

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2016



What's Your Outdoor IQ?

Take Our Test and Find Out!

Fire: The Rx for a Healthy Habitat

Trails Across DuPage



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



For so many visitors, fall is *the time* to explore DuPage County's forest preserves. Late-blooming goldenrods and asters are offering up one last touch of summer as the trees are ramping up for the show of the season. (And it doesn't hurt that the mosquitoes are once again at bay.) Here at the District we're preparing sites like Kline Creek Farm, Fullersburg Woods and Danada Equestrian Center for some of our biggest annual events, and we're unveiling a revamped lineup of programs to keep the calendar full through the holidays and the end of the year.

Sign up for a leisurely "Fall Colors Hike" through one of the county's best maple woodlands, or charge your Fitbit and join a "Forest Fitness Walk." Pedal — or paddle — through several preserves on a ranger-led "Ride the Trails" bike tour or our "Paddling: Fall Colors" kayak program along the West Branch DuPage River, where you'll get a double dose of those oranges and reds. And which of us wouldn't enjoy just kicking back on one of the District's ever-popular "Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides"?

Of course you don't need to register for anything to "Take 5" in a DuPage forest preserve. Print out a preserve map from our website, dupageforest.org, and hit a trail or relax by a lake you've never seen before. (And, yes, for all of you Pokémon GO trainers, several DuPage preserves offer safe ways to capture wild Pokémon while encountering real-world wildlife along the way.)

One reason the Forest Preserve District is able to offer so many great experiences is our long-standing commitment to partnering with like-minded agencies to fund and design some of the best trails in the state. I hope you'll take a few moments to read about these efforts in "Trails Across DuPage" on Page 20.

This may be the last quarter in the calendar for 2016, but it's certainly not the least when it comes to options for getting outdoors. Enjoy!

Joseph F. Cantore

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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



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Editor

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On the cover: Eastern chipmunk © Denis Dore

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



NEW TRAILER TAKES DISTRICT PROGRAMS ON THE ROAD

Thanks to contributions from the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the Rotary Club of Elmhurst, the Sierra Club River Prairie Group and individual donors, District rangers now have a new tool for bringing fun educational and recreational programs to more forest preserve locations.

The District's 24-by-8 programming trailer made its inaugural appearance at "Family Field Day" at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville in May, where it served as a nature lab. Visitors could step inside to examine pelts and skulls and then use microscopes to zoom in on water samples from a nearby pond. Cards showing microscopic plants and animals that call the pond home helped people identify what they were observing. Additional prepared slides offered detailed looks at features of larger plants and animals.

The trailer will also help the District offer an expanded lineup of recreational experiences. Before, rangers were limited to sites that had the proper equipment. Because of the trailer's capacity, though, they can now conveniently carry gear for archery, paddling and other programs to forest preserves across the county.

PRATT'S WAYNE WOODS TO WELCOME LAST LEG OF NORTH CENTRAL TRAIL

This fall the Forest Preserve District will begin the first phase of engineering for a 1.5-mile trail through Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne. The trail will link to the Illinois Prairie Path-Elgin Branch and mark the completion of the North Central DuPage Regional Trail.

In 2015 the District accepted \$1.5 million from the Federal Highway Administration's Surface Transportation Program to apply toward the construction of the north-south trail, which will be on the west side of Munger Road. By beginning the engineering phase of the project, the District will demonstrate project readiness, allowing it to apply for and accept additional grant funding. It estimates the total cost will be about \$2,560,000.

The regional trail is one of several the District has been working on with the county, municipalities, park districts and others to give residents additional transportation options and promote active, healthy lifestyles. For more on the District's efforts, read "Trails Across DuPage" on Page 20.



DISTRICT JOINS WATERSHED PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP

In May the Forest Preserve District announced a new partnership with DuPage County, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup that will help the agencies better collaborate on projects benefiting local rivers and streams. The agreement will help reduce governmental redundancies and overall costs while allowing each group to contribute expertise from planning and project oversight to ecological research.

The announcement took place at the Forest Preserve District's Oak Meadows Golf Preserve in Addison, the site of an ongoing collaborative effort to make Salt Creek and the surrounding wetlands healthier for the mammals, birds and aquatic animals that depend on the habitats. The project, which should be completed in 2017, will also increase and improve the land's overall flood-water storage capabilities.



GRAUE MILL REOPENS AFTER FOUNDATION REPAIRS

After being closed since April for critical structural repairs, Graue Mill and Museum at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook is again open to the public.

To stabilize the stone foundation wall on the east and west sides of the building, masons replaced 2-inch-thick mortar with new grout. Crews needed to remove the 8-ton water wheel, though, before work could begin on the foundation along the sluiceway (the channel that directs the water toward the wheel). To further guard against seepage, workers placed drain tiles and an underground waterproof concrete wall along the bottom of the sluiceway wall and installed drains and a new sump pump in the basement.

The nonprofit DuPage Graue Mill Corporation, which operates the mill for the Forest Preserve District, contracted additional improvements, including repairs to the jib crane, which helps position the 2,400-pound millstone that grinds corn into meal, and the installation of a new motor and pedestal to turn the stone.

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 sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

LIVE *and On Demand*

Can't make it to an upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting? Find the latest schedules and agendas and watch 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 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and planning sessions are at 8 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 the donors who contributed to its efforts between April 4 and July 3. To make your own tax-deductible donation or to learn how sponsorships and financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforestgiving.org. To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

Wallace Hastings

\$5,000 – Mayslake Peabody Estate

ComEd

\$4,000 – Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the restoration of West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve and raptor housing at Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Kenneth McAfee

\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center "Adopt an Animal" program

The Illinois State Questers

\$1,000 – Tribute gift to Mayslake Peabody Estate in memory of Kathryn Carpenter

DuPage Foundation – Edward and Minnie Ceragioli Fund and individual donors

\$800 – Grant to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

George Sisson and Family

\$800 – Tribute bench at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center

Rotary Club of Elmhurst

\$500 – Grant to Friends of the Forest Preserve District for ADA-accessible piers priority project





What's Your Outdoor IQ?

So you think you're an outdoor expert, eh? Well let's find out! After all, the Forest Preserve District offers scores of programs and publications that help folks expand their nature know-how. Answer the questions below and see how many you get right to measure *your* outdoor IQ!

1. What side of a tree does moss grow on?
A. North B. West C. Any
2. These wild animals usually stay with their parents well into winter.
A. Cottontails B. Coyotes C. Chipmunks
3. A woodpecker can get a concussion from hammering too many trees.
A. True B. False
4. These insects do not carry pollen between flowers.
A. Dragonflies B. Moths C. Flies
5. This chemical makes leaves turn orange.
A. Carotene B. Benzopene C. Pantene
6. Where do most DuPage County frogs spend winter?
A. Florida B. In the trees C. Underwater
7. Which of these birds is not a falcon?
A. Kestrel B. Northern harrier C. Peregrine falcon
8. What is the protective shell on the outside of an insect called?
A. Exoderma B. Exoskeleton C. Skeletor
9. Great horned owls start to call for mates in the fall.
A. True B. False
10. Daddy longlegs are the most venomous spiders on the planet.
A. True B. False
11. What's one way a millipede protects itself from predators?
A. Makes a high-pitched squeal
B. Bites
C. Releases a foul-smelling liquid
12. What are some of the things a skunk might do to show it's about to spray?
A. Hiss and stomp its feet B. Do a handstand C. A and B
13. Which of these is not an insect?
A. Housefly B. Bumblebee C. Centipede
14. Which of these birds is a songbird?
A. Mallard B. Red-tailed hawk C. Robin
15. What's one reason a female turtle will cross a busy road?
A. To find a place to lay her eggs
B. To hang with the chickens
C. To get to the sunny side of the street

Answers

- 1 C Mosses (and similar-looking growths called “lichens”) may grow more often on the north because it’s shadier, but you can find them on any side.
- 2 B Females especially may stay with their parents to help with next year’s litter. Cottontails and chipmunks go out on their own in a few short weeks.
- 3 B Woodpeckers have shock-absorbent skulls and beaks that help cushion the blow.
- 4 A Dragonflies eat insects, but like bees and butterflies, some moths and flies eat nectar, carrying pollen within and between flowers along the way.
- 5 A Carotenes do the same for carrots, sweet potatoes and cantaloupes. (Pantene, though, can make your hair shiny on a fall hike.)
- 6 C Frogs can pull oxygen directly from the water through their skin. If the water freezes, glucose in their bodies protects their organs. A freezing frog may stop breathing and have no heartbeat, but these functions will reboot once it thaws.
- 7 B Northern harriers are in the Accipitridae family, the same as hawks and eagles. Kestrels and peregrine falcons are in Falconidae. The two families have a few differences, but all of their members are birds of prey: birds that hunt and eat other animals.
- 8 B Exoskeletons, or “external skeletons,” are found on crustaceans, too, such as shrimp and crabs.
- 9 A You can tell “hoo’s hoo” by their calls, too. Females’ are higher and rise in pitch near the end.
- 10 B Actually, daddy longlegs aren’t spiders at all, even though they have eight legs. One way to tell? Spiders have two body parts with a “waist” in between. Daddy longlegs have one main body. They also don’t have fangs, let alone venom glands.
- 11 C Some millipedes release toxic chemicals through microscopic “ozopores” in their skin.
- 12 C Did the handstand fool you? Sorry! A skunk can sometimes flip into a temporary handstand if it’s backing away while stomping its feet.
- 13 C By definition, an insect has a three-part body, a pair of antennae, compound eyes — and only six legs.
- 14 C All birds make calls as warning signals and some have calls they use to attract mates, but only songbirds have specially developed vocal organs that let them produce complex (and pretty) melodies.
- 15 A Turtles spend most of their lives in the water but move to land to lay their eggs. Snapping turtles may travel up to half a mile to find the right conditions.



▲ Chipmunk



▲ Hoverfly



▲ Striped skunk



▲ Northern harrier

Ready to find out how you did? Count how many you got right and see where you’re at!

12 – 15

You’re a forest preserve aficionado.

You really know your nature and spend a lot of time outdoors (and reading the Conservationist, of course). You’re the friend everyone goes to when they have questions about bugs, birds, moss and more.

5 – 11

You’ve got nature know-how.

You are no stranger to the county’s woodlands, prairies and wetlands but may need a little extra insight. Register for a guided fall colors hike or join a program on owls and other birds that hunt from the sky. Our fall lineup starts on Page 8.

0 – 4

You’re a babe in the woods.

But that’s OK! DuPage County has nearly 26,000 acres of forest preserves where you can bump up your outdoor IQ year-round. And with nature news updates on dupageforest.org and facebook.com/dupageforest, you’ll be a pro in no time!

fall calendar

See pages 10 – 17 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary.
You can register for most programs online at dupageforest.org.



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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October

- 1** Archery: All Ages
Fishing: Off the Beaten Path
Halloween Night Walks Ticket Sales Begin
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Paddling: With a Ranger
Wilderness Survival
- 3** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 4** Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
- 5** Archery: All Ages
St. James Farm Fall Colors
Wagon Ride
- 6** Archery: Active Adults
Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
"Leap Into Volunteering" Info Session
- 7** FullersBird Friday
- 8** All About Urban Coyotes
Navigation: GPS Games
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Danada Fall Festival
St. James Farm Fall Colors
Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Art at Mayslake: Botanical Art Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Ranger Adventure Day
- 12** Archery: Adults
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
Plant Pressing and Preservation Begins
St. James Farm Fall Colors
Wagon Ride
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 13** Myths and Legends
Photography: Introduction to Photo Composition Begins
Ride the Trails Fall Colors Tour
- 14** Fall Colors Hike
Fishing: Family Fishing 101
FullersBird Friday
St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Corn Harvest
Fall Colors Hike
Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener
Paddling: Fall Colors
Urban Stream Research Center
Open House
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Corn Harvest
Navigation: GPS Explorers
St. James Farm Fall Colors
Wagon Ride
- 17** Full Moon Hike
Navigation: Compass Basics
- 18** Fall Colors Hike
Photography: Introduction to Nature Photography Begins
- 19** Archery: All Ages
- 20** Navigation: Geocaching for Active Adults
- 21** FullersBird Friday
Halloween Night Walks
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 22** Halloween Night Walks
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23** Cast-Iron Cooking
Predators in the Sky
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Photography: Digital Photography I Begins
- 26** Archery: Adults
Fall Colors Hike
Photography: Building a Photo Book Begins
- 28** St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Fishing: Muskie Basics
Lamplight Stories
Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour
Ride the Trails Fall Colors Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Navigation: Geocaching
- 31** Art at Mayslake: Drawing and Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk



Registering on dupageforest.org?

- Here's a quick way to find your program online.
1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register."
 2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
 3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

November

- 2** Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 3** Photography: Intermediate Photo Composition Begins
- 4** St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 5** Fishing: Off the Beaten Path
Navigation: Geocaching
Owl Academy
Photography: Fall Colors Excursion
- 6** Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 7** Forest Fitness Walk
- 8** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
- 9** Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 11** St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Fishing: Family Fishing 101
Introduction to Prescription Burns
Music at Mayslake: Picos
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Cast-Iron Cooking
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance:
The Early Show
- 14** Forest Fitness Walk
Full Moon Hike
- 15** Lectures at Mayslake: 1916
A Year to Remember
- 16** Archery: Active Adults
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 17** Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst
Symphony Orchestra
- 18** St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride
- 19** Archery: All Ages
- 20** Introduction to Prescription Burns
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Forest Fitness Walk
Nature: The Video Game
- 22** A Cast-Iron Cooking Thanksgiving
- 23** Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 26** Holiday Sweets
- 27** Holiday Sweets
Navigation: Geocaching
Navigation: GPS Games
- 28** Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike
- 30** Storytime at Fullersburg Woods

December

- 3** Music at Mayslake: Acappellago
Talons and Claus
- 4** Be Prepared: Winter in the Preserves
Navigation: Geocaching
- 5** The Dirt on Worms
Forest Fitness Walk
- 6** Photography: Digital
Photography II Begins
- 7** Cast-Iron Cooking
Storytime at Fullersburg Woods
- 8** Fishing: Explore Your Tackle Box
Lasting Impressions
- 10** Christmas on the Farm
Holiday Art and Craft Market
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Christmas on the Farm
Holiday Art and Craft Market
"Make a Snake" Ornament
Open House
Navigation: GPS Games
- 12** Forest Fitness Walk
- 14** Be Prepared: Winter in the Preserves
Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 17** Animal Evidence
Bird-Count Field Trip
Snowshoe Hike
- 18** Cross-Country Skiing After Dark
- 19** Forest Fitness Walk
Full Moon Hike
Navigation: GPS Games
- 21** Ranger Adventure Day
- 22** Animal Evidence
- 27** Camp Danada: Winter
Break Begins
Camp FBW: Winter Break
- 28** Ranger Adventure Day
Camp FBW: Winter Break
- 29** Nature: The Video Game
- 30** Cross-Country Skiing After Dark
- 31** Snowshoe Hike



fall calendar



All About Urban Coyotes 8593

Learn about the natural history, lifestyles and social structures of coyotes in urban areas and ways to minimize human-coyote conflicts. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Oct 8	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Animal Evidence 8477

Learn about tracks, scat and other evidence animals leave behind, and then look for critters on a guided hike. Ages 5 and up with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Dec 17, 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Registration is not required for these free programs. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade.

Saturdays (except Dec. 24 and 31)
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES HOUSE TOUR

Enjoy the house decked in ornaments and greens, savor the spicy aromas of holiday treats as they bake in the wood-burning oven, and discover the origins of holiday foods, cards, decorated trees, and other traditions.

Dec. 1 – Jan. 2 (except Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1)
Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

THE FARMHOUSE AT DUSK

Tour the house by lamplight and discover what life on an 1890s farm was like after the sun set.

Dec. 1 – Jan. 2 (except Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1)
Thursday – Monday 4 – 4:30 p.m.

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

Tour the farmhouse for a glimpse of 1890s life.

Through Nov. 28 (except Nov. 24)
Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

Archery

Learn the history and basic techniques of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Active Adults 8387

Ages 50 and up.

Oct 6	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Nov 16	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Adults 8438

Ages 18 and up.

Oct 12, 26	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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All Ages 8369

Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Oct 1	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct 5, 19	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Nov 19	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
Nov 19	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Art at Mayslake

Expand your creativity and gain inspiration in a scenic, historic setting. Ages 18 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Botanical Art 8289

Study the colors and textures of plants at Mayslake, learn how to record your observations in a sketchbook, and develop a finished piece in graphite or watercolor. Mondays. \$130 plus \$10 supply fee per person.

Oct 10 – Nov 14	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Drawing and Painting 8293

Learn basic drawing skills through demonstrations and discussions and use them to create paintings. Mondays. \$125 per person.

Oct 31 – Dec 5	Noon – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Exploring Watercolor 8295

Explore and enhance your artistic style while painting in a beautiful setting at this intermediate-advanced class. \$125 per person.

Nov 8, 15, 29	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec 6, 13, 20	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake



Registering on dupageforest.org?

- Here's a quick way to find your program online.
1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Register."
 2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
 3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Be a Junior Ranger! 8382

Explore nature and work on leadership, navigation, first aid, geocaching and other skills rangers use at this five-part program on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Meets at Churchill Woods, Willowbrook and Hidden Lake. Ages 6 – 12. \$45 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 4 – Nov 1	4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Multiple Ages 9 – 12
Oct 6 – Nov 3	4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Multiple Ages 6 – 8

Be Prepared: Winter in the Preserves 8419

Learn about different winter forest preserve activities and how to enjoy them safely. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Dec 4, 14	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Bird-Count Field Trip 8392

Join the DuPage Birding Club to record resident species for the annual Christmas Bird Count. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 by Dec. 12.

Dec 17	8 – 11 a.m.	W. Chicago Prairie
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Camp Danada: Winter Break 8643

Warm up in the barn with chores and hands-on horse time and enjoy games, crafts and supervised lead-line rides at this four-day camp. Ages 10 – 14. \$125 per DuPage resident; \$150 nonresident. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 668-6012.

Dec 27 – 30	9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Danada
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Camp FBW: Winter Break 8653

Join a four-hour adventure with experiments, wildlife, games, crafts and more! Ages 4 – 6 or 7 – 9. \$60 per DuPage resident; \$75 nonresident. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Dec 27, 28	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Cast-Iron Cooking 8462

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire as you learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 7 – 12. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 23	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov 13	1 – 3:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Dec 7	11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

A Cast-Iron Cooking Thanksgiving 8467

Celebrate Thanksgiving by helping to prepare a traditional meal over an open campfire as you learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 13 and up; \$5 ages 7 – 12. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Nov 22	11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Christmas on the Farm

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas! Visit the animals; enjoy hot spiced cider and carols by the warming fire; admire the farmhouse decked in garlands and greens; and stop in the visitor center to take your picture with Santa in his sleigh. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Dec 10, 11	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Corn Harvest

Take a horse-drawn wagon ride out to the fields, and help shuck and store the corn that will feed the farm's cows and sheep over winter. Then, stop by the farmhouse to make a corn-husk figure for home. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Oct 15, 16	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Cross-Country Skiing After Dark 8482

Bring your skis and join a ranger-led tour as you learn about forest preserve plants and animals. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Dec 18, 30	4 – 6 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Danada Fall Festival

Join a celebration of the horse and the season at this annual event. Enjoy a parade of breeds, continuous equestrian performances, including Danada's own musical drill team, hayrides, pony rides, face painting, grooming demonstrations, educational displays, food, and more. Activities ongoing. All ages. Free admission and parking. Fees for some activities. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 668-6012.

Oct 9	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Danada
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fall calendar



The Dirt on Worms 8534

Celebrate World Soil Day as you learn about soil and how worms keep it rich. Then, find out how you can harness the composting power of worms at home to limit your effect on the environment and raise your garden's output. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Dec 5	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Fall Colors Hike 8409

Learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a guided hike through scenic fall landscapes. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 14	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove
Oct 15	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Oct 18	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
Oct 26	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Fishing

Find tips and tricks for fishing at forest preserve lakes. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248 unless noted.

Explore Your Tackle Box 8417

Bring yours and learn how to use what's inside! See what lures look like underwater to a fish, and get your questions answered. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Dec 8	Noon – 2 p.m.	Mayslake
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Fall Trout Season Opener

Grab your gear and head to Silver, Pickerel or Grove lake. Anglers 16 and older who are not legally disabled must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. Registration not required.

Oct 15	6 a.m.	Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne Woods, Wood Dale Grove
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Family Fishing 101 8456

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult.

Oct 14	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov 12	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell

Muskie Basics 8473

Learn about the structures and habitats muskie prefer and how to tell the difference between a muskie and a northern pike. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult.

Oct 29	9 – 11 a.m.	Mallard Lake
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Off the Beaten Path 8445

Join a ranger for a 2-mile hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult.

Oct 1	9 – 11 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Nov 5	9 – 11 a.m.	McDowell Grove

Forest Fitness Walk 8081

Enjoy the wonders of the preserves with a ranger and naturalist, and get some healthy exercise on these brisk walks that increase in distance every week. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Oct 3	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Danada
Oct 10	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Oct 31	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	James "Pate" Philip
Nov 7	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Nov 14	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Nov 21	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	West Branch
Dec 5	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Dec 12	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
Dec 19	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike 8370

Join a naturalist and take in the sights and sounds of the woodlands and prairies on a special 10-mile version of this popular program. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Nov 28	8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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FullersBird Friday 8083

Join these short naturalist-led walks to see how the diversity of birds changes from summer to fall. Ages 16 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Oct 7	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Oct 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Burlington Park
Oct 21	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Full Moon Hike 8084

Enjoy a 3-mile hike under a full moon as you take in the sights and sounds of a forest preserve at dusk. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Oct 17	6 – 8 p.m.	Greene Valley
Nov 14	6 – 8 p.m.	Meacham Grove
Dec 19	6 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell



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2. In the search box, enter the four-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Halloween Night Walks

Enjoy Halloween tricks and natural-history tales during a 75-minute walk through the woods after dark. Short stops along the way will delight you with dramatic antics and humorous tales. These walks are a spook-tacular treat! Ages 2 and up; under 18 with an adult. Tickets go on sale Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. at Fullersburg Woods (maximum 10 per order). \$12 per person. Questions? Call (630) 850-8110.

Oct 21, 22	6 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Holiday Art and Craft Market

Shop for quality artisan holiday gifts for family and friends. Part of the proceeds will benefit the next restoration project at Mayslake Hall. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Dec 10	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
Dec 11	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake

Holiday Sweets

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

Nov 26, 27	12:30, 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Illinois Smallmouth Alliance: The Early Show

Enjoy the sixth annual "Early Show," Chicagoland's only fly-fishing show. See demonstrations and products from local vendors. All ages. \$10 per person at the door. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Nov 13	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Introduction to Prescription Burns ⁸⁴⁵²

Learn about the benefits of prescription burns and how and why the Forest Preserve District uses them. See a burn in progress, too, weather permitting. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Nov 12, 20	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Lamplight Stories

Halloween isn't just for kids, and this program isn't the farm's "Children's Story Hour"! Enjoy an evening of ghoulish tales told outside in the dark. Ages 15 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Oct 29	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Lasting Impressions ⁸³⁰¹

Join a search for tracks and signs of wildlife, and discover clues of an era gone by at Mayslake Peabody Estate. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Dec 8	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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"Leap Into Volunteering" Info Session

Learn about more than 50 volunteer opportunities in 10 programs, each with specific time commitments and activities that will help you learn something new or reignite existing interests. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 933-7233.

Oct 6	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/ Headquarters
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Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Enjoy cultural and natural history stories on these guided rides, weather permitting. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Rides are first-come, first-served and registration is not required. If you have questions or wish to arrange for a private ride for your group on one of the days below, call (630) 668-6012 for Danada or (630) 580-7025 for St. James Farm.

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

**Sept. 17 – Nov. 6 (except Oct. 8, 9, 15 and 16)
Saturdays and Sundays
30-minute rides start at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m.**

St. James Farm in Warrenville

**Dec. 21 – Jan. 7
Wednesday – Saturday
20-minute rides start at 2, 2:30 and 3 p.m.**
Rides use sleighs if there's ample snow on the trails.

fall calendar



Lectures at Mayslake: 1916 A Year to Remember 8298

Discover what people talked about at the dinner table a century ago and what was happening in the arts, literature and entertainment during this talk and slide show. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Nov 15	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Little Sprouts Tales and Trails 8541

Ignite your little one's sense of wonder for the natural world as you enjoy stories, songs, movement and guided outdoor explorations together. Ages 2 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Oct 12	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods <i>Pumpkins</i>
Nov 16	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods <i>Fall</i>
Dec 14	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods <i>Snowflakes</i>

“Make a Snake” Ornament Open House

Get in the holiday spirit Willowbrook style! Craft a fun, colorful snake ornament, and then meet some of DuPage County's snakes face-to-face. Ages 3 and up with an adult. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

Dec 11	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour 8292

Explore the basement and archives of Mayslake Hall. This tour includes stairs. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Oct 29	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Music at Mayslake

Acappellago

Join this chamber choir for “Escape to ... Where Angels Sing” featuring familiar carols and new music. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$12 – \$15 per person. Purchase tickets at acappellago.org or (708) 484-3797.

Dec 3	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy Schubert, Gershwin and other pieces for clarinet and piano. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or (630) 941-0202.

Nov 17	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Picosa

Enjoy music from Debussy, Yi, Gordon and Vaughn Williams. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at picosamusic.com.

Nov 12	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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Myths and Legends 8291

Was there a hidden glass coffin holding the remains of Mayslake's first owner? Enjoy s'mores and hear the origins of many estate stories. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Oct 13	7 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Nature: The Video Game 8618

Experience nature with your iPhone or similar Apple device with mobile data access by playing an augmented-reality game with environmental clues. Ages 9 – 14 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Nov 21	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec 29	10 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Navigation

Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Compass Basics 8472

Learn one of the oldest survival skills – how to use a compass – and then join a fun activity. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free.

Oct 17	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Geocaching 8406

Try a family-friendly treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Equipment provided. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Oct 3	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Oct 30	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Park
Nov 5	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Nov 27	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Dec 4	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake



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Geocaching for Active Adults 8405

See a geocaching demonstration and then use a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. \$5 per person.

Oct 20	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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GPS Explorers 8402

Learn how to mark waypoints, measure distances, follow routes and check elevations. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person.

Oct 16	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov 6	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

GPS Games 8399

Use technology to put a modern twist on capture the flag and other outdoor games. Equipment provided. Ages 8 – 12. \$5 per person.

Oct 8	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Nov 27	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec 11	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec 19	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Owl Academy 8596

Spend the evening at Willowbrook with a pizza dinner and a course in "owlology." Meet the center's resident owls, and join a guided hike to look for owls in the wild. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person ages 18 and up; \$10 ages 7 – 17. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Nov 5	5 – 7:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Paddling

Bring your own canoe or kayak to these free programs or rent one for \$20 per person per program. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Fall Colors 8468

Enjoy fall reflections on the West Branch during a guided paddle from downtown Winfield to Warrenville Grove. (Paddlers must arrange for their own rides back to the launch site.) Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Oct 15	1 – 5 p.m.	Multiple
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With a Ranger 8380

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Oct 2	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Photography

Expand your creativity and gain inspiration in a scenic, historic setting. Ages 18 and up unless noted. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Building a Photo Book 8313

Learn about print-on-demand services and how to focus your topic, select pictures and add text to complete a photo-book project. Four Wednesdays. \$120 per person.

Oct 26 – Nov 16	6 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Digital Photography I and II 8335 and 8336

Learn features of digital cameras and the aesthetics of great images. Then, move on to create images using the shutter priority, aperture priority and manual modes. Five Tuesdays. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person per session.

Oct 25 – Nov 22	6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (I)	Mayslake
Dec 6 – Jan 3	6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (II)	Mayslake

Fall Colors Excursion 8328

Explore fall colors with a naturalist and a photography instructor who will teach you about nature and ways to capture beautiful images. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person.

Nov 5	8 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Intermediate Photo Composition 8294

Explore curves, lines, circles and other power shapes; point and counterpoint contrasts; and ways to capture the decisive moment. Five classes. \$150 per person.

Nov 3, 10, 17	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Nov 5, 12	TBD	TBD

Introduction to Nature Photography 8312

Gain an understanding of natural light, basic computer skills and camera settings, exposure, depth-of-field and more. Five classes. \$150 per person.

Oct 18, 25, Nov 1	7 – 10 p.m.	Mayslake
Oct 22, 29	8 – 11 a.m.	TBD

Introduction to Photo Composition 8290

Learn the basic tools of composition and how to create the illusion of three-dimensionality, compose a photograph in the field, and finish a composition. Five classes. \$150 per person.

Oct 13, 20, 27	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Oct 15, 22	TBD	TBD

fall calendar



Plant Pressing and Preservation 8398

Learn how to press and preserve plants at this two-part program. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 12	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Nov 2	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Predators in the Sky 8594

Learn about the animals that hunt from the sky, and meet one of Willowbrook's resident raptors up close. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Oct 23	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Mayslake Peabody Estate

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "DR. SEWARD'S DRACULA"

Can Dr. Seward convince the police of his innocence of several murders (and himself of his sanity)? Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Oct. 5 – Nov. 6

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Sundays and Thursdays 3 p.m.

NEAR WEST ART COLLECTIVE EXHIBIT AND SALE

View this "Inspired by Nature" exhibit, and meet the artists Nov. 9 at 6:30 p.m. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Nov. 9 – Dec. 8

Monday – Friday 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. \$8 per person. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

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

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

Ranger Adventure Day 8391

Hey, kids, find out what it takes to be a ranger as you try archery, go on a guided hike and enjoy other outdoor fun while learning about plants and animals. Ages 9 – 12. \$60 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 10	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Dec 21, 28	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Ride the Trails Fall Colors Tour 8414

Bring your bike and tour several forest preserves on a 15- to 18-mile ranger-led ride through the fall scenery. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Res.
Oct 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada

Snowshoe Hike 8469

Hear about the history of snowshoeing and pick up basic safety tips. Then, step into a pair of snowshoes and hit the trail with a ranger. Bring your own snowshoes to this free program or rent a pair for \$8 per person. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Dec 17	1 – 3 p.m.	Blackwell
Dec 31	1 – 3 p.m.	W. DuPage Woods

St. James Farm Fall Colors Wagon Ride

Take in the fall colors on a 30-minute tractor-drawn wagon ride as you hear about the buildings, natural areas and equestrian roots of this preserve. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 580-7025.

Oct 5, 9, 12, 16	1 and 2 p.m.	St. James Farm
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St. James Farm Full Moon Wagon Ride 8350

Enjoy a tractor-drawn hay-wagon ride under the harvest (October) or frosty (November) moon, and hear stories of the land's early inhabitants. Then, enjoy hot cocoa and s'mores by the fire. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Oct 14, 28	6, 6:30 and 7 p.m.	St. James Farm
Nov 4, 11, 18	6, 6:30 and 7 p.m.	St. James Farm



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Storytime at Fullersburg Woods 8535

Enjoy a nature story in the visitor center before taking a short walk to look for flowers, trees, insects and surprises along the way. Then, stop back in to explore the center's fun nature displays and activities. Ages 5 and under with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8110.

Nov 2, 9, 23, 30	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Dec 7	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Talons and Claus

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

Dec 3	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Urban Stream Research Center Open House

See first-hand the District's efforts to raise freshwater mussels, federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies, and state-endangered Blanding's turtles, and meet some of the crayfish, insects and fish that call the county's waterways home. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9626.

Oct 15	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Blackwell
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Volunteer Restoration Workday 8349

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 at least five days in advance. Students fulfilling requirements and groups of five or more must register by phone 10 days in advance.

Oct 1, 15, 29	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Oct 1, 8, 9, 22, 23, 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Oct 14, 28	10 a.m. – Noon	Danada
Oct 15	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Nov 11	10 a.m. – Noon	Danada
Nov 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Nov 12	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Nov 12, 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Dec 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 8388

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 at least five days in advance. Students fulfilling requirements and groups of five or more must register by phone 10 days in advance.

Oct 3, 12, 21, 29	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov 4, 9	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

Wilderness Survival 8455

Learn how to set up camp, build a fire and perform other vital survival skills. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Oct 2	2 – 4 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Winter Fun

SNOW TUBING

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) thrill-seekers can take a fun 800-foot ride down the hill. Inner tube rentals are \$5 per tube per day (\$7 for nylon tubes) and end at 3:30 p.m. Only District tubes are allowed.

Saturdays and Sundays

Dec. 3 – Feb. 26 (except Dec. 25)

Plus Dec. 19 – Jan. 3, Jan. 16 and Feb. 20

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SNOWSHOES

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook

Explore the forest preserves by snowshoes! Rentals are \$8 for two hours or \$13 per day and are only available when there's plenty of snow on the trails.

- When Mount Hoy's open, rent at the base until 2 p.m.
- On weekdays when Mount Hoy isn't open, rent 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the west sector office on Mack Road. Call (630) 876-5931 for availability.
- You can also rent daily 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call (630) 850-8110 for availability.



Prescription Burns

by **RACHEL REKLAU**, NATURAL RESOURCES

In my 20 years with the Forest Preserve District, some of my most cherished memories come from time spent away from my desk and along the prescription burn line.

Prescription burns are one of the best tools the District has for keeping prairies, woodlands and wetlands healthy, and it uses them in spring and fall, treating 1,600 acres each year on average. Prescription burns prevent dead grasses and leaves from piling up and cooling the soil, which can make it harder for seeds to sprout. They turn dried plants into ash, allowing nutrients locked inside to reenter the soil more quickly and fertilize new growth. But prescription burns also knock back newly sprouted invasive and unwanted brush.

What makes plants “unwanted”? To ecologists, habitats should contain an abundance of different types of “native” plants, species that have grown in an area for centuries and are well-adapted to weather and soil conditions. This plant “biodiversity” in turn supports diverse types of wildlife.

But when fast-growing plants from other regions (European buckthorn or Asian honeysuckle, for example) arrive and quickly spread, the sunlight, water and space they steal from native species causes that diversity to dwindle. Fortunately, unlike natives, which developed side by side with sporadic fires over millennia and have deep roots and thick bark to withstand the



▲ Line Tender

heat, nonnatives are simply not built to tolerate fires.

The “prescription” in all of this is the set of directives natural resource managers develop to decide where and when to burn. First, the District reviews its priority list. At the top are areas it’s required to burn because of agreements it has with other agencies. Next in line are high-quality areas it hasn’t burned in more than three years or habitats it needs to burn to clear away seedlings from invasive brush. A number of ecological conditions can move a site up or down this list.

The District also considers resident wildlife when it develops a prescription. Animals are naturally adept at avoiding the slow-burning fires, which leave behind soils barely warm to the touch. Still, if an area is home to a rare species, such as Blanding’s turtles, or to populations of frogs or salamanders, as an added precaution the District won’t burn during the spring breeding season.

After the District decides where to burn, it obtains permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and local fire departments, if needed, and mails postcards to people who live within 1,000 feet of each burn unit. It also ensures burn crews have proper training and its “burn bosses” have advanced certifications. After all, on the morning of a scheduled burn, it’s



Fuel for the Fire

Whether you're talking about prescription burns or wildfires, "fuel" refers to the plants. Out West, generally low humidity coupled with easy-burning fuels like grasses, low-lying shrubs, and pines and other cone-producing trees can create hot wildfires that spread quickly, especially when they can jump from treetop to treetop. Because the Midwest typically doesn't have these conditions, the risk of wildfires is extremely low.

the burn boss who reviews the site's prescription and decides if it's safe to proceed. This part of the prescription addresses elements like humidity and the forecast for rain. (If you've tried to start a campfire, you'll know moisture makes it difficult.) It also looks at the speed and direction of the wind. (If there's a busy road or school east of the site, we can't burn with winds out of the west.)

If a burn is a go, the District notifies fire and police departments, the county sheriff's office, and residents who requested calls. Burn crews don fire-retardant coveralls, helmets with shrouds covering the neck and face, and heavy-duty gloves. From start to finish, which can take three to six hours, everyone works as a team, closely following the directions of the burn boss and crew leaders. Torch operators ignite dry vegetation along the perimeter, and the crews carefully monitor the fire as it spreads across the burn unit. Line tenders stand by with water pumps and tools to extinguish flames that persist once the main fire has run its course or that spark outside of the burn unit. To date, nearly 20 current District employees have logged over 100 burns (a club of which I'm proud to be a member) and several have participated in over 200.

If you're interested in finding out more (and seeing a burn firsthand) make sure to register for "Introduction to Prescription Burns" on Nov. 12 or 20. Details are on Page 13. Take it from me: It's one program you won't want to miss! •

Vocabulary of a Prescription Burn

Burn Unit

Area being burned (one preserve may have several)

Firebreak

Low vegetation at the edge of the burn unit

Burn Boss

Oversees all aspects; communicates with employees and fire departments; directs the crew; identifies structures or trees to protect

Crew Leader

Determines the pace of lighting the fire and directs torch operators and line tenders

Torch Operator

Lights the fire along the edge of the burn unit and the interior if needed

Line Tender

Puts fires out along the edge of the burn unit



▲ Torch Operator



Trails Across DuPage

by KEVIN HORSFALL, PLANNING

DuPage County's forest preserves are home to 145 miles of trails that offer relaxing, fun, safe ways to explore some of the county's best woodlands, prairies and wetlands. On their own, they're irreplaceable forest preserve features, but by integrating some of them into larger countywide routes, the Forest Preserve District is making them critical parts of one of the most well-planned regional trail systems in the state as well.

Regional trails are important because they provide environmentally friendly alternatives to traveling by car that get people to their destinations safely and efficiently while creating the best possible experiences. They connect thousands of acres of forest preserves and other open spaces to neighborhoods, offices and retail centers in multiple towns and offer easy access to scenic walks or serious exercise. They create communities that are environmentally, physically, mentally and economically healthy.

To date, 70 percent of the county's 308 miles of planned regional trails are either completed or funded and in the works, the highest percentage in the Chicagoland area. It's an achievement made possible by the dedication of the Forest Preserve District, DuPage County, municipalities, townships, road districts, Illinois' departments of transportation and natural resources, the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency, and others. This kind of collaboration is critical because there's more to creating a regional trail than just placing gravel on the ground.

Trails need to comply with a long list of permit requirements and regulations. For the Forest Preserve District in particular, whose mission is to protect and preserve the county's plants, wildlife and scenic beauty, they must keep disturbances to natural areas to a minimum, too. DuPage County trails also adhere to

standards set by the American Association of State Highway Officials, which address design layout details, signage, the placement of trailheads and other features, and more technical aspects.

For instance, designers must determine the proper site clearance at any point. This is the distance between the edge of the trail and any plants or structures that may affect visibility – and safety – especially at intersections. (To reduce the risk of collisions in general, DuPage County trails are typically 10 feet wide with 3- to 5-foot-wide mowed shoulders.) Designers also have to take into account factors like the “coefficient of friction” of the proposed surface material and adequate “horizontal and vertical curves,” which help determine if bikes going the typical 15 – 20 mph have the traction and space to safely ride through twists and turns.

Because most new forest preserve trails (regional or otherwise) have to stand up to feet, wheels, skis and hooves, once designed they're often constructed following an equally calculated set of standards. At the bottom is a synthetic fabric that stabilizes the soil and allows water to filter through. In flood-prone or poorly drained areas, crews may first need to dig down 1 to 2 feet and fill the space with 3-inch stones to improve drainage before putting the fabric in place. A 6-inch layer of compacted three-quarter-inch stone mixed with fine crushed rock forms the sturdy base, and a 2-inch layer of compacted limestone (fragments smaller than one-eighth inch mixed with crushed powder) creates the surface.

Once a regional trail starts to take shape, navigation tools come into play. In addition to signs, the names of the trails themselves help assure people they're on the right path. Some are named after natural features they follow along the way, such as the West Branch DuPage River Trail or the Salt Creek Greenway Trail. Others refer to where they lie within the county, such as



© Michael Kappel

the North Central DuPage or Southern DuPage regional trails.

Things can get confusing, though, when a regional trail runs through a forest preserve with a previously assigned trail name. For instance, at Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, the north half of the 9.5-mile looped Main Trail is also part of the Southern DuPage Regional Trail. Similarly, the Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail overlaps or crosses parts of the Green Heron, Meadowlark and Bluebird trails at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve.

To help in these cases, the District is installing trail markers and maps to show if a stretch is known by two different names. It recently placed signs at Waterfall Glen and will be doing so at Danada, Herrick Lake, St. James Farm and Fullersburg Woods forest preserves this fall.

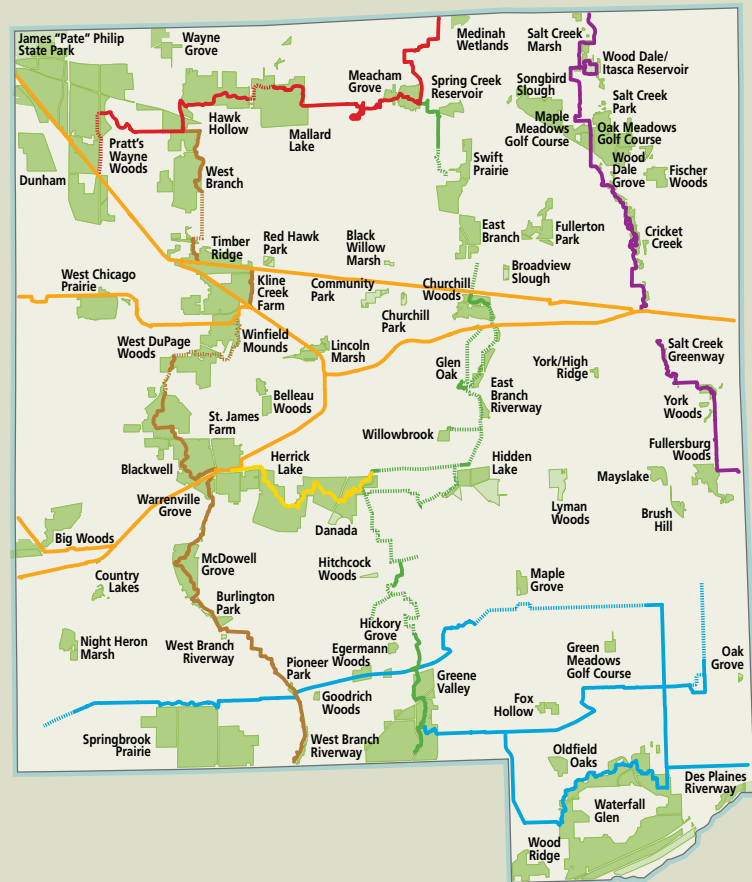
With all of the factors that go into the design and construction of a trail, it's not unusual for one to cost \$500,000 or more per mile, but the benefits are well worth the investment. Over the next few years, for instance, the Forest Preserve District and partners such as Carol Stream, Winfield, Hanover Park, Winfield and Wayne township road districts, and DuPage County will be adding almost 10 miles to the county's regional trail network. Forest preserve visitors will have more places to pedal, ride, walk, jog, run, trot or roller ski along the West Branch DuPage River at Winfield Mounds and McDowell Grove, in grasslands at Hawk Hollow, around wetlands in Pratt's Wayne Woods and Dunham, and through oak woodlands at St. James Farm and West DuPage Woods.

For the latest on all of the District's trail developments, visit dupageforest.org and click "Forest Preserve News" and "Plans and Projects." Then, click "Places to Go" and "Forest Preserves" for maps and more that'll help you get ready to walk or ride along a forest preserve trail near you! •



▲ Newly designed markers, like these at Waterfall Glen, help visitors navigate county regional trails within the forest preserves.

Regional Trails of DuPage County



—	Salt Creek Greenway Trail	35 Miles
—	West Branch DuPage River Trail	23 Miles
—	East Branch DuPage River Greenway Trail	31 Miles
—	Southern DuPage Regional Trail	46 Miles
—	North Central DuPage Regional Trail	35 Miles
—	Illinois Prairie Path & Great Western Trail	52 Miles
—	Danada-Herrick Lake Regional Trail	5.5 Miles
—	Proposed Trails	

directory



GENERAL *Contacts*

HEADQUARTERS

Street Address

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

The headquarters office is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Saturdays, Sundays 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

CONSERVATIONIST SUBSCRIPTION LINE

(630) 933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

(630) 871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(630) 933-7240

VISITOR SERVICES

(630) 933-7248

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

(630) 933-7233

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

Closed for Renovations Until 2017
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 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 – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and select holidays.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

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

April – October the center is open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. but is closed on select holidays. November – March hours may vary.

KLINE CREEK FARM

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

The farm is open Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is closed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and select holidays.

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

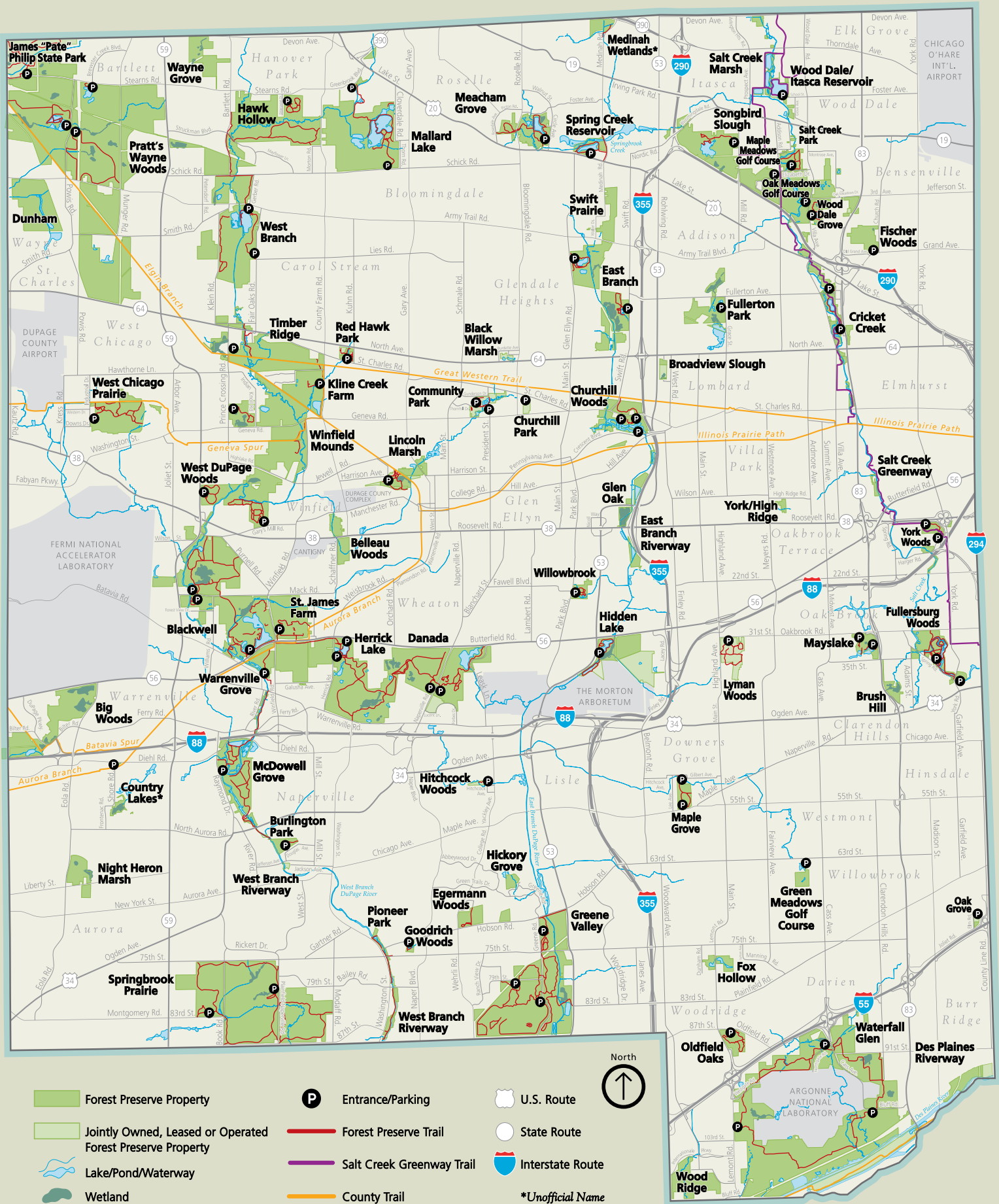
1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523
(630) 206-9566

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 visitor center and the surrounding Willowbrook Forest Preserve are open daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The animal admittance area is open 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. All areas are closed on select holidays.





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

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2016

2017.

It'll be here before you know it, which means
it'll soon be time to renew your annual dog,
boating and model craft permits.



Renewing is easy! Starting Dec. 1,
visit dupageforest.org/recreation
and click "Purchase Permits."