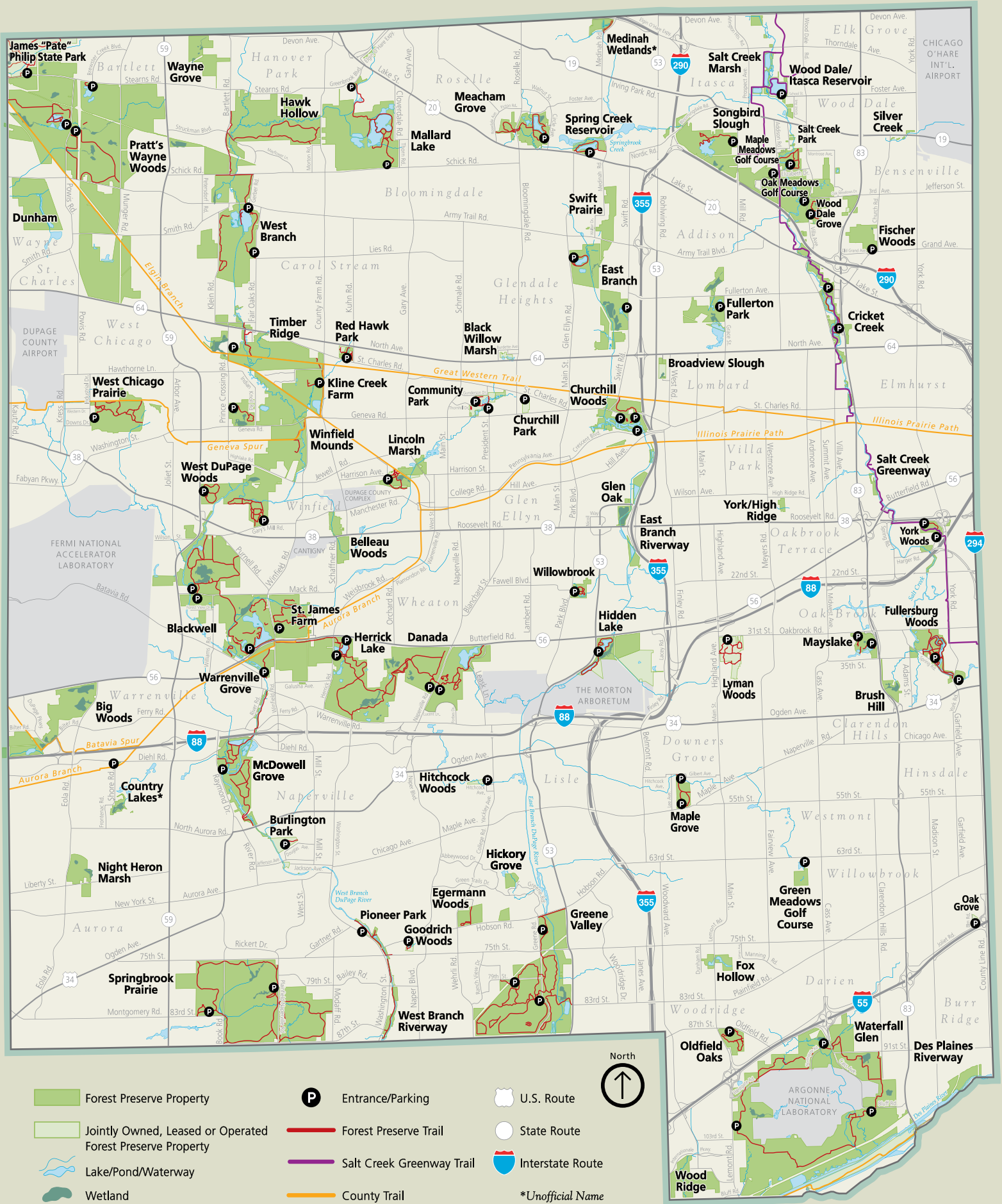
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

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.





P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189-5000
(630) 933-7200
dupageforest.org

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Spring 2014

Mark Your Calendars

Get ready for summer ...

Kids ages 4 – 14, sign up today for DuPage forest preserve summer camp fun! See Page 13 or visit dupageforest.org/kidscamps.

... and for your chance to make a difference.

Visit dupageforest.org later this spring to read how upcoming surveys and focus groups (and your opinions!) will help the District better understand how residents envision its future.



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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