

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2015**

OAK MEADOWS

**NEW LINKS TO LAND,
WATER AND GOLF**

Milkweeds for Monarchs

**CENTENNIAL FEATURE:
FOCUS ON PRESERVATION**



Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County

Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years

from the president



As the Forest Preserve District continues the summer leg of its centennial celebration, I'm encouraged by the turnout so many of our special events have received. We've been connecting people to nature for 100 years and are kicking off the next century with the same strong efforts.

It takes a lot of work from a lot of dedicated people to provide all of the restored natural areas and programs the District offers. As president, one of the things I find most rewarding is our board's ability to focus solely on managing and improving the county's forest preserves and the great ways visitors experience them. It didn't happen overnight, but the realization that one board couldn't direct the county's development and the protection of its natural resources was a key turning point in the history of this agency. I've been privileged to sit on the District's seven-member Board of Commissioners since its inception and cannot imagine successfully addressing forest preserve-specific issues any other way.

As a taxpayer, though, I find it reassuring that the board continues to form strong partnerships with other agencies (many with varying missions and goals of their own) to make the Forest Preserve District operate even more effectively. These cooperative efforts provide better services — and savings — from trail connections to floodwater-control efforts, to name a few. You can read about some of our most recent agreements in the News and Notes section of this issue.

Our centennial year isn't close to being over, and as you flip through this issue of The Conservationist and read more about this agency's first 100 years and its plans for the century to come, I hope you'll find your perfect way to join the celebration!

Joseph F. Cantore
President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Joseph F. Cantore, Oak Brook

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BOARD MEETINGS

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



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On the cover: Monarch butterfly on milkweed © Martin LaBar / flickr.com CC

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

IGA Updates

Since 2002 the Forest Preserve District has operated as an independent agency dedicated solely to preserving DuPage County's natural resources and connecting people to nature. Its Board of Commissioners works regularly with a variety of partner agencies, who may have differing missions but who help the District be the most effective, efficient agency it can be for county residents. Below are some of its recent intergovernmental agreements.

FULLERSBURG WOODS TO HELP HOMEOWNERS ALONG SALT CREEK

The District is working with DuPage County and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to create more than 2.4 million gallons of stormwater storage on 11 acres north of Salt Creek and east of York Road at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve. The area will offset the effects of berms and other new features designed to prevent flooding in the adjacent Graue Mill Country Condominiums complex in Hinsdale during heavy rains. Design and construction costs for the work on forest preserve property are being funded by DuPage County and the IDNR.

ALT FUELS SHRINK TOWNS' CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Warrenville and Glen Ellyn now have access to the District's compressed natural gas fueling stations at Blackwell and Churchill Woods forest preserves. The agreements allow the towns to start cleaner-burning alternative-fuel programs without the high cost of building their own infrastructures. The fueling stations were funded through a Chicago Area Clean Cities Coalition grant to promote the use of alternative fuels in the Chicago area.

FOREST PRESERVE POLICE JOIN CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH CENTER

The board has approved a three-year agreement with the Addison Consolidated Dispatch Center to provide services for forest preserve police officers. For several years the District managed its own dispatch center, but an overhaul of the Emergency Telephone System Board of DuPage data-support system is requiring that all single-agency county dispatch centers close. The District selected ACDC because it provided a seamless transition and offers excellent service at a significantly lower cost. In addition to dispatching police, ACDC monitors District security cameras and answers nonemergency public calls as the Forest Preserve District. The District's former dispatch system was \$207,000 annually; the ACDC contract will be \$117,000 per year.

DISTRICT SAVES \$30,000 WITH POOLED BUYING POWER

The District has joined the county on a collaborative bid to purchase crushed stone and gravel, sand, riprap and other aggregate materials for trail maintenance and other projects that will save taxpayers about \$30,000. District staff met with the county in 2014 to identify materials that both agencies purchased throughout the year. The bid includes contracts with multiple companies, which will allow District management to select the most cost-effective supplier for each project based on distance and the materials needed.



ST. JAMES FARM GAINS 2 MILES OF TRAILS

Visitors to St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville can now connect with the Illinois Prairie Path and get a tour of the main and eastern farm areas thanks to a new 2-mile crushed limestone trail.

Much of the trail follows historic alignments and tree-lined promenades, which minimizes habitat disturbance while creating scenic outdoor experiences. A \$200,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration for the Recreational Trails Program administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources funded part of its construction.

The trail is part of the first phase of improvements at the preserve, which focus on public access. In 2012 the District completed a new entrance and 100-car parking lot off Winfield Road and in 2013 a welcome plaza. It expects to bring sewer and water lines to the east side of the preserve by the end of next year.

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, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and Historypin pages and even sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

DISTRICT MAINTAINS S&P'S AAA RATING

Standard & Poor's Financial Services recently reaffirmed the Forest Preserve District's AAA bond rating, the company's highest rating possible, in conjunction with District efforts to refinance part of its debt. The District expects to complete the refinancing this year, resulting in lower interest costs for the agency that will simultaneously reduce taxes to DuPage County taxpayers.

In its summary, Standard & Poor's cited the District's maintenance of low debt burden and close financial management as key factors in the positive outlook. The rating also praised the District's strong level of financial reserves, which it may use to complete capital projects and maintain a balanced general fund.



LIVE and On Demand

Can't make it to an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting? Find the latest schedules and agendas and view proceedings live or on demand at dupageforest.org under About Us and Meetings and Agendas. Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. 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, hears public comments and staff reports and votes on agenda items.

MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks its 2015 Centennial Partner sponsors for their support of its milestone celebration and its ongoing efforts to connect people with nature.

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



The Forest Preserve District would also like to thank donors who contributed to its efforts between Jan. 25 and May 9. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org.

Gifts of Note

Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation
\$10,300 — Mayslake Peabody Estate

BP Foundation for Patricia Banaszak's
volunteers hours served
\$2,130 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Jill Marotz and Family
\$1,500 — Tribute Bench in Memory of
Lon Yeary

Fox Valley Bicycle and Ski Club
\$500 — Recreational Programs

Kenneth McAfee
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Irene McMaster
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Mark and Meg Phinick
\$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
commemorative brick

Del Snow
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center



Milkweeds for Monarchs

by **KEVIN LUBY**, NATURALIST, WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

In October, second- and third-grade classes from Ben Franklin Elementary School in Glen Ellyn visited Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn for one of the center's problem-based learning programs, which get students to think about current environmental issues and create logical and logistically feasible solutions. This particular program focused on the role milkweed plants play in the lives of monarch butterflies and why scientists think that populations of both have been declining over the past two decades.

Monarchs are by far the most recognized butterflies in DuPage County if not the world, and like other insects, they develop in stages. For monarchs, the road from eggs to larvae to pupae to adults can take five to six weeks.

As adults, monarchs use their long needlelike proboscises to suck nutritious nectar from a wide range of flowers, a technique that also makes them pollinators, but as larvae, or caterpillars,

they eat only one thing: milkweed. In fact monarchs cannot make it past the larval stage without the plant. (The upside to evolving into such picky eaters is that milkweeds are poisonous to birds and other hungry animals, which makes monarchs poisonous as well, and unappetizing to predators.)

In addition to this specialized diet, monarchs are fascinating because they're the only North American butterflies that fly south for the winter — up to 1,500 miles south. Adults that emerge in DuPage in spring and summer live just two to five weeks, but those that hatch in late summer or early fall can live seven to nine months, enough time to make the trip to Mexico and most, if not all, of the journey back north in the spring.

But researchers believe that illegal logging in the high-altitude forests that monarchs seek out in winter and improper pesticide and herbicide use in summertime breeding areas that



▲ The butterfly garden at Willowbrook Wildlife Center offers ideas to help you be monarch-friendly at home.



◀ Although monarch caterpillars rely solely on milkweeds, blazing star and other native flowers provide a great source of food for adults.



◀ Even developing monarchs have distinctive markings that help hungry predators identify — and avoid — these poisonous caterpillars.

© Brett Whaley

they rely on in the States are knocking back monarchs and the plants that these insects cannot live without.

To help counter some of these ills, for over a decade Willowbrook Wildlife Center has been building a butterfly booster program. In 2002 it installed a butterfly garden to showcase practical, aesthetic landscape ideas that visitors could use to attract native and migrant butterflies and other species to their own backyards. In 2010 it added multiple flats of common, Sullivant's, butterfly, swamp and whorled milkweeds specifically to benefit monarchs and started collecting and spreading seeds from the plants throughout the surrounding forest preserve. In 2012 these efforts earned the center's garden and the 40 acres behind the visitor center designation as a Monarch Waystation through the national Monarch Watch program, which requires participants to provide perennial and annual nectar-producing plants as well as shelter and proper management.

The Forest Preserve District as a whole is working on an even larger scale. Countywide, milkweed grows on about 30 percent of the nearly 26,000 acres of forest preserve land, but with challenges in so many corners of the monarch's world, the District is bumping up its percentages. Since 2010, habitat restoration projects at 11 different forest preserves have

used more than 50 mixes of native seeds that have included milkweeds. Volunteers collected some of the seeds by hand from many of the nine species that grow in the forest preserves themselves. At West Branch Forest Preserve in Bartlett alone, crews have spread one ounce of seeds per acre on over 250 acres each year since 2013. That's 1.6 million seeds!

After hearing all of the facts, the students from Ben Franklin decided to put their heads together to come up with a way they, too, could help these beautiful butterflies. They ended up approaching the Glen Ellyn village board to suggest that their hometown be more monarch friendly. Since they knew that monarchs depend on milkweeds, they proposed that the village plant milkweeds where it would normally grow other species. Glen Ellyn's environmental commission listened intently and agreed to help Illinois' state insect.

An interagency task force formed to raise awareness and help residents understand the plight of these important pollinators. In March, the Glen Ellyn Public Library and Willowbrook Wildlife Center teamed up to present two public programs that explained not only why monarch populations were declining but also how people could grow milkweed in their own gardens. Over 200 enthusiastic citizens attended, all eager to do their part to create a premier monarch oasis in the western suburbs with milkweeds added to 100 public and private gardens. And it's all thanks to the efforts of a few school children who saw a need and had the courage and foresight to stand up and say something about it. •



Know milkweeds. Know monarchs.

It's simple. Monarchs need milkweeds. The Forest Preserve District is working to make the county's forest preserves even better habitat for these important pollinators, and you can do the same in your own backyard. To read more, visit dupageforest.org/milkweed_monarch.

summer calendar

For program descriptions, refer to the page numbers in *italics*. Cancellation policies vary by program.



© Mike Shimer

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July

- 1** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, *17*
- 2** Celebrating the Fourth, *12*
Evening in the Country: The Glorious Fourth, *13*
Ranger Trek, *16*
- 3** Paddling: Kayaking Basics, *16*
- 4** St. James Farm Nature Walk, *17*
- 5** Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger, *16*
- 6** Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, *16*
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, *17*
- 9** Evening in the Country: Victorian Nature Hike, *13*
- 10** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Fishing Clinic for Beginners, *13*
- 11** Archery for All Ages, *11*
DuPage Forest Preserves Century Trail Kickoff, *12*
St. James Farm 1906 Caboose Tour, *17*
- 12** McKee Marsh Natural History Hike, *14*
- 13** Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, *16*
- 14** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors Begins, *12*
Fishing Clinic for Kids, *13*
- 15** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails, *14*
Ranger Trek, *16*
- 16** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Evening in the Country: Wagon Rides, *13*
- 17** Paddling: Kayaking Basics, *16*

- 18** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Meet Amelia Earhart, *14*
St. James Farm History Walk, *17*
Volunteer Restoration Workday, *17*
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, *17*
- 19** Fishing Clinic for Beginners, *13*
Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger, *16*
- 20** Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, *16*
- 21** Four American Masters Begins, *14*
- 22** Music at Mayslake: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, *14*
Ranger Trek Junior, *16*
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, *17*
- 23** Evening in the Country: Fun and Games, *13*
Fishing Flowing Waters, *13*
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike, *14*
- 24** Navigation: Compass 101, *15*
- 25** Backyard Chickens, *12*
Fishing Clinic for Beginners, *13*
St. James Farm Art and Artifacts Tour, *17*
Take Part in Art, *17*
- 26** Wilderness Survival, *17*
- 27** Art at Mayslake: Girls Write! Begins, *12*
Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, *16*
Ranger Leadership Camp Begins, *16*
- 28** Ranger Trek, *16*
- 29** Archery Fun Shoot, *11*
Navigation: Geocaching, *15*
- 30** Evening in the Country: Wagon Rides, *13*
- 31** Archery for All Ages, *11*
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, *17*



August

- 1** Archery Open House, 11
Fishing Clinic for Beginners, 13
Midsummer Romantic Night Hike, 14
Night Hike, 16
St. James Farm Nature Walk, 17
- 3** Art at Mayslake: Teen Media Camp Begins, 12
Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, 16
Scout Merit Badges: Fish and
Wildlife Management Begins, 17
- 5** Archery Beyond the Basics Begins, 11
Paddling: Kayaking Basics, 16
- 6** Evening in the Country: Musicale, 13
Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinkers, 13
- 7** Paddling: Kayaking Basics, 16
- 8** Field Exploration, 13
Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger, 16
St. James Farm 1906 Caboose Tour, 17
Volunteer Restoration Workday, 17
- 9** McKee Marsh Natural History Hike, 14
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 10** Art at Mayslake: Girls Write On! Begins, 12
Ranger Adventure Camp Begins, 16
Scout Merit Badges: Reptile and
Amphibian Begins, 17
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 11** Archery for All Ages, 11
- 13** Evening in the Country: Victorian Nature Hike, 13
Ranger Trek, 16
- 14** Fishing: Catching and Cooking Catfish, 13
- 15** Archery for All Ages, 11
St. James Farm History Walk, 17
Volunteer Restoration Workday, 17
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 16** Fishing off the Beaten Path, 13
Navigation: Geocaching, 15
- 17** Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting Begins, 11
- 18** Ranger Trek, 16
- 19** Little Sprouts Tales and Trails, 14
Ranger Trek, 16
- 20** Evening in the Country: Wagon Rides, 13
Fishing for Bass, 13
Home-Schoolers Nature Hike, 14
- 21** Paddling: Kayaking Basics, 16
- 22** Navigation: Geocaching, 15
St. James Farm Art and Artifacts Tour, 17
- 23** Archery for All Ages, 11
Navigation: Compass 101, 15
- 24** Art at Mayslake: Pastel Workshop Begins, 12
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 26** Archery for Adults, 11
Archery Fun Shoot, 11
- 27** Evening in the Country: Fun and Games, 13
Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger, 16
- 28** Fishing by Kayak, 13
FullersBird Fridays, 14
- 29** Backyard Chickens, 12
Trek Sawmill Creek, 17



© Gary Davis



September

- 1** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors Begins, 12
Music at Mayslake: Stars of Tin Pan Alley, 15
Ranger Trek, 16
- 2** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 4** FullersBird Fridays, 14
- 5** Archery for All Ages, 11
Country Fair, 12
Music at Mayslake: Parlor Talk Concert, 15
Navigation: Geocaching, 15
St. James Farm Nature Walk, 17
- 6** Country Fair, 12
Horse-Drawn Hayrides, 14
Scout Merit Badges: Forestry Begins, 17
Wilderness Survival, 17
- 7** Forest Fitness Walk, 14
- 9** Archery for All Ages, 11
- 10** Paddling: Kayaking Basics, 16
- 11** Archery Fun Shoot, 11
FullersBird Fridays, 14
Music at Mayslake: Picoso, 15
Ranger Trek, 16
- 12** Dairy Day at St. James Farm, 12
Nature Walk, 15
Volunteer Restoration Workday, 17
When Darkness Falls, 17
- 13** Fishing Clinic for Beginners, 13
Horse-Drawn Hayrides, 14
- 14** Art at Mayslake: Creative Art Journaling Begins, 11
Forest Fitness Walk, 14
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 15** "Dig In and Volunteer!" Q-and-A Session, 12
- 16** Little Sprouts Tales and Trails, 14
- 18** FullersBird Fridays, 14
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 19** Backpacking Basics, 12
Pie-Baking Class, 16
St. James Farm History Walk, 17
- 20** Archery for All Ages, 11
Horse-Drawn Hayrides, 14
Volunteer Restoration Workday, 17
- 21** Forest Fitness Walk, 14
- 23** Archery for Active Adults, 11
Archery for All Ages, 11
- 25** FullersBird Fridays, 14
- 26** Night Hike and S'more-gasbord, 16
Pie Baking Class, 16
St. James Farm Art and Artifacts Tour, 17
Volunteer Restoration Workday, 17
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery, 17
- 27** Horse-Drawn Hayrides, 14
Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger, 16
- 28** Forest Fitness Walk, 14
- 30** Ranger Trek, 16



© Mike Shimer

Archery Beyond the Basics

Learn about safety, equipment, shooting form, whistle commands and target scoring in this two-part program. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register starting July 22 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 5, 19	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
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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. Register starting Sept. 9 at (630) 933-7248.

Sep 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
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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. Register starting Aug. 12 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 26	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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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 demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade.

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.

Through Aug. 31

Mondays and Thursdays 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.

Through Aug. 31 Mondays 10 a.m.

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

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

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

Archery for All Ages

Learn basic archery techniques in a family-friendly setting. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 1, 10, 31	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jul 1, 15	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Jul 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Jul 16	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jul 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Jul 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne Woods
Aug 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Aug 15	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie
Aug 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sep 5, 20	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sep 9, 23	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Archery Fun Shoot

Sign up for this tournament for novices with awards for the top three competitors. Bring your own equipment; no crossbows. Some equipment for loan for free. Ages 7 – 16 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 29	6 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell
Aug 26	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Sep 11	4 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell

Archery Open House

Introduce your family to the history and equipment of this popular sport, and try the basics with a certified instructor. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7248.

Aug 1	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Blackwell
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Art at Mayslake: Adult Painting

Learn about color mixing, composition and elements of design at this six-part class on Mondays. Adults only. \$125 per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Aug 17 – Sep 21	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Creative Art Journaling

Create journals using recycled materials, and learn techniques in acrylics, pastels, watercolors and more at this six-part class on Mondays (except Sept. 28). Adults only. \$145 plus \$5 supply fee per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Sep 14 – Oct 26	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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summer calendar



Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolors

Explore and enhance your artistic style while painting in a relaxed setting. July 14 session meets six Tuesdays; Sept. 1 meets five (except Sept. 29). Adults only. \$125 per person July 14; \$110 per person Sept. 1. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Jul 14 – Aug 18	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Sep 1 – Oct 6	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Girls Write!

Explore different writing techniques at this girls-only, five-day camp. Ages 9 – 14. \$140 per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Girls Write! (Ages 9 – 11)

Jul 27 – 31	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Girls Write On! (Ages 11 – 14)

Aug 10 – 15	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Pastel Workshop

Learn tricks and techniques needed to create beautiful works of pastel art in this two-day workshop. Adults only. \$50 plus \$10 supply fee per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Aug 24 – 25	9 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Teen Media Camp

Explore techniques using traditional and unconventional drawing practices in this five-day camp. Ages 12 – 18. \$225 plus \$30 supply fee per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Aug 3 – 7	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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Backpacking Basics

Learn about equipment, cooking and water filtration systems and how to pack for a trip. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting Sept. 8 at (630) 933-7248.

Sep 19	10 – 11:30 a.m.	York Woods
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Blackwell Family Campground

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The campground has 62 wooded and semiwooded sites and is open nightly June 25 – July 5 and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through September. Call Visitor Services at (630) 933-7248 for permits.

Backyard Chickens

Learn how to buy and raise chicks for eggs and meat. This class will cover shelter, care and nutrition, the characteristics of different breeds, and processing for the dinner table. Bring a lunch. Adults only. \$40 per person. Register at (630) 876-5900.

Jul 25	10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Aug 29	10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Celebrating the Fourth

Experience one of the country's first holidays through 1890s games and activities. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Jul 2	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Country Fair

Celebrate the District's centennial at a special 1915 expo featuring award-winning animal exhibits, farm implements and technology, and an authentic flea circus. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Sep 5, 6	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Dairy Day at St. James Farm

Learn about dairy farming in the early 1900s and the role the CA&E Railroad played in getting milk to the Chicago area. Try your hand at milking and making butter. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 580-7025.

Sep 12	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	St. James Farm
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"Dig In and Volunteer!" Q-and-A Session

Join us for an hour of questions and info, and decide which volunteer program is for you! All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7681.

Sep 15	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada Headquarters
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DuPage Forest Preserves Century Trail Kickoff

Start your 100-mile journey on this commemorative trail with a 5-, 10- or 15-mile bike ride. Join us for a ribbon-cutting, trail safety demonstrations and more! Bring your own bike. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 933-7097.

Jul 11	8 a.m. – Noon	Danada Headquarters
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Evening in the Country

Bring your picnic and enjoy 1890s fun and relaxation. All ages. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

The Glorious Fourth

Hear a reading of the Declaration of Independence at 6 p.m. followed by an ice cream social at 7 p.m. Free.

Jul 2	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Victorian Nature Hike

Explore the natural wonders around the farm. Free.

Jul 9, Aug 13	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Wagon Rides

Hear stories of farming in the age of genuine horsepower. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free.

Jul 16, 30, Aug 20	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Fun and Games

Take part in old-fashioned adult and children's games. Free.

Jul 23, Aug 27	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Musicale

Enjoy the Old Town School of Folk Music Dulcimer Ensemble. Free.

Aug 6	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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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 at (630) 933-7681.

Aug 8	8 – 11 a.m.	West Chicago Prairie
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Fishing by Kayak

Learn how fishing from a kayak differs from fishing from shore at this intermediate clinic. Equipment provided (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register starting Aug. 14 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 28	5 – 7 p.m.	Mallard Lake
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Fishing: Catching and Cooking Catfish

Learn tricks for catching "Mr. Whiskers" at this hands-on clinic, and then enjoy a catfish dinner. All ages; under 16 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Register starting July 31 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 14	5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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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. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 10	6 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell
Jul 19	9 – 11 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne Woods
Jul 25	9 – 11 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Aug 1	9 – 11 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Sep 13	4 – 6 p.m.	Herrick Lake

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. Register starting July 1 at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 14	5 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
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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. Register starting July 9 at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 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 on one of the county's best bass lakes. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting Aug. 6 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 20	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove
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Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker

Learn how to fish on the lake bottom for a variety of species. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting July 24 at (630) 933-7248.

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

Join a ranger for a 2-mile hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting Aug. 3 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 16	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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summer calendar



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Forest Fitness Walk

Join a naturalist for a brisk weekly walk as you take in the wonders of the woods. Adults only. \$6 per person per walk; \$40 per 10-program pass. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Sep 7	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sep 14	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Mallard Lake
Sep 21	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Sep 28	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake

Four American Masters

Examine the lives, works and effects of artists John Singer Sargent, James Whistler, Georgia O'Keeffe and Grant Wood on Tuesdays in this four-part class. Adults only. \$109 per person; \$79 ages 55 and up. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Jul 21 – Aug 11	4 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
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FullersBird Fridays

Join these naturalist-led hikes to see how the diversity of birds in a forest preserve changes from summer to fall. Adults only. \$6 per person per hike; \$40 per 10-program pass. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Aug 28	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sep 4	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Sep 11, 25	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sep 18	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

Home-Schoolers Nature Hike

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

Jul 23	9 – 11 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Aug 20	1:30 – 4 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

Golfing

A round of golf is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! Visit DuPageGolf.com for specials and tee times.

Oak Meadows

Practice Range • Addison • (630) 595-0071

Maple Meadows

18 Holes • Wood Dale • (630) 616-8424

Green Meadows

9 Holes • Westmont • (630) 810-5330

Horse-Drawn Hayrides

Hear about farming with real horsepower on a 30-minute ride. All ages. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Call (630) 876-5900.

Sep 6, 13, 20, 27	Noon, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15, 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Little Sprouts Tales and Trails

Learn about the natural world through stories, songs, movement and guided outdoor exploration. Ages 1 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Butterflies

Jul 15	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Trees

Aug 19	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Animal Homes

Sep 16	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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McKee Marsh Natural History Hike

Learn about natural and cultural history on this 2-mile ranger-led hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 12	9 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Mack Road
Aug 9	9 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell/Mack Road

Meet Amelia Earhart

Listen as the first woman to fly across the Atlantic talks about her 1937 decision to fly around the world. Ages 10 and up with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Jul 18	1 – 2 p.m.	Mayslake
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Midsummer Romantic Night Hike

Take your sweetheart on a lantern-lit, self-guided walk under the blue moon with popcorn, lemonade and s'mores by the fire. Adults only. \$10 per couple. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Aug 1	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Music at Mayslake: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

Enjoy this popular ensemble's performance of "Saints and Sinners 2015." Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$30 reserved seating (\$35 at the door); \$20 general admission (\$25 at the door). Get tickets at cgmc.org.

Jul 22	7:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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© Mike Shimer

Music at Mayslake: Parlor Talk Concert

Enjoy a classical voice recital featuring Lisa Griffith with collaborative artist Natasha Mah on piano performing Strauss, Rachmaninoff and more. Ages 10 and up with an adult. \$15 general admission; \$12 senior or student. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Sep 5	1 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake: Picoso

Enjoy an evening of classical music. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person; \$23 seniors; \$10 students; \$5 rebate per full-price ticket with donation to Hesed House. Get tickets and a list of needed items at picosamusic.com.

Sep 11	7 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake: Stars of Tin Pan Alley

Enjoy a one-man show celebrating American popular music that delves into the lost worlds of writers, performers, publishers and song promoters from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Ages 10 and up with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at (630) 206-9566.

Sep 1	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Nature Walk

Learn about habitat restoration while enjoying late-summer wildflowers on a guided hike. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register by Sept. 4 at (630) 933-7681.

Sep 12	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Danada
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Navigation: Compass 101

Learn how to use a compass, and then join a fun navigation activity. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 24	6 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Aug 23	10 – 11 a.m.	Springbrook Prairie

Navigation: Geocaching

Try a fun activity that uses GPS units to find hidden caches. Equipment provided. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 29	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug 16	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Aug 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sep 5	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake

Cultural Events at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "THE MADNESS OF EDGAR ALLEN POE: A LOVE STORY"

Tour Mayslake Hall with Poe and his wife, Virginia, and see his macabre and melancholy tales and poems come to life. Adults only. \$22 – 39 per person. Get tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Sept. 23 – Nov. 1 **Wednesdays – Saturdays 8 p.m.**
Sundays 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "THE WINTER'S TALE"

What's the price of jealousy? For King Leontes, it's the death of his wife and his daughter's banishment. This tale of faith and redemption is a reminder of the cost of love and the value of trust. Adults only. \$22 – 39 per person. Get tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

July 8 – Aug. 9 **Wednesdays – Sundays 8:15 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. Register for group tours at (630) 206-9588.

Wednesdays 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

(UN)REST AND RELAXATION: A LOOK INTO 1915

Explore U.S. events, fads and culture through artifacts, displays and news articles from the year DuPage County voters established the Forest Preserve District. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

July 1 – Aug. 12 **Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHEN ART AND NATURE MEET

Stroll through the grounds of the estate, and enjoy nature-inspired installations created by professional artists and community groups to commemorate the Forest Preserve District's first 100 years. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Through Oct. 23

One hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset

summer calendar

© Manuel Diaz

Night Hike

Experience nighttime sights and sounds, and discover how different animals adapt to their surroundings. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Aug 1	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Blackwell
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Night Hike and S'more-gasbord

Discover nighttime creatures on a self-guided hike, and then try our s'more recipes or create your own concoction by the fire. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at (630) 850-8110.

Sep 26	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Paddling: Kayaking Basics

Learn the basics, such as parts of the boat, paddling strokes and safety tips. Equipment provided (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 3, 17	6 – 8 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Aug 5	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
Aug 7, 21	6 – 8 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Sep 10	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake

Paddling: Paddle With a Ranger

Take a guided paddle on Salt Creek. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program, or rent one for \$20 per person (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 5	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jul 19	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Aug 8, 27	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sep 27	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Covered Wagon Tours

St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Learn about the forest preserve's natural and cultural histories on a 30-minute guided ride. All ages. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Call (630) 580-7025.

Wednesdays and Sundays Through Sept. 30 and Fridays in August

11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Pie-Baking Class

Work in pairs at this two-hour class using fresh ingredients, historic recipes and secrets you wish you'd learned from grandma. Adults only. \$40 per person. Register at (630) 876-5900.

Sep 19, 26	9:30 – 11:30 a.m., 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Ranger Adventure Camp

Pick up or refine your archery, fishing, canoeing and wilderness-survival skills at this five-day camp. Bring a lunch. Ages 9 – 12. \$200 – \$250 per person. Register at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 6 – 10, 13 – 17, 20 – 24	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jul 6 – 10, 13 – 17, 20 – 24, 27 – 31	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug 3 – 7, 10 – 14	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake

Ranger Leadership Camp

Learn paddling, fishing, archery and leadership skills at this five-day camp. Bring a lunch. Ages 13 – 17. \$300 – \$350 per person. Register at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 27 – 31	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Ranger Trek

Learn about history, flora, fauna and forest preserve features on a guided hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 2	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
Jul 15	7 – 8 p.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Jul 28	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Aug 13	Noon – 12:45 p.m.	Spring Creek Res.
Aug 18	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Cricket Creek
Aug 19	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Greene Valley
Sep 1	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Meacham Grove
Sep 11	6 – 7 p.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Sep 30	Noon – 12:45 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove

Ranger Trek Junior

Learn about forest preserve critters on a guided hike through different habitats. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Register starting July 8 at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Scout Merit Badges

Earn badges at these two-day programs. Ages 11 –17. \$20 per Scout (\$30 Fish and Wildlife). Register at (630) 850-8110.

Fish and Wildlife Management

Aug 3	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Aug 7	9 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell

Reptile and Amphibian

Aug 10, 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
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Forestry

Sep 6, 13	1 – 4 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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St. James Farm 1906 Caboose Tour

Hear about the onboard lives of the conductor and brakeman and CA&E's connection to this preserve. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Register by Thursday prior at (630) 580-7025.

Jul 11	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug 8	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

St. James Farm Art and Artifacts Tour

Discover the inspirations and interpretations of pieces installed throughout the grounds. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$3 per person ages 13 and up; under 13 free. Register by Thursday prior at (630) 580-7025.

Jul 25	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug 22	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Sep 26	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

St. James Farm History Walk

Learn about the farm's beginnings and development on a leisurely 1-mile walk. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$3 per person ages 13 and up; under 13 free. Register by Thursday prior at (630) 580-7025.

Jul 18	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug 15	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Sep 19	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

St. James Farm Nature Walk

View blooming plants on a relaxing 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$2 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register by Thursday prior at (630) 580-7025.

Jul 4	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug 1	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Sep 5	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

Take Part in Art

Create nature-inspired art through different techniques and activities. Bring a camera or phone to take on a hike. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Call (630) 206-9566.

Jul 25	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Mayslake
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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. Register starting Aug. 17 at (630) 933-7248.

Aug 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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Volunteer Restoration Workday

Help remove nonnative plants or seed. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 933-7681 at least five business days prior (10 days for groups of five or more).

Jul 18	8 – 10:30 a.m.	Lyman Woods
Jul 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Jul 18, Aug 8	8 – 11 a.m.	West Chicago Prairie
Aug 15	8 – 10:30 a.m.	Lyman Woods
Aug 15	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie
Sep 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Sep 12, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	West Chicago Prairie
Sep 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Prairie

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery

Help weed, water, or collect and clean seed. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Register at (630) 933-7681 at least five business days prior (10 days for groups of five or more).

Jul 1, 6, 18, 22, 31	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery
Aug 9, 10, 15, 24	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery
Sep 2, 14, 18, 26	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery

When Darkness Falls

Hike through the woods with a ranger and discover how to use your nocturnal senses. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register starting Sept. 1 at (630) 933-7248.

Sep 12	7 – 9 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Wilderness Survival

Learn how to set up camp, build a fire and do other outdoor activities. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

Jul 26	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
Sep 6	10 a.m. – Noon	Pratt's Wayne Woods



York Woods

© Mike Shiner
The Oldest

A Focus on PRESERVATION

by **JOSEPH CANTORE**, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

When DuPage voters approved the organization of a county forest preserve district in 1915, the idea was simple: Preserve land today so residents could relax in undeveloped open spaces tomorrow. It was a concept that had been growing on a national level, and even though DuPage County was in its infancy, voters believed it was wise to plan ahead. But as with all things so early in the 20th century, there was no way they could know how complicated the new agency's mission would become when placed in the middle of a skyrocketing urban population decades later.

As with all forest preserve districts at the time, the operations of the new DuPage agency were governed by the same people elected to the county board, which meant they were also responsible for infrastructure improvements. Conflicts between preservation and progress were evident from the beginning, the first appearing in 1917, when the Forest Preserve District made its initial purchase, York Woods in Oak Brook. The rationale? To be able to use part of the land for the westward expansion of 12th Street, today's Roosevelt Road.

By the second half of the century, forest preserve land was providing people with fresh spaces to relax and unwind but it was also being constantly eyed as easy locations for new parking lots, roads and buildings — even county waste. In 1965 when the county's sole landfill was at the brink, the DuPage County board opted to use its authority over forest preserve land to establish a fill at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

To be fair, some defended, even lauded, the decision. As one paper printed about the possibility of a landfill at Rocky Glen and Signal Hill forest preserves (today's Waterfall Glen in Darien), "The forest preserve areas have lands which are presently useless for ordinary purposes but eventual use of the area as a landfill will correct that condition." As the hill at Blackwell grew, the board opened landfills in 1974 and 1975 at Greene Valley in Naperville and Mallard Lake in Hanover Park, using engineering efforts similar to those in California that some felt had successfully "reclaimed" canyons by filling the areas with garbage.

In 1988 the focus returned to roads. Developers wanted to improve access to suburbs in the southwest corner of the county, and a new four-lane road was the answer. Members



of the county board wearing their “forest preserve” hats decided to sell 26.5 acres of McDowell Grove Forest Preserve in Naperville to the county (the same board members but in their “urban development” hats) and Diehl Road was created.

In the late 1990s, talk of roads moved north to Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne, where planners were pushing for the construction of a four-lane north-south road through the heart of the preserve. There was overwhelming public opposition, and the board nixed the idea, but it was becoming clear that the two-hat system was generating more and more conflict. As one board member said, it was “tough to serve two masters.” Conservation-minded residents of DuPage County increasingly supported board members who felt the county could have successful urban development without threatening protected public land, but with a single board, it was becoming evident that sooner or later those interests — and the voters who supported them — would be at risk for being on the losing side.

Springfield took note, and in 1996 with support from local legislators and conservation groups, the state amended the Downstate Forest Preserve Act, allowing counties with

populations like DuPage to choose separate governing bodies. In December 2002, for the first time in the agency's history, a seven-member Board of Commissioners separate from those individuals elected to govern the county took the oath of office for the Forest Preserve District. Since then, the District has restored the county's natural areas and improved public access in a fiscally responsible manner and with support from forest preserve fans and partnering agencies alike.

From time to time individuals spurred by different interests raise the question of reuniting the two boards. Advocates for a single board have cited the Downstate Forest Preserve Act as a legislative guarantee that the county's nearly 26,000 acres of open spaces would remain undeveloped. But as history has demonstrated, that wouldn't necessarily be the case.

As surveys continue to emphasize residents' expectations that forest preserve land remain undeveloped for future generations, a board with a continued dedicated focus on making those open spaces they best they can be will ensure the Forest Preserve District remains equipped to preserve the county's woodlands, prairies and wetlands for the next 100 years. •



The True Nature of Golf at Oak Meadows

by ED STEVENSON, BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Centuries ago in Scotland, the game of golf flourished on grassy areas along the sea that golfers called “links” because of the way the terrain “linked” the land to the water. In areas like DuPage County, the presence of woodlands and prairies means that most golf course landscapes are more accurately described as “parkland style,” but the link between water and land is just as vital. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County will be taking that relationship between water, land and recreation to a whole new level at Oak Meadows Golf Preserve in Addison with an innovative improvement project.

Water has always been at the center of the Oak Meadows story. Salt Creek flows for more than a mile through the

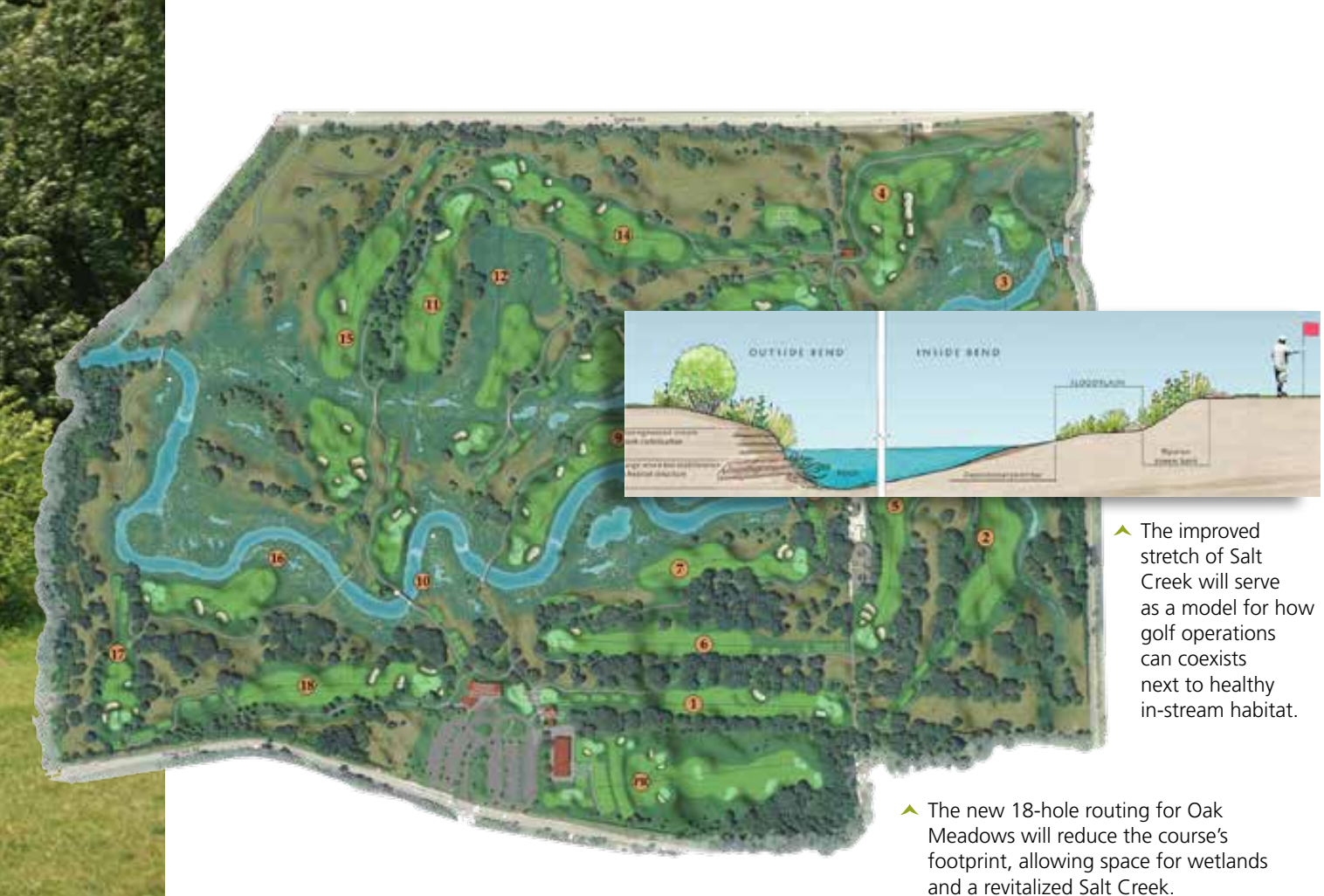
middle of the property, and the District acquired the land in 1985 primarily as a valuable flood-control area. But the District quickly realized that the golf course itself — the former Elmhurst Country Club — was a bonus that offered a popular way for residents to enjoy the splendor of the property. Oak Meadows opened to the public the following year as an “enterprise operation” with greens fees instead of tax dollars paying for its daily expenses.

For years the course challenged golfers’ skills, but the waters that flowed over the banks of Salt Creek during floods challenged course operations as well. With each flood, the property served its valuable role by storing water on golf course land and away from homes and businesses, but at the same time golf operations abruptly came to a halt and repairs interrupted business for weeks at a time. Urban development upstream only increased the volume and intensity of these floodwaters, pushing Oak Meadows to a crossroads.

It seemed a given that any efforts to protect the course from flood damage would reduce its capacity to hold stormwater, but in 2011 the Forest Preserve District decided to challenge that assumption by asking a bold question: Could stormwater management capacity and golf course sustainability both be improved at the same time?

◀ The newly renovated Oak Meadows will provide added floodwater storage without sacrificing tee times.





In 2012 the District began an ambitious planning process to answer that question and determined that reducing the golf footprint from 27 original holes — 18 at Oak Meadows and nine at the adjacent Maple Meadows East — to 18 would allow elevation changes that would make golf surfaces resistant to flood damage while creating more space for stormwater storage. The concept for the Oak Meadows Golf Preserve Improvement Project was born.

Over the next three years of planning, designing, engineering and permitting, the District's goals for Oak Meadows expanded beyond stormwater management and golf to include improved water quality within Salt Creek, expanded wetlands, enhanced adjacent natural habitats, and connections to local trail systems. At this point, the Sierra Club, Audubon International and similar environmental groups took notice and offered their input. The DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup got on board and made contributions to the project a top priority, recognizing the rare opportunity to improve a long stretch of stream corridor in an otherwise developed urban area. Funding and support for a key component — the creation of new wetlands — also spurred intergovernmental teamwork between the Forest Preserve District and DuPage County.

Now, with permits, support and a thoroughly developed plan in place, the District is ready to begin construction in July. When completed in May 2017, the 288-acre Oak

Meadows Golf Preserve will feature more than 20 million gallons of additional stormwater storage, 25 acres of new wetlands, and more than 100 acres of restored habitat — 43 along the creek and 65 further upland. The removal of two low-head dams will return this stretch of Salt Creek to a far more natural condition and increase levels of dissolved oxygen, which will create healthier ecological conditions for a diverse range of aquatic animals.

For golfers, 2017 will unveil a course that is expected to earn recognition as one of the top public courses in the country, one that will take golfers on a spectacular tour of a restored preserve with elements of a quintessential northern Illinois landscape, including savanna, prairie, woodland, wetland and waterway. The re-designed par-72 layout will offer expanded practice areas and tee options ranging from 4,500 to 7,200 yards with all of the tees, greens and fairways strategically elevated to allow play to continue even if Salt Creek rises.

For centuries golfers have recognized that a good golf course provides an experience that is fun, challenging and scenic. A great course does all that while improving the communities around it and the habitat within. As the links between water, land and recreation strengthen at Oak Meadows Golf Preserve, the course is certain to be one of the greats and a model of how golf operations and environmental function can coexist within a forest preserve. •

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



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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 48 hours 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

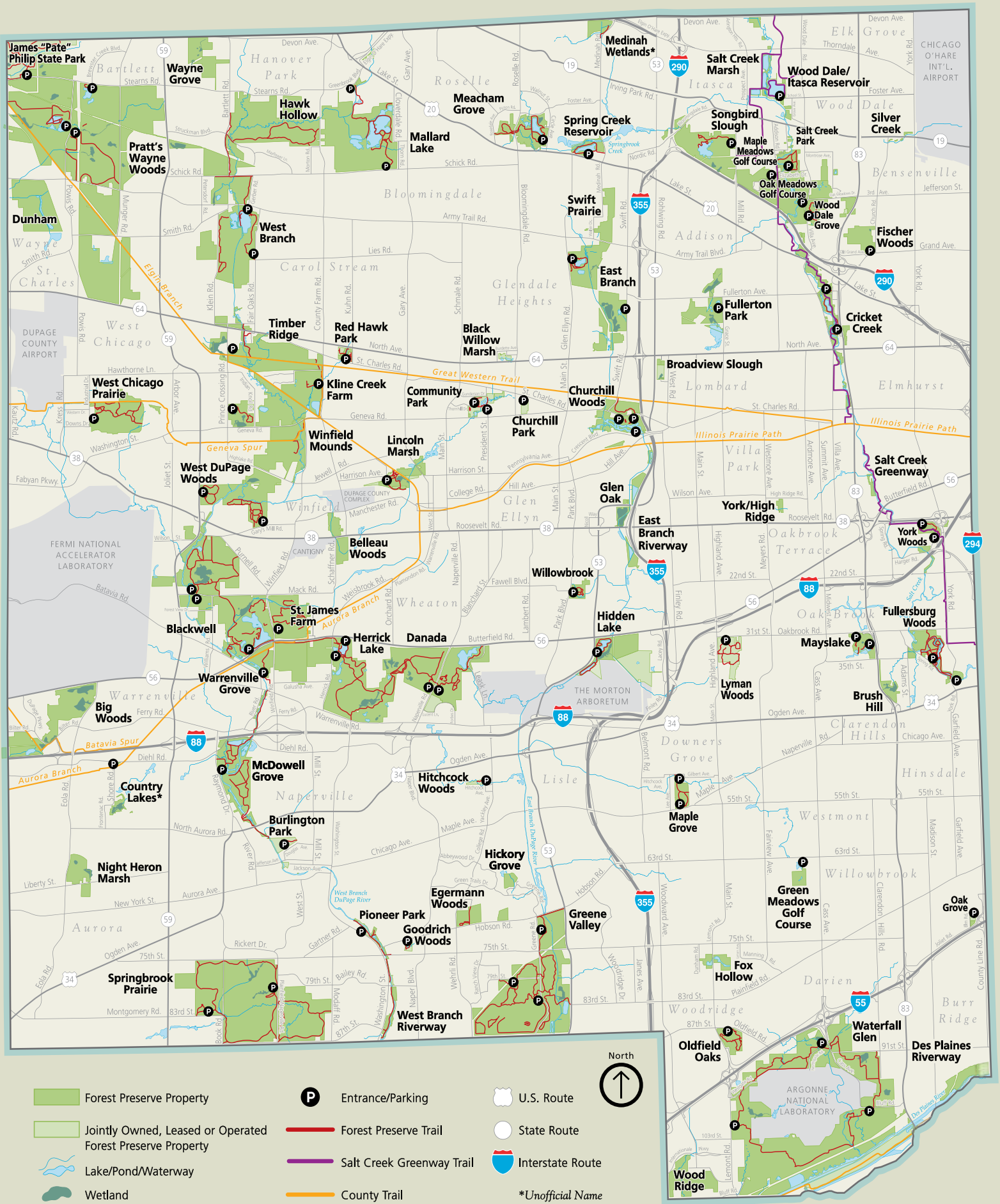
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

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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of DuPage County

Connecting People to Nature for 100 Years

the Conservationist

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