

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2016

Caution: Turtle Crossing

Your Guide to Woodland Wildflowers

Take a Hike (With Us!)



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



Friday, April 22 is Earth Day, the international celebration that started here in the States as a day to raise awareness about environmental and conservation issues. At the Forest Preserve District, we're hosting lectures, hikes, workdays and other educational, energizing activities leading up to the day. But if you wake up April 23 and feel like you've missed out, don't worry. In DuPage County's forest preserves, Earth Day is a year-round event!

Each year District crews plant upward of 1,000 trees and shrubs in the county's forest preserves, boosting the land's ability to absorb carbon dioxide, generate oxygen and keep things cool. Trees don't only offer shade. They also lower the temperature of the air around them when moisture pulled from the ground makes its way through the leaves and evaporates.

In forest preserves like Dunham and St. James Farm, the District is creating acres of new wetlands, which not only help with flood control — 1 acre can hold up to 1.5 million gallons of stormwater — but also filter pollutants from that water before they can reach underground reservoirs and local waterways.

And across the county, volunteers are giving habitats a helping hand by annually collecting hundreds of pounds of seeds from over 80 different types of native flowers and grasses. This "home-sown" stock guarantees the District has seeds well-adapted for growing conditions in DuPage County, increasing its ability to create diverse, healthy habitats supporting a variety of wildlife.

So pick your favorite way to mark Earth Day this spring, even if it's an hour along a trail, by a lake or on a bench near a prairie. If it inspires you to plan your next visit, join a workday in the woods, plant native flowers in your yard or simply take a few deep breaths, it'll be a great way to celebrate!

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



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BOARD MEETINGS

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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Spring 2016, Vol. 52, No. 2

Editor

Jayne Bohner



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DU PAGE COUNTY

P.O. Box 5000, Wheaton, IL 60189
(630) 933-7200, TTY (800) 526-0857

dupageforest.org

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On the cover: Blanding's turtle © Justin Florkowski

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



CHEERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 10 – 16, the Forest Preserve District applauds its 916 long-term and 1,655 group volunteers, who last fiscal year donated more than 64,000 hours with an in-kind value of almost \$1.6 million.

The District will honor its volunteers and recognize those with milestone accomplishments on April 28 at its annual banquet.

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.

ARENA UPGRADE PLANNED FOR ST. JAMES FARM

The Forest Preserve District has taken the first steps toward upgrading the indoor riding arena at St. James Farm Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

When completed, the renovation will bring the building up to code for public use for proposed activities such as horse shows, exhibitions, riding clinics and classes, therapeutic riding programs, plant sales, indoor archery events, or meetings and receptions.

Proposed improvements include upgrades to the HVAC, electrical and lighting systems; the installation of fire alarms and sprinklers; and modifications to doors, windows and skylights. They also include the construction of an addition with restrooms, movable bleacher seating for 100, and a multipurpose room, which could serve as a meeting, reception, or food-preparation and concession area. Exterior work will include a new entrance walkway and access for emergency services. The project will also address any stabilization or other issues identified in a pre-design assessment.

St. James Farm is currently on well and septic, but the Forest Preserve District is working with an engineering firm on a separate project to bring city sewer and water to the forest preserve and arena.

On Jan. 30 the District hosted an open house on the project and accepted public comments through February. It will use the responses as part of the planning process. It hopes to have a design completed and approved in 2016 so construction and renovations can wrap up by the end of 2017. Approximately \$2.1 million from construction and development funds and the St. James Farm McCormick Endowment fund is budgeted for the design, permitting and construction of this project.



© Henry Melin

PARTNERS FOR POLLINATORS

In January the Forest Preserve District joined The Conservation Foundation, the River Prairie Group of the Sierra Club, the Greater DuPage Wild Ones and other organizations by becoming a partner with the DuPage Monarch Project. Committed to increasing populations of these beautiful insects, the group works to spread the word about the plight of the monarch. It distributes milkweed seeds to local gardens and encourages municipalities to increase appropriate habitat.

The District has a long history of supporting monarchs and other native pollinators. For the past several years ecologists and volunteers have collected and spread seeds from several types of milkweeds (the sole food source for monarch caterpillars) throughout the forest preserves and have grown plants vital to other types of butterflies. Last year the District distributed thousands of packets of milkweed seeds to the public for private gardens, and this year it's doing even more to create healthy populations of pollinators and to further its status as a regional leader in the conservation and protection of imperiled species.

WATER IN THE WORKS AT BLACKWELL

In January the Forest Preserve District entered into an agreement with Warrenville that will bring city water to office and maintenance buildings on Mack Road at Blackwell Forest Preserve. A municipal water source is critical for meeting life-safety requirements that are part of current fire-protection codes.

A roughly 1.25-mile water main extension will run north to Mack Road mainly along Williams Road, minimizing disturbances to natural areas. With it the District can create a looped municipal water system that will not only serve the agency's needs but also benefit the community by providing a more reliable water service to local residents. The water main will also allow the District to move forward with the construction of a new fleet maintenance building, which was put on hold as the District worked to identify and evaluate potential municipal water options.

The District has allocated approximately \$1.76 million in construction and development funds for the project's design, permitting and construction.



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.



© Chissy Mannwright

SPRING *Cleaning*

If one of your 2016 resolutions (remember those?) was to pare down the paperwork as part of your spring cleaning, consider switching to an online subscription of the Conservationist. You can read the current issue at dupageforest.org before it reaches most mailboxes and revisit all of your favorite articles from the past. To stop receiving printed copies, contact us at (630) 933-7085 or forest@dupageforest.org. Give us your email address, and we'll let you know when each new issue goes online.

MANY *Thanks*

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Oct. 29, 2015 and Jan. 19, 2016. 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

Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation \$6,457 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Danada Equestrian Center	Diane Telander \$600 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Estate of Georgina Anderson \$5,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Fox Valley Bicycle and Ski Club \$500 (from Swedish Days Ride) — Forest Preserve District trails
Emme Family Foundation \$3,500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District	Patricia Harris-Wirtz \$500 — St. James Farm Forest Preserve
Maryann Mahoney \$1,550 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Kathleen Heller \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Harold E. Bamford III and Mary P. Bamford \$1,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Richard and Diane Mallahan \$500 — Forest Preserve District off-leash dog areas
George Luvisi \$1,500 — Forest Preserve District bench in memory of Barby Patronski	Bob and Anne McAlaine \$500 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Seth A. Becker \$1,075 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	John R. Quigley \$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District
Tom and Ruth Cloonan \$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Roux Associates, Inc. \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Jonathan Irvine \$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center in honor of Elise Traphagen	Michael Webb \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Patrick and Mary Ellen Mauro \$600 — Mayslake Peabody Estate	



by **DAN THOMPSON**, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES



Why did the turtle cross the road?

Unlike the chicken, it wasn't simply to get to the other side.

DuPage County's turtles spend the majority of their lives in the water, but they all move to dry land to lay their eggs. Some species venture only a few steps from their aquatic homes to dig their nests, but Blanding's, snapping and other turtles may need to travel farther to find the right spot.

Successful nests require well-drained soil, but they also need sunny, open ground. Too much shade and the soil won't get warm enough to incubate the eggs. Considering all of the ways humans have changed the landscape over the past 200 years,

it's not surprising that some turtles must travel up to a mile to find the right conditions, a journey they will instinctively repeat year after year once they're able to reproduce.

After a female lays her eggs, she covers the nest and starts the walk home. Her parental duties are complete. From the time they hatch, young turtles are on their own, which is why most do not survive, even in the best of conditions. Eggs and juveniles make easy meals for raccoons, skunks and coyotes. When turtles reach adulthood, though, survival rates increase, partially because the animals' strong, protective shells are better at foiling predators. These rates



✦ A snapping turtle has a powerful bite and a long neck that can extend out and around and down its back in a split second. To see a video with tips on how to help a snapper on the road, visit dupageforest.org/turtle_crossing.

© Scott Planter STP4793

If you see a turtle trying to cross

the road and want to help it along, there are a few steps you can take, but never do anything that will put you or other people in danger. We all like to do what we can to help local wildlife, but that should never come at the expense of human safety.

- Never slam on your brakes; gradually slow down. If the safest option is to keep going, try to straddle the turtle if possible.
- If there's plenty of room on the shoulder and you can safely pull over, turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists.
- Make sure you have plenty of time with a big break in traffic before approaching the turtle. Cars approach faster than you think and drivers, especially distracted ones, aren't expecting to see someone in the middle of the road.
- Notice which way the turtle's facing and move it to that side of the road. If you move it to the side it started from, it will only try to cross again later.
- All turtles can bite and scratch and are surprisingly quick, so handle one as little as possible. If it's a snapping turtle, you may want to avoid it altogether. Most turtles will likely retreat into their shells, but a scared snapper will defend itself.
- If you keep a shovel in your car or have a floor mat, gently slip it under the turtle and scoot it across the road. If there's a sturdy branch nearby, you can try to use it to push the animal along.
- If you use your hands, wear gloves if you have them and place one hand on either side of the turtle toward the back. Never pick one up by the tail; it's part of the spine and cannot support weight.

Since you'll be picking up a frightened animal, there is a small chance it might empty its bladder.

- Never move a turtle farther than the side of the road. Turtles are extremely territorial, and taking one to a new habitat — even a better one — can be harmfully disorienting. Some may even set out to find their original homes, journeys they'll likely not complete.



© Meggie Zayas

are vital because 90 percent or more of adults must survive each year to sustain a population. This is why the loss of one adult turtle can be significant. For instance, if a 30-year-old female Blanding's turtle dies, it's more than the demise of one individual. A Blanding's turtle can lay a dozen or more eggs each year and live to be 70 to 80, so the loss of that one female can mean 500 fewer eggs for the overall population. For species like the Blanding's that are already at critically low numbers, it can be a statistically significant blow.

Turtles have been around for 100 million years and their formula for survival has stood the test of time, but in the past century one obstacle has appeared that they haven't been able to adjust to: the automobile. In DuPage County, roads built near lakes, ponds and marshes or over rivers can be turtle-crossing hotspots. Some constructed or widened just a few years ago create well-defined obstacles between wet year-round habitat and dry nesting areas that individual turtles have migrated between for decades. And road or no road, these turtles are not altering their routes.

Fortunately, turtles are not as speedy as cottontails, squirrels or deer, so drivers have time to react. Most accidents, in fact, are avoidable by simply following the rules of the road. Focus on driving, don't speed, and leave plenty of room between cars, and you might be the one to help the next turtle make it to the other side. •



© USFWS

- ▲ Survival rates are low for hatchlings like this painted turtle, which is why it's critical for adult females to safely complete their yearly journeys to nesting sites to lay new eggs.

spring calendar

See pages 11 through 21 for program descriptions. Cancellation policies vary. You can register for most programs online at dupageforest.org.



© Janet and Phil Photography

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30			

April

- 2** Lectures at Mayslake:
Meet Mary Pickford
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Navigation: GPS Explorers
- 5** Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Creating
Digital Slideshows Begins
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Spring Cleanup
- 8** Fishing 101 for Families
FullersBird Friday
- 9** Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker
Helping Hands at Herrick Lake
Kids Happy Hour
Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Introduction to Prescription Burns
Ranger Trek
- 11** Art at Mayslake: The Art
of Layering in Collage Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 12** Art at Mayslake: Intro to Nature
Photography Begins
Green-Cleaning Workshop
- 13** Archery for All Ages
- 15** FullersBird Friday
- 16** Cache In, Trash Out:
Restoration Workday
Navigation: Geocaching
Spring Into Volunteering
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Spring Cleanup
- 17** Fishing 101 for Families
Navigation: Geocaching
Organic Gardening: Maximizing
Your Harvest
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Art at Mayslake:
Lightroom II Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 19** Art at Mayslake: Exploring
Watercolor Begins
- 20** Navigation: Geocaching
Ride the Trails
- 21** Art at Mayslake: Intro to
Photo Composition Begins
- 22** Fishing for Bass
FullersBird Friday
- 23** Fishing 101 for Families
Kids Happy Hour
Lamb and Wool Festival
Nature Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the
Native Plant Nursery
- 24** Lamb and Wool Festival
Navigation: Geocaching
- 25** Art at Mayslake:
Botanical Art Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 26** Birding DuPage
- 27** Archery for All Ages
- 28** Fishing Clinic for Active
Adults Begins
- 29** FullersBird Friday
- 30** Green-Cleaning Workshop
Music at Mayslake:
Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the
Native Plant Nursery



© Vicki DeLoach

May

- 1** Ride the Trails
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Art at Mayslake: Drawing and Painting for Adults Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Compass 101
- 3** Lectures at Mayslake: Gardening for Pollinators
- 4** Archery for Adults
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Birding DuPage
- 6** FullersBird Friday
Native Plant Sale
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 7** Archery for All Ages
Bird Count Field Trip
Native Plant Sale
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
When Darkness Falls
- 8** Fishing With Mom
- 9** Forest Fitness Walk
- 10** Be a Junior Ranger! Begins
Birding DuPage
Lectures at Mayslake: Fashion Forward
- 11** Archery for All Ages
Navigation: Geocaching for Active Adults
- 12** Art at Mayslake: Intermediate Photo Composition Begins
Lectures at Mayslake: House History
- 13** Fishing 101 for Families
FullersBird Friday
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 14** International Migratory Bird Day Celebration
Navigation: Geocaching
Paddle With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Archery for All Ages
Fishing by Kayak
- 16** Forest Fitness Walk
- 18** Fishing off the Beaten Path
Spring Wildflower Hike
- 19** Birding DuPage
Music at Mayslake: Picoso
- 20** Fishing Clinic for Adults
FullersBird Friday
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 21** Fishing 101 for Families
Nature Walk
Navigation: Geocaching
Ranger Trek
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Navigation: Geocaching
Paddle With a Ranger
- 23** Forest Fitness Walk
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 25** Archery for All Ages
- 26** Cycling for Active Adults
- 27** Archery for All Ages
FullersBird Friday
- 28** Family Field Day at St. James Farm
Navigation: Geocaching
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Navigation: Geocaching
- 30** Memorial Day Remembered

spring calendar



© Kenneth Cole Schneider

June

- 1** Archery for Adults
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 2** Art at Mayslake: Use of Light in Photography Begins
Evening in the Country
Ranger Trek for Active Adults
- 3** Fishing 101 for Families
- 4** Nature Walk
Paddle With a Ranger
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Fishing by Kayak
Reptile Rally
- 6** Forest Fitness Walk
Navigation: Compass 101
- 7** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins
- 8** Archery for Active Adults
- 9** Archery for All Ages
Evening in the Country
Lectures at Mayslake: Chicago's Greatest Disasters
- 10** Archery for All Ages
Fishing 101 for Families
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 11** Navigation: Orienteering for Beginners
Paddle With a Ranger
St. James Farm 1906 Caboose Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Just for Kids Fishing Derby
Ride the Trails
- 13** Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike
- 14** Ranger Trek
- 15** Navigation: Geocaching
Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 16** Evening in the Country
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst College Jazz Band
Pioneer Park History Hike
- 17** Fishing Flowing Waters
- 18** Fishing by Kayak
Navigation: Geocaching
Navigation: Orienteering for Beginners
St. James Farm History Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 19** Fishing With Dad
- 20** Art at Mayslake: Girls Write! Begins
- 22** Ranger Trek Jr.
- 23** Evening in the Country
- 24** Archery for All Ages
- 25** Fishing off the Beaten Path
Hoof Prints Through History
Prairie Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Archery for All Ages
Fishing 101 for Families
- 27** Ranger Trek
Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery
- 29** Paddling: Kayaking Basics
- 30** Celebrating the Fourth
Evening in the Country
Ride the Trails



© Richard Bonnett

Archery for Active Adults 6994

Try your hand at archery at one of DuPage County's most scenic preserves. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 8	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
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Archery for Adults 6300

Learn the history and basic techniques of archery at this adults-only clinic. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 4	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 1	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell

Archery for All Ages 6291

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

Apr 13, 27	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Blackwell
May 7	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 11, 25	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
May 15	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
May 27	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Jun 9	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jun 10, 24	5:30 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 26	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Art at Mayslake: The Art of Layering in Collage 6644

At this five-part class on Mondays, discover the art and harmony of integration by layering paper with mixed media, repeatedly building up and pushing back to create illusionary depth. Ages 18 and up. \$165 plus \$10 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 11 – May 9	9 – 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 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CALVING

See the season's new calves — maybe as they're being born — and learn the role livestock played on an 1890s farm.

Through April 30

Thursdays – Mondays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

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

June 6 – Aug. 29

Mondays at 10 a.m.

FARM CHORES

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

June 2 – Aug. 29

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

LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOURS

Tour the farmhouse for a glimpse of 1890s life.

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

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 that's after 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.

spring calendar



Art at Mayslake: Botanical Art 6648

Improve your drawing and painting skills and learn how to create beautiful, precise botanical works at this five-part class on Mondays, which focuses on plants in the estate's heritage garden and the surrounding preserve. Ages 18 and up. \$130 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 25 – May 23 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Creating Digital Slideshows 5967

Start with your own digital images and then add music and voice-overs to build a 10-minute show using Photodex ProShow Gold. This six-part class meets on Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 6 – May 11 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Drawing and Painting for Adults 6646

Learn basic drawing skills through demos and discussions and use them to create paintings at this six-part class on Mondays (except May 30). Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 2 – Jun 13 Noon – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor 6643

Explore and enhance your own artistic style while painting in a beautiful setting at this six-part intermediate-advanced class on Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 19 – May 24 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake
Jun 7 – Jul 12 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Girls Write! 6650

Explore different writing techniques at this girls-only, five-day camp designed to empower and affirm budding young authors. Ages 9 – 11. \$130 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 20 – 24 9:30 a.m. – Noon Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Intermediate Photo Composition 5966

Explore curves, lines, circles and other power shapes; point and counterpoint contrasts; and ways to capture the decisive moment at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 12, 19, 26 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake
May 14, 21 TBD

Art at Mayslake: Intro to Nature Photography 5964

Gain an understanding of natural light, basic computer skills and camera settings, exposure, depth of field and more at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 12, 19, 26 7 – 10 p.m. Mayslake
April 16, 23 TBD



Canoe, Kayak and Rowboat Rentals

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville
Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton

Explore two forest preserve lakes from a different point of view. Canoes, kayaks and rowboats are \$10 per hour and \$50 per day. Blackwell also offers rowboats with trolling motors for \$15 per hour and \$75 per day. Rentals end one hour before closing. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Opens April 2 at Blackwell and April 30 at Herrick Lake

Opening Day – Sept. 5
Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day,
Fourth of July and Labor Day
8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

May 31 – Sept. 2
Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 10 – 25
Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



© Steeleman Photo

Art at Mayslake: Intro to Photo Composition 5965

Learn the basic tools of composition at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 21, 28	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Apr 23, 30	TBD	
May 5	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Art at Mayslake: Lightroom II 5745

Continue work with Lightroom's Develop module and learn how to integrate Lightroom with Photoshop at this five-part class on Mondays. Lightroom I or equivalent required. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 18 – May 16	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Art at Mayslake: Use of Light in Photography 5968

Learn how to use natural light — sunrise, sunset, overcast days, side- and backlighting — at this five-part class. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 2, 9, 16	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Jun 4, 11	TBD	

Be a Junior Ranger! 7130

Learn about nature and work on leadership, navigation, first aid, geocaching and other skills rangers use at this five-part after-school program on Tuesdays. Ages 6 – 12. \$45 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Ages 6 – 8

Apr 5 – May 3	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
May 10 – Jun 7	4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Ages 9 – 12

Apr 5 – May 3	6 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods
May 10 – Jun 7	6 – 7 p.m.	Churchill Woods

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 that's after 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.

Bird Count Field Trip 7413

Be a part of the DuPage County spring bird count! Bring binoculars. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 by May 2. (Groups of five or more must register by phone by April 25.)

May 7	7 – 11 a.m.	W. Chicago Prairie
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Birding DuPage 7041

Learn birding basics and search for feathered friends during a leisurely stroll. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 942-6200.

Apr 26	7:30 – 10 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
May 5	7:30 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook
May 10	7:30 – 10 a.m.	West DuPage Woods
May 19	7:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen

Cache In, Trash Out: Restoration Workday 6714

Step into the woods with your fellow geocachers to help remove weedy brush. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 16	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Celebrating the Fourth

Experience the excitement of one of the country's first holidays. Play baseball using rules from 1887, make crafts and watch model hot-air balloon launches. Return at 5 p.m. for "Evening in the Country" with patriotic music and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 30	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Covered Wagon Tours

St. James Farm in Warrenville

Learn about the forest preserve's natural and cultural histories on a 30-minute guided ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 580-7025.

June 1 – Aug. 28

**Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.**

spring calendar



© Chad Horwedel



Cycling for Active Adults 7008

Tour several forest preserves during this ranger-led 15- to 18-mile ride. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 26	9 a.m. – Noon	Cricket Creek
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Evening in the Country

Pack a picnic dinner, relax on the grounds, and enjoy different entertainers and activities each week as you experience the farm at dusk. All ages. Free (except wagon ride tickets). Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Jun 2	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm <i>Country Dance With the Blind Squirrel Band</i>
Jun 9	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm <i>Nature Adventures From the Gilded Age</i>
Jun 16	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm <i>Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides</i>
Jun 23	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm <i>1890s Fun and Games</i>
Jun 30	5 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm <i>The Glorious Fourth</i>

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the farm's heritage at this annual event featuring equestrian, canine and sheep-herding demos, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, guided tours, kids activities, archery, fishing and food. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 580-7025.

May 28	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Family Camping

Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville

The campground has over 60 wooded and semiwooded sites — all with electricity — and is open Friday and Saturday nights April 29 – Sept. 25 and additional nights around the holidays. For dates, times and permits, call (630) 933-7248 weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. or visit dupageforest.org and click on "Register" and "Reserve Facilities."

Fishing 101 for Families 6177

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 6 – 17 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 8	4 – 6 p.m.	Mallard Lake
Apr 17	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Apr 23	4 – 6 p.m.	Hidden Lake
May 13	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
May 21	10 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
Jun 3	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jun 10	5 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
Jun 26	1 – 3 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne

Fishing by Kayak 6315

Join this intermediate paddling clinic and learn how fishing from a kayak differs from fishing from shore. Bring your own canoe or kayak to this free program or rent a kayak for \$20 per person (300-pound capacity). Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 15	1 – 3 p.m.	Mallard Lake
Jun 5	9 – 11 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Jun 18	1 – 3 p.m.	West Branch

Fishing Clinic for Active Adults 6943

Get started or reacquainted with fishing through this two-part program featuring indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 28	9 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
May 5	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Fishing Clinic for Adults 6987

Learn the basics through indoor instruction and hands-on experience. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 20	5 – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
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Fishing Flowing Waters 6988

Learn techniques for fishing in rivers and streams at this intermediate-level clinic. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 17	5 – 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Fishing for Bass 6938

Check out some of the most effective bass lures on the market, and try them on one of the county's best bass lakes. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 22	5 – 7 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Fishing: Hook, Line and Sinker 6928

Learn to fish on the lake bottom for a variety of species. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 9	1 – 3 p.m.	Songbird Slough
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Fishing off the Beaten Path 6318

Join a ranger for a 2-mile hike with fishing along the way. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 18	4 – 7 p.m.	McDowell Grove
Jun 25	8 – 11 a.m.	Waterfall Glen

Fishing With Dad 6989

Enjoy an evening by the lake with Dad as you learn about different kinds of fish and how to catch them. Ages 6 – 15 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 19	4 – 6 p.m.	Songbird Slough
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Fishing With Mom 6986

Spend time along the water with Mom as you learn about different kinds of fish and how to catch them. Ages 6 – 15 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 8	4 – 6 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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Forest Fitness Walk 6302

Join a naturalist for a brisk weekly walk as you take in the wonders of the woods. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 11	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 18	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Maple Grove
Apr 25	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
May 2	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake
May 9	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Meacham Grove
May 16	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
May 23	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Jun 6	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Blackwell

Forest Fitness Walk: 10-Mile Hike 6703

Join a naturalist for a special 10-mile version of this popular program. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the hike. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Jun 13	8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Springbrook
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FullersBird Friday 6716

Join these naturalist-led walks to see how the diversity of birds changes during spring migration. Ages 18 and up. \$4 per person in advance; \$6 at the walk. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 8, 22	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 15	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Apr 29	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
May 6, 20	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 13	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	West DuPage Woods
May 27	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Springbrook

Registering on dupageforest.org?

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Fishing: Spring Trout Opener

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

Get ready for one of the most popular fishing days of the year! Anglers 16 and older who are not legally disabled must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Saturday, April 2 at 6 a.m.

spring calendar



© Kenneth Cole Schneider

Green-Cleaning Workshop 6729

Learn why green cleaning can be better for your health, the environment and your wallet. Test simple alternatives against commercial products, and leave with recipes and samples. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 12, 30 10 – 11:30 a.m. Fullersburg Woods

Helping Hands at Herrick Lake

Celebrate Earth Day by removing litter from this popular preserve. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 933-7233 by April 4 (March 24 for groups of five or more).

Apr 9 9 a.m. – Noon Herrick Lake



Golfing

A round at a Forest Preserve District course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors. Outings and leagues are available for golfers of all abilities. For tee times and specials, visit dupagegolf.com.

Maple Meadows Golf Course 18 Holes
Wood Dale • (630) 616-8424

Green Meadows Golf Course 9 Holes
Westmont • (630) 810-5330

Oak Meadows Golf Preserve
Addison • Closed for Renovations Until 2017

Hoof Prints Through History 6780

Learn about the McCormick family's love of equestrian sports during a walking tour of buildings and spaces that hosted world-class events. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 25 10 – 11 a.m. St. James Farm

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Have a flock of fun celebrating the spring migration! Activities ongoing. Bring binoculars. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 942-6200.

May 14 8 a.m. – Noon Willowbrook

Bird Walk for Adults 8 – 9:30 a.m.
Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Bird Banding Demo 9 – 11 a.m.
All ages.

Family Bird Walk 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Introduction to Prescription Burns 6176

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.

Apr 10 1 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Just for Kids Fishing Derby

Join the 30th year of this friendly fishing competition just for kids 15 and younger. Bring your own gear. Bait provided while supplies last. Free. Register at the event. Questions? Call (630) 933-7248.

Jun 12 8 a.m. – Noon Blackwell

Kids Happy Hour

Celebrate Earth Day with lots of Earth- and kid-friendly activities. All ages but best for kids 4 – 10. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 850-8112.

Apr 9, 23 1 – 3 p.m. Fullersburg Woods



© Julie Falk



Lamb and Wool Festival

Watch farmhands shear our Southdown sheep, and see how trained border collies herd the flock. Learn how washed wool becomes spun yarn, and enjoy quilting and other handwork demonstrations. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

Apr 23, 24 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Lectures at Mayslake: Chicago's Greatest Disasters 7180

Learn about the true "Devil in the White City," the Iroquois Theater fire, the Eastland tragedy and other disasters that inspired ghost stories and drove the history of the Windy City. Ages 18 and up. \$29 per person; \$19 ages 55 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 9 1 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Lectures at Mayslake: Fashion Forward 6647

Hear how early 20th century societal changes, world events and cultural influences altered the world of fashion during a presentation enriched with displays of period clothing. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 10 7 – 8 p.m. Mayslake

Lectures at Mayslake: Gardening for Pollinators 6324

Learn how to attract animal pollinators — the humble heroes that give life to 80 percent of all flowering plants — and how to keep them coming back to your garden. Create a butterfly "puddler" for home. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 3 7 – 8:30 p.m. Mayslake

Lectures at Mayslake: House History 6325

Learn how to search through local records for details on an important piece of your family history: your family home. Ages 18 and up. \$29 per person; \$19 ages 55 and up. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

May 12 1 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Lectures at Mayslake: Meet Mary Pickford 6323

Learn about Mary Pickford's career as a movie mogul during this historical portrayal by Leslie Goddard. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Apr 2 1 – 2 p.m. Mayslake

Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour 6329

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.

Apr 9 1 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

Memorial Day Remembered

Observe Memorial Day with a ceremony rooted in the history and traditions of the late 1800s, when the holiday was known as "Decoration Day." All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

May 30 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

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Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Enjoy a 30-minute ride through the fields and around the buildings, and hear about farming with real horsepower. Rides are weather-dependent. All ages. \$5 per person ages 13 and up; \$2 ages 5 – 12; under 5 free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 876-5900.

May – June

Sundays Noon, 12:45, 1:30, 2:15 and 3 p.m.



© USFWS midwest

Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst College Jazz Band 6984

Enjoy an evening with this internationally acclaimed ensemble under the direction of Doug Beach. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$18 per person. Purchase tickets at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9566.

Jun 16 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake

Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

There are no strings attached or reeds allowed (or aloud!) as the ESO's brass quintet takes you on a tour from medieval castles to New Orleans speak-easies to modern concert halls. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or (630) 941-0202.

Apr 30 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Mayslake

Music at Mayslake: Picoso

Enjoy modern and classical chamber music, from clarinet and flute performances that bring the sounds of birds to the stage to works by Mozart and Debussy for violin and cello. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 – \$25 per person. Purchase tickets at picosamusic.com.

May 19 7 – 9 p.m. Mayslake

Native Plant Sale

Attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators with flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage County conditions, and get advice from Forest Preserve District plant experts while you shop. For details and presale orders, visit dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale.

May 6 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Mayslake
May 7 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Theater, Exhibits and Tours at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
mayslakepeabody.com

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S "FOOLING BUDDHA"

When you're the first "American Buddhist" kid on the block in the 1970s, you learn to battle the bully with magic and misdirection, but every miracle has its price. David Kovac returns with his hit one-man show, a blend of philosophical humor and sleight of hand. Ages 14 and up. \$22 – \$39 per person. Purchase tickets at (630) 986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Through April 24

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Thursdays and Sundays 3 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.

CHICAGO WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART EXHIBIT

All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

June 8 – July 15

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

DOWNERS GROVE ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

April 27 – June 3

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

FOTOMUSES EXHIBIT

Explore an exhibit by this diverse group of female photographers united by their love of photography and their desire to share art with others. All ages. Free. Registration not required. Questions? Call (630) 206-9566.

Through April 22

Mondays – Fridays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



© Gary Irving

Nature Walk 6638

Enjoy the springtime sights and sounds of flowers, birds and frogs on a relaxing guided walk along the trails and prairie. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Apr 23	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 21	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
Jun 4	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm

Navigation: Compass 101 6279

Learn one of the oldest survival skills — how to use a compass — and then join a navigation activity. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 2	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 6	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Navigation: Geocaching 6704

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. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 17	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Apr 20	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Apr 24	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
May 7, 14, 21, 28	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 22	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 29	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jun 15	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Park
Jun 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake

Navigation: Geocaching for Active Adults 6748

See a geocaching demonstration and then use a GPS unit to discover hidden caches. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 11	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
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Navigation: GPS Explorers 6740

Use clues and coordinates on a GPS-based adventure while you learn about the forest preserve’s plants and animals. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Meacham Grove
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Navigation: Orienteering for Beginners 6668

Learn how to use a map and compass to navigate over varied terrain, and then use your new skills to complete a 1.2-mile orienteering course. Equipment provided. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7208.

Jun 11, 18	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen and 1 – 3 p.m.
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Organic Gardening: Maximizing Your Harvest 6726

Learn how to get more from your vegetable garden with “succession planting,” the efficient use of space and timing, and have your questions answered. Ages 15 and up. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Apr 17	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Paddle With a Ranger 7001

Take a guided paddle through a forest preserve. 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 at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 14, 22	9 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Songbird Slough
Jun 11	10 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods

Paddling: Kayaking Basics 6310

Learn the basics of kayaking, 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 at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 6	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 20	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 15	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jun 29	5 – 7 p.m.	Blackwell
Jun 29	10 a.m. – Noon	East Branch

Registering on dupageforest.org?

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spring calendar



© Synspecrum



Pioneer Park History Hike 6664

Discover clues most visitors never notice that reveal stories of the county's earliest settlers and the Civilian Conservation Corps' work in the 1930s. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7208.

Jun 16	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Pioneer Park
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Prairie Hike 7414

Look for birds, butterflies and early blooming wildflowers at this Illinois nature preserve. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 206-9630 by June 20. (Groups of five or more must register by phone by June 13.)

Jun 25	8 – 11 a.m.	W. Chicago Prairie
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Ranger Trek 7014

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

Apr 10	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
May 21	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Maple Grove
Jun 14	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Songbird Slough
Jun 27	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Greene Valley



Riding Lessons 7144

Danada Equestrian Center in Wheaton

Learn valuable horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with private lessons. Lessons for new to advanced riders begin in April, May and June. Ages 12 and up. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. To register by phone instead, call (630) 668-6012.

Ranger Trek for Active Adults 7019

Learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a guided hike. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 2	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
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Ranger Trek Jr. 7013

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home as you explore different habitats on a guided hike. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Jun 22	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Reptile Rally 6725

Meet live reptiles and amphibians, learn how they live, make crafts, and take guided hikes in search of the preserve's scaly residents. Activities ongoing. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$7 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 850-8112.

Jun 5	Noon – 3 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Ride the Trails 6941

Tour several forest preserves during this ranger-led 15- to 18-mile bike ride along the North Central Regional Trail. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Cricket Creek
May 1	9 a.m. – Noon	Cricket Creek
Jun 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Jun 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Res.

Spring Into Volunteering

Show the Earth a little kindness and help clean up a popular preserve. All ages; under 14 with an adult. Free. Register at (630) 933-7233 by April 11 (April 4 for groups of five or more).

Apr 16	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Res.
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Spring Wildflower Hike 7023

Enjoy the season's short-lived blooms along the trails and in the woodlands and prairies on this ranger-led hike. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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St. James Farm 1906 Caboose Tour 6639

Hear about the onboard lives of the conductor and brakeman and CA&E's connection to the preserve as you tour a restored CB&Q 1906 caboose. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 11	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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St. James Farm History Walk 6641

Learn about the farm's beginnings and development on a leisurely 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 580-7025.

Jun 18	10 – 11 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Volunteer Restoration Workday 7361

Help remove nonnative plants or seed. 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.)

Apr 2, 6, 9, 16, 17, 23, 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Apr 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Apr 9, 23	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Apr 16	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Swift Prairie
May 1, 4, 7, 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
May 14	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
May 7, 14, 21, 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
May 21	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Swift Prairie
Jun 1, 4	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jun 4, 11, 18, 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jun 18	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Swift Prairie

Volunteer Spring Cleanup 7024

Celebrate Earth Day by keeping your forest preserves looking beautiful, and enjoy a walk while you help pick up litter. Equipment provided. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

Apr 6	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Apr 16	9 – 11 a.m.	Mallard Lake

Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery 7359

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seed. 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.)

Apr 23, 30	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery
May 7, 13, 23	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery
Jun 1, 10, 18, 27	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell Nursery

When Darkness Falls 6999

Hike through the dark woods with a ranger, and discover what it's like to use your senses like a nocturnal predator. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register at dupageforest.org or (630) 933-7248.

May 7	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Scenic Overlook

Greene Valley Forest Preserve in Naperville

Get a bird's-eye view from 190 feet above the landscape. Please note that poor weather or Illinois Environmental Protection Agency activities may prevent the overlook from opening or cause it to close early without notice. Questions? Call (630) 792-2100.

April 30 – Oct. 30
Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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 that's after 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.



Spring Woodland Wildflower Guide

by **SCOTT KOBAL**, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES

Of all the seasonal blooms, spring wildflowers seem to capture our hearts and attention the most, likely because they're the first we see after months of drab landscapes. Most grow in woodlands and because of that fact are short-lived, or "ephemeral." They must sprout, grow, flower, fruit and set seeds before the trees leaf out and block the sun. Some spring flowers are a memory by summer, but a few produce leaves that last into autumn. Below are a few you'll see this season, so enjoy them while they last!

© Brett Whaley



Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

Spring beauties are low-growing ephemerals that can form large colonies. Each plant has a pair of leaves near the base and five-petaled flowers that range from white to pink. The petals often have prominent pink veins, which are referred to as "bee lines" because they direct bees to the source of nectar. Do not expect to see these flowers open on cold, cloudy days. They conserve their energy and only open on sunny, warm days when pollinators are active.

Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*)

Toothwort grows 3 to 10 inches tall, sometimes in large groups. Each flower has four petals that form a cross. Young plants have one leaf that grows at the base of the stem and stores energy for next year's growing season. Mature plants have three leaves that surround the stem right below the clusters of white flowers. Each of these leaves has three to five narrow lobes with prominent teeth along the edges.



© Jay Sumner

Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

This is a great example of a flower that gets its common name from its shape. Dutchman's breeches look like crisp pantaloons hanging upside down. They're usually white with yellow tips but can be tinged pink. The flowers grow on a long stalk that rises above grayish green deeply lobed, fernlike leaves. This plant disappears entirely by summer.



© Fritz Florh Reynolds

© Jay Stummer



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Bloodroot, one of the area's earliest arrivals, can start to bloom as early as March. It has eight to 16 straplike petals that form bright white flowers 1.5 to 3 inches across. At flowering time, the leaves are small and remain wrapped around the stalk. After the

short flowering period, though, they unfurl, reaching 3 to 5 inches in length and width. Unlike some ephemerals, bloodroot leaves remain throughout the growing season.



© Julie Falk

Red trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*)

The "tri" in trillium refers to the fact that all plants in this group have leaves, petals and sepals that grow in threes. Red trilliums can grow up to 15 inches tall but usually top out at 6 to 8 inches. The reddish stem is topped by three evenly spaced, mottled leaves; the flower's three maroon petals stand erect and curve inward. It's the most common trillium in the county and has a blooming period that can last several weeks.



© Justin Meissen

Rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*)

This delicate 4- to 8-inch-tall plant is usually found in oak woodlands. Each of its leaves has three shallow lobes. The bright white flowers are sometimes tinged with pink and appear in loose clusters, each on its own stem, which makes the plants especially attractive. The petals are not "true" petals but are "sepals." The sepal is the leaflike outer part of a flower that protects or supports the bud. They can be inconspicuous and green, but on some petal-less flowers like the rue anemone, they're colorful petal stand-ins.

Yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*)

The yellow violet is the only violet in DuPage County woodlands with flowers of this color. Yellow violets have "leafy" stems, meaning they have both "basal" leaves that grow from the base of the stem and smaller leaves that grow on the stem further up. (Most violets in the area, such as the common blue violet (*Viola sororia*), have only basal leaves.)



© Dan Mullen

Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*)

Bellwort is a distinctive-looking 1- to 2-foot-tall plant. Its yellow bell-shaped flowers are about 1 to 2 inches long and point toward the ground. The main stem divides into several side stems, and the top of the plant usually nods over. Each leaf is "perfoliate," which means it completely surrounds the stem as if the stem grew right through it. Bellwort flowers last about two weeks, but the stems and leaves remain through summer.

© Nicholas Turfand



May apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

May apples are 12 to 18 inches tall and have one or two deeply divided pale-green umbrella-like leaves. Plants with only one leaf do not bloom. Those with two leaves produce a single flower, which emerges from the spot where the stem meets the leaf stalks. The 1.5-inch flowers have six to nine white petals. May apples often grow in dense colonies that exclude other spring wildflowers, and their leaves and fruits are evident well into summer.



© Lance and Erin

Swamp buttercup (*Ranunculus septentrionalis*)

Each leaf on this 6-inch plant is divided into three leaflets with toothy edges. The flowers are about an inch wide and have five waxy yellow petals. As the flowers mature, the petals turn pale yellow and then eventually white before falling off. After blooming, swamp buttercup can spread 2 to 3 feet across the ground by setting roots where the stems touch the soil.



© Fritz Flohr Reynolds



Take a Hike (Seriously. Join us!)

by JAYNE BOHNER, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Do you hear it? Can you see and smell it? It's spring! With over 140 miles of trails, DuPage County's forest preserves have some of the best access to this budding time of year, and you can download maps 24/7 at dupageforest.org. But if you're looking for company or an add-on to your typical trail trek, the Forest Preserve District has a guided hike for you!

District has experts on these events and more who lead guided tours throughout the season.

If you're a botany lover, the "Spring Wildflower Hike" will take you to one of the county's best blooming woodlands. Bring your camera (and the wildflower guide on Page 22) for lasting memories of these short-lived beauties.

If feathered fauna is your interest, "Birding DuPage," "Fuller's Bird Friday," "Bird Count Field Trip" and walks scheduled during Willowbrook Wildlife Center's "International Migratory Bird Day Celebration" will give you something to sing about. If you're new to the hobby, you can learn how to tell a bluebird from an indigo bunting and where you're apt to find both. If you're an experienced watcher, these walks give you an easy way to meet other fans and share notes.



© Norm Townsend



© Brett Whaley

Meet Birds, Blooms and Forest Preserve Founders

Frogs and toads that spent winter under the mud and ice surface and waste no time calling for mates. Tropical birds from as far as South America settle in DuPage County woodlands and savannas to nest or take a break on trips further north. On the ground, spring wildflowers pop through fall's fallen leaves, spraying whites, pinks and blues over the muted forest floor. There's a lot to take in, but fortunately the Forest Preserve



© Scott Gillingwater

For people who prefer a little of both worlds, "Nature Walk," "Prairie Hike" and "Ranger Trek" focus on forest preserve features from birds and



© Jay Kallol

© Anita Ritenour

butterflies to flowers and rock formations. For a truly rare opportunity, “When Darkness Falls” introduces hikers to the sights and sounds of the woods after the forest preserves close.

If your interests lie in cultural history as well as natural, walks at Pioneer Park and St. James Farm reveal the stories behind the people who left lasting impressions on the preserves, from the first Europeans who settled on the land to families that helped establish the county’s equestrian roots.

Get Your Blood Pumping

Adding a new bird to your life list or hearing the first chorus frog of the season can get your heart racing, but if you want to keep that momentum going, sign up for one of the Forest Preserve District’s more invigorating hikes.

Each 90-minute “Forest Fitness Walk” gives you a little cardio work while trying out new trails with a group. You move at a brisk pace, but there are stops along the way to take in the scenery or learn about forest preserve features. Walks begin in April and get a little longer as spring progresses.



Ninety minutes sound like a walk in the park? Then sign up for the 10-mile hike that takes you on a 4.5-hour trek through a late-spring prairie on a nationally designated trail.

Make It an Adventure

One practical feature about walking is you can pair it with other outdoor activities (chewing gum not included).

“Fishing off the Beaten Path” combines a 2-mile hike with stops along the way to reel in bass, pike or catfish. You’ll get fishing tips as well as a guided tour off the main trail and into woodlands and waterways.

Maybe the best part of a walk for you is how you decide to navigate from A to B, in which case you should point your compass toward the District’s “Navigation” programs. Into all things hi-tech? “Geocaching” and “GPS Explorers” blend the science of GPS with the excitement of a treasure hunt. Rather do things old-school? “Orienteering for Beginners” teaches you how to use a compass and match features on a map to the surrounding terrain to determine the fastest way to reach your destination, in this case the end of a 1.2-mile course.



So grab a map (and the calendar on Pages 8 – 21) and put yourself on the path to spring! •

directory



© Manuel Diaz

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

GENERAL *Contacts*

HEADQUARTERS

Street Address

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

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

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

Website

dupageforest.org

Email Address

forest@dupageforest.org

Main Number

(630) 933-7200

TTY

(800) 526-0857

THE CONSERVATIONIST

SUBSCRIPTION LINE

(630) 933-7085

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

(630) 871-6400

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(630) 933-7240

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

Closed for Renovations Until 2017
900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison, IL 60101
(630) 595-0071



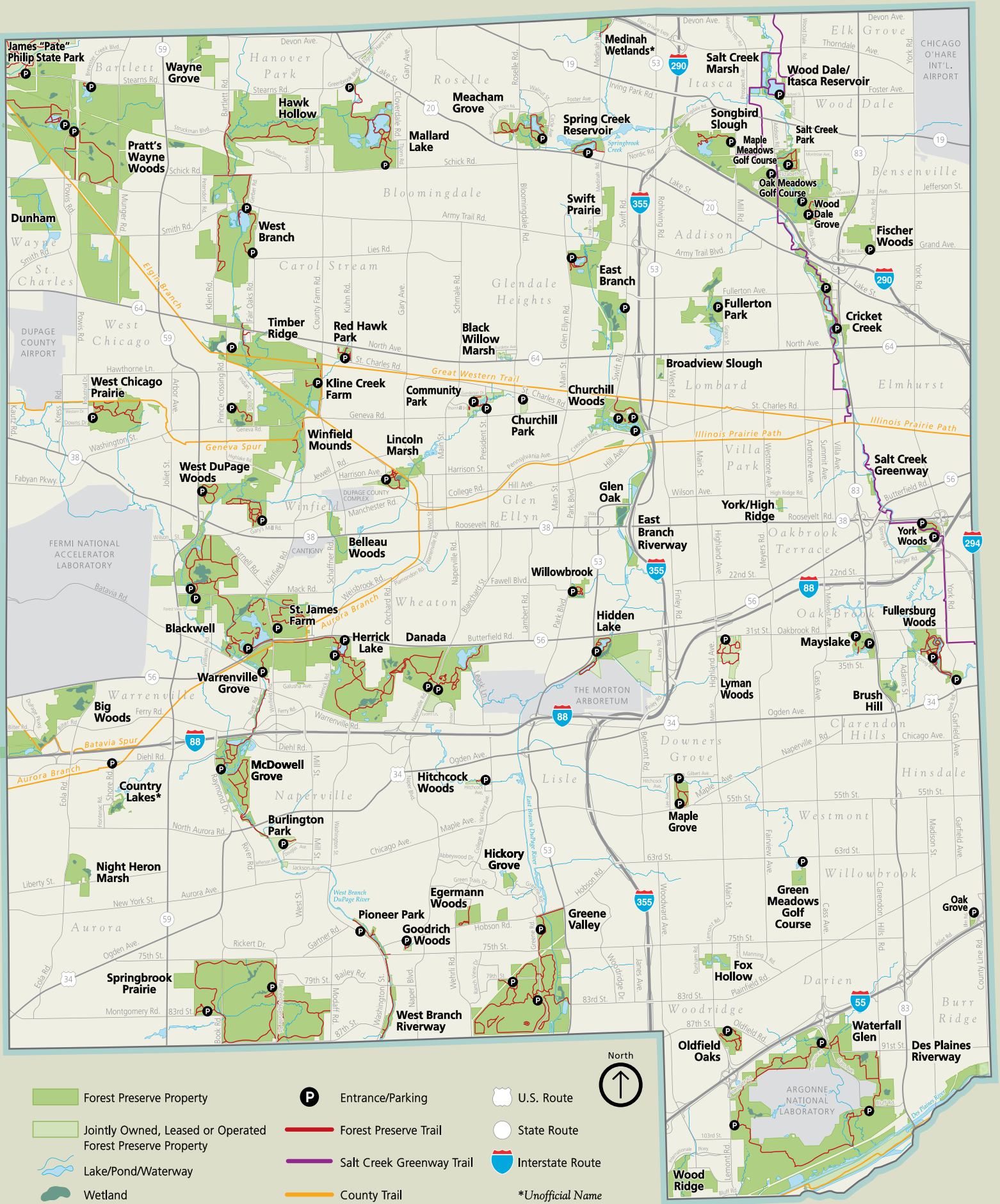
© Illinois DNR

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.





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

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the Conservationist

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© John Flannery

Want to help these?

Then plant some of **these!**

Native Plant Sale

Friday, May 6, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook

Flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs perfect for creating habitat in your own backyard

Advice from Forest Preserve District plant experts

Talks and tips on attracting butterflies, bees and other pollinators

For details and presale orders, visit
dupageforest.org/nativeplantsale.

