

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2018**



## Hey, Rocky!

Flying Squirrels in  
the Forest Preserves

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## Willowbrook in Winter

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The Snowshoe Shuffle



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

# from the president



As snow readies to cover our DuPage forest preserves and we're ready with boots and extra layers of fleece, I have two words for our added consideration: summer camp. Yes, we have weeks of stunning snowscapes and spring wildflowers to enjoy, but with summer camp registration opening for DuPage residents Jan. 1, it's a great time to skip a few pages ahead on our 2018 calendars.

The Forest Preserve District has 26 summer camp titles, each giving kids and teens a different way to experience the preserves. We have perennial favorites such as Horse Sense, Riding Sense and Farmhands and are again giving the littlest campers an introduction to nature at Animal Adventures, Habitat Hunters and Cold-Blooded Critter Camp. Older explorers discover the world of things sticky, squishy, stinky and slimy at Grossology or become field scientists during Dirty Jobs Science Camp. They find out firsthand how to help care for wildlife at a rehabilitation center at Junior Keeper Camp and add archery, boating, fishing, team-building and wilderness-survival to their skill sets at Ranger Adventure Camp.

Because we always like to bring something new to the mix, this year young Time Detectives will unravel a mystery by meeting characters from the past, solving puzzles and searching for clues. At Adventures After Dark, kids will get a rare chance to learn about the stars while keeping an eye out for animals that only appear at twilight (maybe even a flying squirrel from our feature on Page 18!) And that's not even half of our summer lineup.

I hope you'll celebrate the start of 2018 with a few visits to your favorite preserves, but when curling up with the Conservationist sounds more appealing, why not also start filling your summer calendar? Complete camp info is online at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Let's face it: Warmer weather will be here before we know it!

**Joseph F. Cantore**

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### President

Joseph F. Cantore, Oak Brook

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Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

### Executive Director

Ed Stevenson



## BOARD MEETINGS

For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

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### Editor

Jayne Bohner

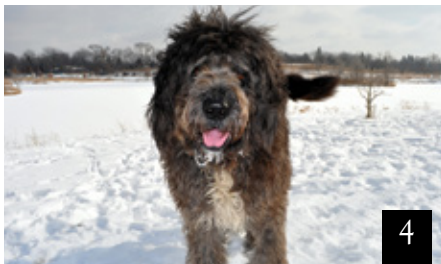


## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

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**On the cover:** Southern flying squirrel © Kim Taylor/naturepl.com

## 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

## LIVE and On Demand

Can't make it to an upcoming board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch proceedings live or on demand at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) under "Our Board." 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.

## 2018 ANNUAL PERMITS

You can now purchase 2018 annual permits for off-leash dog areas, private boats and model crafts online 24/7 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). Just click "Registration & Permits" and "Purchase Permits," scroll to the one you want, click "Add to Cart," and follow the instructions. You'll receive your permit via U.S. mail. (Even off-leash permit holders will get plastic cards — the ones many remembered and loved from before!) Interested in picnic or family camping sites? You can make reservations at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) up to a year in advance. For details call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



## MASTER PLAN UPDATE

As part of its efforts to determine which projects and initiatives to address over the next five years, the Forest Preserve District hosted six community and nine special-interest meetings in October and November to hear what people thought about different aspects of DuPage County's forest preserves. In November it sent 5,000 surveys via U.S. mail and 5,000 via email to randomly selected DuPage households, and in December it posted the survey on its website for others to complete.

The District will share a summary of the information it gathered in early 2018. It will then analyze the data and draft a five-year list of priorities for public comment. The Board of Commissioners is expected to consider the plan for approval near the end of the year. For updates on this ongoing process, visit [dupageforest.org/master-plan](http://dupageforest.org/master-plan).



## HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRIER LAKE

Over the summer the Forest Preserve District continued restoration efforts at Harrier Lake at Pratt's Wayne Woods, furthering its goal of managing the lake as a wildlife haven and a northern cool-water fishery for smallmouth bass, walleye and yellow perch.

After removing dense stands of cattails, crews planted native hard-stem bulrush, eel grass, white waterlily and water willow along the shore. The new vegetation will create inviting shaded areas and spawning grounds for fish and smaller aquatic animals and foraging opportunities for waterfowl and wading birds (not to mention popular fishing spots for anglers). Submerged concrete and wooden "bass benches" near the shore are already providing protected spawning areas for smallmouth bass. Similar structures are doing the same for minnows (and are one of the ways ecologists hope to sustain populations of small fish needed to feed the larger ones).

The former mining pit began its transformation into a 20-acre lake in 2007, when the Forest Preserve District re-contoured the lake bottom, added the first stands of shoreline vegetation and stocked the water for catch-and-release fishing.

## MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between July 17 and Nov. 17, 2017. To learn how financial contributions support the District, visit [dupageforest.org/donate](http://dupageforest.org/donate). To give to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising arm of the District, visit [dupageforestgiving.org/donate/designated-gifts](http://dupageforestgiving.org/donate/designated-gifts).

### Take 5 Photo Contest Sponsors

The Bike Hub  
Cabela's  
Erehwon Mountain Outfitter  
Plano Synergy  
Dick Pond Athletics

### Gifts of Note

Donna Jelf Estate  
\$140,545.11 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Clarke  
\$23,333 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the Belleau Woods priority project

Anonymous  
\$17,250 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Mayslake Peabody Estate  
Louis and Cosette Kosiba  
\$10,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Mayslake Peabody Estate  
Exelon  
\$7,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Mary J. Demmon Private Foundation  
\$3,500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for the Danada Equestrian Center  
William J. Smith II and Patricia Smith  
\$2,400 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Kline Creek Farm

## ST. JAMES FARM BREAKS GROUND ON ARENA UPDATES

Work began in October on renovations at the indoor riding arena at St. James Farm. The Forest Preserve District hopes to have improvements completed for Family Field Day in May.

The renovated arena will have upgraded HVAC, electrical and lighting systems; fire alarms and sprinklers that meet building-code requirements; modified doors that meet accessibility requirements; and updated windows and skylights. A new addition will have restrooms, a reception area and a multipurpose room with counters and cabinets. Overall, the project will help prolong the life of the arena, reduce future maintenance, and bring the building up to code for public use for proposed activities such as horse shows, exhibits, riding programs, plant sales, archery events, educational programs, meetings and receptions.

Roughly \$3.14 million from the Forest Preserve District's construction and development budget and the St. James Farm McCormick Endowment will fund the work.



Arjohuntleigh Inc.  
\$1,600 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Kohl's  
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Mary Ann Mahoney  
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Adopt a Blanding's Turtle  
Commissioner Linda Painter and Family  
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for a tribute bench at Waterfall Glen  
Donald and Susan Panozzo  
\$1,000 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Adopt a Blanding's Turtle and the Belleau Woods priority project  
The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation  
\$750 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District  
Michael Firman and Marilyn Schweitzer  
\$600 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Adopt a Blanding's Turtle, Willowbrook Wildlife Center and projects in greatest need of support  
Ross Hill  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Mayslake Peabody Estate  
George W. Luvisi Jr.  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Adopt a Blanding's Turtle  
Karen Muehlhausen  
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Bruce "Zink" and Martha Sanders  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Mark and Heather Yeager  
\$500 — Friends of the Forest Preserve District for Adopt a Blanding's Turtle



# Willowbrook in Winter

by **STEPHANIE TOUZALIN**, WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER



◀ Turkey vultures normally winter further south, so when temperatures drop, the two at Willowbrook move into a cabin along the trail.

A walk through a DuPage forest preserve on a quiet, snowy day is magical, and you'll often have the trail all to yourself — unless you're at Willowbrook Wildlife Center, where you'll share it with a bald eagle, bobcat, red fox, red-tailed hawk, and screech owl, among others.

Visitors always have questions about the center's exhibit trail, which is home to 30 animals with permanent disabilities, but this time of year questions focus on the weather. "What do you do with the animals when it's cold out? Do you move them indoors? Do they hibernate?" The answers have a lot to do with what each animal would normally do in the wild.

Willowbrook strives to allow the animals in its care to experience winter in the most natural way possible. Because the center only treats wildlife native to this part of the country, most of our residents acclimate to changing conditions on their own by strategically storing extra body fat or growing thick underlayers of fur or downy feathers. (Feathers retain body heat so well that snow can accumulate on a bird and not melt.) Abruptly moving animals indoors after they've slowly adjusted to the cold can be stressful, so we avoid doing so but do work to keep them comfortable and safe.

Red foxes have insulating coats, but the fox at Willowbrook also has a towel-lined box in its cage for added warmth. Other mammals along the trail curl up in blankets or hay. Although an

Illinois winter native, our Virginia opossum often gets ointment on its ears and tail to insulate and protect the delicate exposed skin. The woodchuck, the center's only true local hibernator, gets leaves and newspapers, which it balls up to prepare its cozy log den for sleep through the coldest months.

Sandhill cranes migrate, but not the two at Willowbrook. They were raised in captivity by their previous owner and are unable to return to the wild. But like the center's herring gull, black-crowned night heron and cormorant, the cranes are able to ride out extremes outdoors in sheltered enclosures close to buildings. (The sandhill crane enclosure is rated to -35.) The center's two turkey vultures, however, require a little more protection.

Turkey vultures are scavengers with an excellent sense of smell, which helps them locate carrion (dead animals). But in winter, frozen carcasses give off little odor and may be buried in snow or too tough to eat, so vultures migrate south, where they have more reliable sources of food. Because our vultures have permanently injured wings and are unable to fly, on the coldest days we move them into a heated log cabin so their food doesn't freeze and they can be more comfortable.

Willowbrook receives fewer injured animals for treatment this time of year, but we do have patients that recover here over



## Help at Home

Here are a few ways you can help wildlife in winter in your own backyard.

- Put out shallow bowls of fresh open water each day. You may be surprised to see brave songbirds bathing on cold, sunny days, but clean, well-groomed feathers are essential to staying warm.
- Spread fall leaves over your garden beds. They not only insulate dormant plants but also offer bedding and shelter to small mammals.
- Prop your Christmas tree in your yard instead of the curb. (Just make sure to take off the decorations and tinsel).
- Willowbrook usually doesn't recommend feeding wildlife, but in winter, birds can benefit from elevated feeders. Downy and red-bellied woodpeckers as well as white- and red-breasted nuthatches flock to suet. Blue jays are quick to find unsalted peanuts, and finches turn into backyard regulars if feeders are filled with thistle. Northern cardinals, black-capped chickadees and dark-eyed juncos like seeds higher in fat, such as sunflower and safflower.



▲ Sandhill cranes can weather Illinois winters outdoors as long as they have adequate shelter.



▲ When needed, Willowbrook treats the Virginia opossum's ears and tail with ointment to protect exposed skin.

winter, waiting for feathers to molt and re-grow or for physical therapy to help damaged muscles. Once they're in good health and ready to go, we'll move them outdoors while we wait for a weather window of opportunity for their release. We want to set them up for success in the wild rather than a release before a blizzard. (How unfair it would be to leave the cushy life of rehab for that!)

To be honest, it sometimes seems winter is harder on the employees and volunteers than on the animals. For humans, winter means battling frozen locks, navigating icy patches and shoveling paths. We might hose down the floor of a cage in summer, but in winter we often scrape frozen leftover food or droppings by hand. All of the towels and blankets we use must be replaced and cleaned as they get soiled, and food that needs to be at room temperature for best digestion has to be delivered on microwaveable disks to keep it from freezing. And snow days just don't exist. Even if the center is closed and people are instructed to remain home, someone must make it in to feed and care for the animals.

Our wild neighbors might be better adapted for winter than we are, but at Willowbrook Wildlife Center we find it rewarding to help them along the way. Visit us daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 525 S. Park Blvd. in Glen Ellyn and we'll show you! •



▲ Wind blocks, straw and blankets provide added layers of insulation for the bobcat as well as other animals along the trail.

# winter calendar



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	jan		

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
mar				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## January

- 1** New Year's Day Hike  
Summer Camp Early Registration for DuPage Residents Begins
- 3** Archery: Families
- 4** Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides
- 5** Archery: Families  
Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides
- 6** Art at Mayslake: Vision Board Workshop  
Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides  
Nature Scavenger Hunt  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Wizards, Wands and Wildlife
- 9** Art at Mayslake: Exploring Watercolor Begins  
Snowshoe Hike
- 10** Archery: Active Adults
- 11** Art at Mayslake: Winter Art Journaling Begins  
Short-Eared Owl Hike
- 12** Archery: Adults
- 13** Fishing: Hard Water Classic  
Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra  
Pie-Baking Class  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Animal Tracking  
Archery: Families  
Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families

- 15** Ranger Adventure Day
- 17** Archery: Active Adults
- 18** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Active Adults
- 20** Bald Eagle Appreciation Day  
Cast-Iron Cooking  
Volunteer: Open House  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Critter Chat  
Snowshoe Hike
- 24** Photography: Lightroom I Begins
- 26** Ice Harvest
- 27** Assets in the Attic Tour  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Ice Harvest  
Snowshoe Hike  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Animal Tracking  
Critter Chat  
Ice Harvest  
Winter Tree ID
- 30** The Natural World Book Club
- 31** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Active Adults  
Full Moon Cross-Country Skiing  
Volunteer Information Session



## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-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.

## February

- 1** Summer Camp Open Registration Begins
- 3** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wonders of Winter
- 4** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families
- 5** Forest Fitness Walk
- 6** Art at Mayslake:  
Block Printing Valentines  
Photography: Nature Photography Workshop
- 7** Snowshoe Hike
- 10** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Kitchen Adventures: Pulling Taffy  
Romantic Night Hike  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Archery: Families  
Birds of Prey  
Cast-Iron Cooking  
Critter Chat
- 13** Photography: Nature Photography Workshop
- 14** Archery: Active Adults
- 15** Fishing: Ice Fishing for Active Adults
- 17** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Kitchen Adventures: Pulling Taffy  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Critter Chat  
Great Backyard Bird Count
- 19** Forest Fitness Walk  
Kitchen Adventures: Pulling Taffy  
Ranger Adventure Day
- 20** Photography: Nature Photography Workshop
- 21** Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 24** Cross-Country Skiing After Dark  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Kitchen Adventures: Pulling Taffy  
Mayslake Hall Peabody Family Tour  
Snowshoe Hike
- 25** Critter Chat  
Fishing: Ice Fishing for Families  
Native Landscaping 101:  
All About Plants  
Winter Tree ID
- 26** Art at Mayslake: Botanical Art  
Winter Plants Begins
- 27** Art at Mayslake: Exploring  
Watercolor Begins  
The Natural World Book Club  
Photography:  
Nature Photography Workshop

## March

- 2** Read Across America Day:  
Read and Hike
- 3** Maple Sugaring
- 4** Maple Sugaring  
Nature Mystery Hike  
Wilderness Survival
- 5** Forest Fitness Walk
- 7** Photography: Lightroom II Begins
- 8** Art at Mayslake:  
Prayer Flag Workshop
- 9** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Nature Scavenger Hunt  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
When Darkness Falls
- 11** Fishing: Explore Your Tackle Box  
Music at Mayslake: Picos  
Winter Bird Walk
- 14** Woodcock Walk
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Bread-Baking Class  
Cast-Iron Cooking  
Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Day  
Music at Mayslake: Acappellago  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Wilderness Survival
- 19** Forest Fitness Walk
- 21** Little Sprouts Tales and Trails
- 23** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Farmer for a Day  
Nature: The Video Game  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Navigation: Geocaching  
Oh My Gourd!  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Camp Danada: Spring Break Begins  
Kitchen Adventures: Pretzels  
Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm
- 27** The Natural World Book Club
- 28** Ranger Adventure Day
- 29** Kitchen Adventures: Pretzels  
Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm
- 30** Kitchen Adventures: Pretzels  
Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm  
Take a Walk in the Park Day  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Fishing: Trout Fishing for Kids  
Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour



# winter calendar



## Animal Tracking 13191

Learn how to identify tracks and other signs animals leave behind, and then look for critters on a guided hike. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$3 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 14	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Jan. 28	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Greene Valley

## Archery

### Active Adults 12884

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials. Equipment provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 10	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Jan. 17	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 14	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake

### Adults 13006

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 12	2 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Families 12880

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials. Equipment provided. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 3	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan. 5	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Jan. 14	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 11	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake

## Art at Mayslake

### Block Printing Valentines 12957

Hear the history of mass-produced Valentines and make your own using block-printing techniques. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 6	1 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Botanical Art Winter Plants Four-Part Class 12964

Learn how to record observations in a sketchbook and develop a finished piece in graphite or watercolor as you focus on plants that thrive in winter. Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$90 plus \$10 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 26 – March 19	7 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Exploring Watercolor Six-Part Class 12942

Explore and enhance your artistic style at this intermediate-advanced class. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 9 – Feb. 13	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Feb. 27 – April 3	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake

### Prayer Flag Workshop 12972

Use acrylics, stamps, stencils and textiles to create a string of 10 prayer flags as you learn the origins and meanings of these colorful cloths. Ages 18 and up. \$75 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 8	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Vision Board Workshop 12941

Use writing, drawing, mark making and image gathering to ignite creative insight that brings themes of change, adventure, personal interest and inspiration to the surface of a large board. Ages 18 and up. \$75 plus \$5 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 6	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Winter Art Journaling Six-Part Class 12946

Repurpose a hardcover book by using it as your base for creative expression, and learn to manipulate materials by layering with acrylics, pastels, watercolors and collage. Thursdays. Ages 18 and up. \$175 plus \$10 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 11 – Feb. 15	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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### Assets in the Attic Tour 12952

Explore the Forest Preserve District's collection of historic and natural artifacts during a 1 3/4-hour tour, and learn how proper care and preserves your own precious items. Help repair a book exhibiting common problems of damaged bindings, too. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 27	1, 1:30, 2 & 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Bald Eagle Appreciation Day

This celebration of eagles and other birds of prey will include live birds, guided birding hikes, and activities for kids and adults. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-942-6200.

Jan. 20	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Willowbrook
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2. In the search box, enter the five-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.

### Birds of Prey 13143

Learn about falcons, hawks and owls and come face-to-face with live birds. Ages 7 and up with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Feb. 11                      2 – 3:30 p.m.                      Willowbrook

### Bread-Baking Class 12994

Learn how to bake bread the 1890s way in a wood-burning oven at this two-hour class, and take home a pan of rolls with instructions and recipes. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$40 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

March 17                      9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm

### Camp Canada: Spring Break

Four-Day Camp 13179

Enjoy hands-on horse time and help with stable chores at a camp that includes games, crafts and supervised lead-line rides. Ages 10 – 14. \$125 per DuPage resident; \$150 nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

March 26 – 29                      9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.                      Canada

### Cast-Iron Cooking 12897

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 online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 20	10 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jan. 21	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 11	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
Feb. 17	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
Feb. 18	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
March 17	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove

### Critter Chat

Stop by the visitor center each Sunday to meet some of the toads, snakes and turtles that call Fullersburg Woods home. We'll have one featured guest each week. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-850-8110.

Jan. 7 – Feb. 25                      12:30 – 12:50 p.m.                      Fullersburg Woods

### Cross-Country Skiing After Dark 13045

Bring your skis and learn about plants and animals on a guided moonlit tour. If there's not enough snow, the group will hike instead of ski. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 24                      6 – 8 p.m.                      Fullersburg Woods

### Farmer for a Day 13019

Get in touch with your inner farmer by working in small groups on a variety of common tasks from 1890s DuPage, including feeding and caring for the livestock, performing fieldwork and housework, and preparing and eating a hearty farm dinner. Ages 18 and up. \$150 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

March 24                      8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.                      Kline Creek Farm



## 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.**

### LAMBING

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

**Jan. 18 – Feb. 5**

**Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

### LIFE ON THE FARM HOUSE TOUR

Tour the farmhouse for a glimpse of 1890s life.

**Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour**



# winter calendar

## Fishing

### Explore Your Tackle Box 13088

Bring your tackle box to this indoor program to learn how to use what's inside and how lures look to fish. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 11	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Hard Water Classic 13194

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Bring your own equipment and bait. All ages. \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the event. Register online. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Jan. 13	Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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### Ice Fishing for Active Adults 12895

Learn about safety, equipment and techniques and then try fishing on the ice, if conditions allow. Equipment and bait provided. Ages 50 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 18	9 – 11 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Jan. 31	10 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake
Feb. 15	9 – 11 a.m.	Hidden Lake

### Ice Fishing for Families 12890

Learn about safety, equipment and techniques and then try fishing on the ice, if conditions permit. Equipment and bait provided. Ages 6 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 7	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Jan. 14	10 a.m. – Noon	East Branch
Jan. 27	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
Jan. 27	2 – 4 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne
Feb. 4	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 10	10 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
Feb. 24	2 – 4 p.m.	Pratt's Wayne
Feb. 25	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake

### Trout Fishing for Kids

Introduce your young anglers to trout fishing at this pre-season event that's just for them! Bait provided. Ages 15 and under with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

March 31	8 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
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## Forest Fitness Walk 12973

Enjoy the wonders of the preserves with a 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 online or at 630-850-8110.

Feb. 5 & 19	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
March 5 & 19	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

## Full Moon Cross-Country Skiing 13037

Bring your skis for a self-guided tour of lantern-lit trails under the full moon, and talk with a ranger about plants and animals you see along the way. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 31	6 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Get Sticky! Maple Syrup Day 12916

Discover the sweet secret of turning tree sap into syrup and enjoy samples along this 75-minute guided tour. Tours begin every 20 minutes. All ages. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

March 17	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## Great Backyard Bird Count 13042

Take part in this international birding event without leaving DuPage! Look for different species and then record your sightings online. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 18	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides

Hear about farming with real horsepower on a 20-minute ride through the farmstead and fields. Rides are first-come, first-served and use wagons if there's not enough snow. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. For questions or to arrange for private rides, call 630-876-5900.

Jan. 4 – 6	2, 2:30 & 3 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-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.

### Ice Harvest

See the tools and techniques farm families used to cut and store ice before mechanical refrigeration. Then, weather permitting, help cut blocks from Timber Lake and move them to the ice house. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Jan. 26 – 28	1 – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Kitchen Adventures: Pretzels 13020

Learn about the alchemy of joining yeast, flour and water and the fun of twisting, boiling and baking fresh pretzels in a wood-fired oven. Leave with a pretzel, a recipe and the know-how to bake these treats at home. Ages 12 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

March 26, 29 & 30	10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Kitchen Adventures: Pulling Taffy 12818

Tour the 1890s farmhouse and learn how kids lived more than a century ago. Then, make taffy from molasses to take home. Ages 7 and up; under 12 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

Feb. 10, 17, 19 & 24	10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Little Sprouts Tales and Trails 12847

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 – 5 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Feb. 21 Snowflakes	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
March 21 Maple Syrup	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

### Maple Sugaring

Discover how sap becomes syrup as you try tapping with tools from the 1890s, check the collection buckets, watch sap thicken over the fire, and try a taste of real maple syrup. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

March 3 & 4	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour 12969

Explore the mansion and learn about the structural, mechanical and electrical innovations used in its construction. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 31	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Mayslake Hall Peabody Family Tour 12965

Hear stories about the Peabody family and view artifacts and photographs while you explore the mansion on this docent-guided tour. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 24	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Music at Mayslake

#### Acappellago

Join this a cappella choir for *Escape to ... The Wonderful World of Color*, a prism of songs featuring a new cycle written by Acappellago favorite Robert Applebaum. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 – \$17 per person. Tickets at [acappellago.org](http://acappellago.org) or 708-484-3797.

March 17	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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#### Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Regional violin sensation and Stradivarius Society recipient Joshua Brown performs Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and dazzling concertos that showcase ESO's string principals. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$25 per person. Tickets at [elmhurstsymphony.org](http://elmhurstsymphony.org) or 630-941-0202.

Jan. 13	2:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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#### Picoso

Enjoy this Chicago-based chamber ensemble known for its signature symphonic sound at a performance featuring contemporary dance company The Cambrians. Then, meet the musicians at a lively gourmet dessert reception. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free – \$25 per person. Tickets at [picosamusic.com](http://picosamusic.com).

March 11	3 – 5 p.m.	Mayslake
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# winter calendar



## Native Landscaping 101: All About Plants 12980

Learn about the benefits of native plants and how their root structures differ from ornamentals'. Get tips and tricks, too, for planting natives in your own yard to attract pollinators and other wildlife. Ages 18 and up. \$7 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Feb. 25	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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## The Natural World Book Club 12850

Engage in a community of nature lovers and readers at these monthly meetings, where we'll discuss chosen books with topics ranging from nature and industry to homesteading in the city. Ages 18 and up. \$7 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Jan. 30	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Feb. 27	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
March 27	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

## Nature Mystery Hike 13135

Look for clues, answer riddles and solve puzzles to learn about the forest preserve and the animals and plants that live and grow there. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 4	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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## Nature Scavenger Hunt 12988

Learn about the critters that call the forest preserves home during a guided scavenger hunt. Ages 5 – 8 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 6	10 – 11 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
March 10	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Meacham Grove

## Nature: The Video Game 13100

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 online or at 630-933-7248.

March 24	11 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
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## Navigation: Geocaching 13134

Try a family-friendly treasure-hunting activity using a GPS unit. Equipment provided. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 25	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Wood Dale Grove
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## New Year's Day Hike 12985

Ring in 2018 and learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a ranger-led hike. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 1	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Oh My Gourd! 13145

Learn about birds that nest in backyard birdhouses, and paint a dried gourd to create a birdhouse for home. Ages 12 and up. \$8 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

March 25	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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## Photography

### Lightroom I Five-Part Class 12950

Learn about Adobe's Lightroom software, which allows you to enhance and organize digital photos, and work with the program's Library and Develop modules. Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 24 – Feb. 21	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Lightroom II Five-Part Class 12967

Continue work with Lightroom's Develop module as you learn how to integrate Lightroom with Photoshop. Lightroom I or equivalent required. Wednesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$150 plus \$20 supply fee per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 7 – April 4	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Nature Photography Workshops 12958

Sign up for one or more of these introductory workshops. Each of the four weeks focuses on different topics: 1) nature photography, equipment, image processing and exposure; 2) lenses, light and image types; 3) technical composition; and 4) aesthetic composition. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$25 per person per workshop. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 6 – 27	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-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.

### Pie-Baking Class 12940

During this two-hour class, learn the secrets of baking you wish your grandmother had taught you. Working in pairs, start with fresh ingredients and historic recipes and finish with a mouth-watering confection. Ages 18 and up. \$40 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

Jan. 13	9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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### Ranger Adventure Day 13013

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 online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 15	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 19	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
March 28	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

### Read Across America Day: Read and Hike 13077

Join this nationwide celebration of literacy held each year on Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading *The Lorax* with a ranger and then taking a guided hike. Ages 10 and under with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 2	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
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### Romantic Night Hike 12905

Take a lantern-lit, self-guided walk through the woods with your sweetheart, and then warm up with hot cocoa around a cozy fire. Rent snowshoes for an extra \$8 per person, bring your own, or simply stroll in your comfy boots. Ages 18 and up. \$7.50 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Feb. 10	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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### Short-Eared Owl Hike 12983

Venture into the short-eared owl's hunting grounds, where you may get a glimpse of one of twilight's silent hunters. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

Jan. 11	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Springbrook
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## Theater and More at Mayslake

*Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook*

### FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S *WOMEN IN JEOPARDY*

Divorcées Mary, Jo and Liz are best friends, so when Mary and Jo suspect Liz's new boyfriend is a serial killer, they begin an investigation to save her life. When they bring in Liz's daughter with her spaced-out boyfriend, things go from humorously tricky to hilariously complex. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 – \$44 per person. Tickets at 630-986-8067 or [firstfolio.org](http://firstfolio.org).

**Jan. 24 – Feb. 25**

**Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 8 – 10 p.m.**

**Thursdays & Sundays 3 – 5 p.m.**

**PLUS Feb. 10 – 24 Saturdays 4 – 6 p.m.**

### FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S *MARY'S WEDDING*

A couple discovers first love as the world collapses in 1914, leaving them to hide their love as they try to find a place where the uncertainties of WWI can't find them. Ages 14 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 – \$44 per person. Tickets at 630-986-8067 or [firstfolio.org](http://firstfolio.org).

**March 28 – April 29**

**Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 8 – 10 p.m.**

**Thursdays & Sundays 3 – 5 p.m.**

**PLUS April 14 – 28 Saturdays 4 – 6 p.m.**

### ART EXHIBITS

All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

**Jan. 10 – Feb. 24**

Mayslake Photography Club Exhibit

**Feb. 28 – April 20**

Near West Art Collective Exhibit

**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. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

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

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

**(no tours Dec. 9 – Jan. 13)**

# winter calendar



## Snowshoe Hike 12887

Learn about safety and then hit the trails 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 online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 9	9 – 11 a.m.	Meacham Grove
Jan. 21	9 – 11 a.m.	Greene Valley
Jan. 27	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
Feb. 7	9 – 11 a.m.	Maple Grove
Feb. 24	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell

## Spring Break at Kline Creek Farm

Don't sit around over spring break. Get out and enjoy the farm! Help with spring chores and then stick around for games. Ongoing activities vary during the week. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

March 26, 29 & 30	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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## Get Ready to Sign Up for Summer!

Hey, it'll be here before we know it. The Forest Preserve District has 26 different summer camps lined up for kids and teens in 2018, and you can read all about them at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org). But first make sure not to miss these dates!

**EARLY REGISTRATION FOR DUPAGE RESIDENTS**  
**Starts Jan. 1**

**OPEN REGISTRATION FOR EVERYONE**  
**Starts Feb. 1**

## Take a Walk in the Park Day 13118

Join this nationwide celebration and learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a ranger-led hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 30	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove
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## Volunteer

Make a resolution to join the Forest Preserve District's team of volunteers! Learn about our 11 programs and the 50-plus ways you can help out. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7233.

## Information Session

Join us for a one-hour presentation.

Jan. 31	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Danada/HQ
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## Open House

Talk with employees and volunteers from all 11 programs. A one-hour overview starts at 10 a.m.

Jan. 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Danada/HQ
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## Volunteer Restoration Workday 13180

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 online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance. Groups of five or more must register by phone 10 days in advance.

Jan. 6	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Jan. 13 & 27	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jan. 20	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
Feb. 3	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Feb. 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Feb. 17	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie
March 9, 16, 23 & 30	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada
March 10, 17, 18, 24 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
March 17	9 a.m. – Noon	W. Chicago Prairie

## When Darkness Falls 13078

Hike the dark woods with a ranger and learn how to use your senses like a nocturnal predator. Ages 6 and up; under 16 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 10	6 – 8 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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## Registering on [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-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.

### Wilderness Survival 12900

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

March 4	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
March 18	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Waterfall Glen

### Winter Bird Walk 13144

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 online or at 630-942-6200.

March 11	2:30 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
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### Winter Tree ID 12902

Learn how to identify trees in winter using their different characteristics, and then test your new knowledge on a hike around the lake. Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 28	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Feb. 25	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake

### Wizards, Wands and Wildlife 13149

Spend an enchanted evening at Mayslake Hall! We'll sort your witch and wizard families into houses and outfit you with wands before sending you to magical courses where you'll learn about owls and other fantastic creatures, the powers of plants, and the defensive strategies of wildlife. Ages 7 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Jan. 7	3 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Wonders of Winter

Go on a horse-drawn hayride and try ice fishing, geocaching, snowshoeing and other outdoor winter fun. Then, warm up inside Mayslake Hall with activities and interesting info on plants, animals and programs from rangers, naturalists and volunteers. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Feb. 3	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Mayslake
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### Woodcock Walk 12982

Witness one of nature's most fascinating courtship displays: the "sky dance" of the woodcock. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

March 14	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
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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) take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are allowed. Rentals are \$5 per tube per day (\$7 for nylon tubes) and end at 3:30 p.m.

**Through Feb. 25**

**Saturdays and Sundays**

**Plus Dec. 26 – 29, Jan. 1 – 5, 15 and 22, and Feb. 19  
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.



# Hey, Rocky!

by **SCOTT MEISTER**, NATURAL RESOURCES

**Y**ou're likely familiar with gray squirrels and fox squirrels and may have seen a 13-lined ground squirrel, chipmunk or woodchuck, all members of DuPage County's Sciuridae family. But did you know southern flying squirrels share our forest preserves and backyards as well (and are more common than you might expect)?

Southern flying squirrels are almost exclusively nocturnal, so don't be surprised if you haven't seen one. Under the cover of darkness, these chipmunk-sized arboreal rodents travel from tree to tree to find meals and socialize. Their large eyes allow them to see in low light, making them well-suited for overnight operations. Long whiskers, which point forward as the animals leap, help the squirrels "feel" their way through the treetops.

Flying squirrels don't actually fly; they glide. A special flap of furred skin called a "patagium" stretches between their wrists and ankles and serves as a gliding membrane (an adaptation applied to the design of suits used by extreme BASE jumpers who leap off cliffs). As a flying squirrel launches off a tree, it stretches its limbs and uses its patagium like a parachute to silently glide to the next trunk. It can coast as far as 100 feet, although 20 to 30 feet is more typical. As it moves through the air, it uses its flat, wide tail to brake and steer — even to make sharp midair turns. Since it can't ascend as it coasts, once a flying squirrel lands, it

climbs to the jumping-off point of its next high-elevation descent.

Because they're so adept at life in the treetops, flying squirrels seldom touch foot to ground. When they do move about the forest floor, they're clumsy and vulnerable to predators. Weighing just a few ounces, a flying squirrel can be an easy, tasty midnight snack for an owl, raccoon or cat. By remaining in the trees, they can dash and dart through the canopies, keeping adversaries at bay. As an added defense, once a flying squirrel lands on a trunk, it scurries to the opposite side to hide from any predator that may have spotted it "in flight."

Southern flying squirrels are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals — fruits, fungi, insects, the occasional bird egg — but acorns and hickory nuts are their favorites. Like their more grounded cousins, flying squirrels stockpile food in fall in hidden caches so they have reliable inventories when winter supplies start to run short.

Flying squirrels nest in abandoned woodpecker holes or natural tree cavities, where each year they raise two broods, one in spring and one in summer. The young squirrels remain with their parents for up to four months, a longer-than-normal rearing period for mammals their size. One thought is that the extended stay gives the inexperienced gliders the extra guidance needed to learn how to navigate the trees and avoid predators.

◀ Name aside, flying squirrels don't actually fly. Instead, they glide from tree to tree using a flap of furry skin called a "patagium."

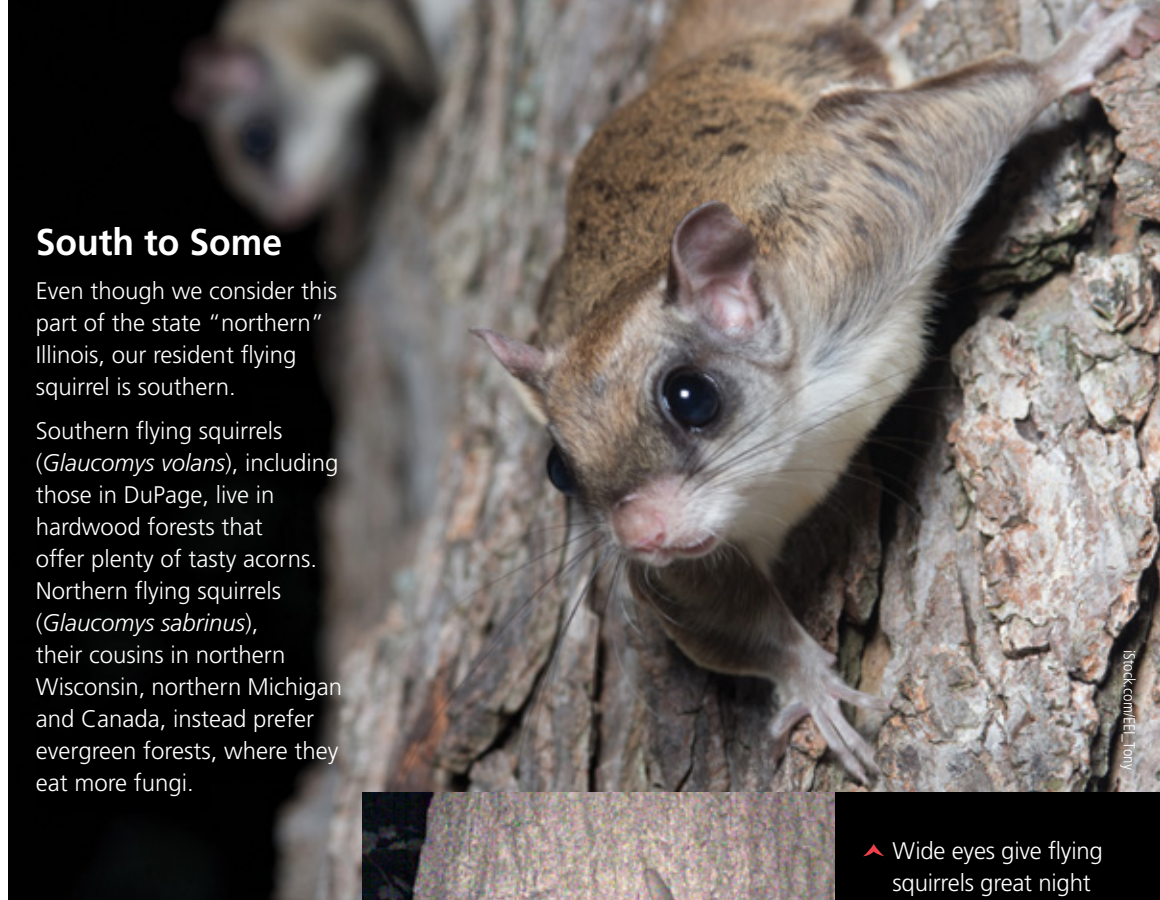


© Stan Tekiela

## South to Some

Even though we consider this part of the state "northern" Illinois, our resident flying squirrel is southern.

Southern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*), including those in DuPage, live in hardwood forests that offer plenty of tasty acorns. Northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), their cousins in northern Wisconsin, northern Michigan and Canada, instead prefer evergreen forests, where they eat more fungi.



istock.com/E.L. Tonn

On winter's coldest days, groups of up to 20 flying squirrels huddle in similar natural shelters to keep warm and conserve energy. Like gray and fox squirrels, they'll also inhabit residential attics, but routine home inspections to ensure openings near roofs and vents remain sealed can prevent squirrels — and other wildlife — from becoming unwanted tenants.

This past summer Forest Preserve District ecologists conducted a countywide survey to look for flying squirrels in the preserves. They strapped trail cameras to trees at 40 sites in 35 preserves and aimed them at nearby trunks baited with peanut butter suet. Surprisingly, 31 cameras at 29 preserves — from the isolated 14-acre Goodrich Woods to the 2,500-acre Waterfall Glen — captured the nighttime foragers. (The animals may have been at the other nine but merely dodged the camera lens.) Ecologists knew flying squirrels lived the preserves but now know just how prevalent the animals really are.

Because flying squirrels live in a variety of forested conditions throughout DuPage, if you live in a neighborhood with mature oak trees and plenty of acorns you may spot one in your own backyard. If you don't have quite the right habitat, check out the calendar of events on Page 8 for a nighttime hike or cross-country ski trek, where you might witness flying squirrels and other nighttime wildlife firsthand! •



▶ Wide eyes give flying squirrels great night vision, and sensitive whiskers help them determine when they're closing in on trees.



◀ A trail camera set up at Burlington Park catches a southern flying squirrel snagging a piece of peanut butter suet.


◀ Seeds and suet blocks in backyard bird feeders are inviting meals for flying squirrels.



◀ In spring and summer, flying squirrels nest in tree cavities, where they huddle as adults in winter to keep warm.

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© Stan Tekiela



◀ Snowshoes are versatile because their straps fit around regular hiking and snow boots.

# The Snowshoe Shuffle

by **JAY JOHNSON**, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

If you recently received one of those gadgets that tracks your steps or if your New Year's resolution is to bump up the numbers on one you've had for a while, the Forest Preserve District can help. The snow may be falling but you don't have to lose your momentum. Give snowshoeing a try! It's a great way to explore the outdoors in winter.

Invented thousands of years ago, snowshoes made of wood, animal skins and leather binding straps allowed people to hunt and travel even in deepest snow. Designs and materials have changed (today's shoes use lightweight plastic, rubber and metal) but snowshoes continue to be effective footwear. Their trick? Dispersing a person's weight over a larger area so feet "float" on the surface instead of sinking.

People in present-day DuPage don't need snowshoes for survival, but many enjoy using them for recreation because the equipment isn't complicated. Unlike cross-country skis, you don't need special shoes or bindings. Snowshoes are fitted by weight not shoe size, and the straps fit over any winter or hiking boot, meaning several people can share the same pair. Snowshoeing is "low-impact," too, which means it's easy on the joints. And because the heel of your

boot doesn't lock into the decking, you walk putting your foot down heel to toe, similar to your normal stride.

Because snowshoeing is such a fun activity, Forest Preserve District rangers started adding it to winter programs about a decade ago. At Wonders of Winter, rangers fit visitors with shoes, allowing them to explore the grounds and wooded trails for a while on their own. At the "Snowshoes Hike" series, rangers share basic info and safety tips before leading groups on guided tours of the trails. (You'll still get your steps in at one of these hikes if the trail's bare by walking in your regular shoes.) These once-scarce programs are gaining popularity with every year, in part because as one participant commented, "It's easier than I thought it would be."

To give even more visitors an excuse to get out on the snowy trails, in 2014 the Forest Preserve District started renting snowshoes at the tubing hill at Blackwell. Since then, it's added weekday rentals at the west sector ranger office at Blackwell on the north side of Mack Road. You can use the shoes at any forest preserve, but the office is adjacent to the parking lot for McKee Marsh, which has over 3 miles of looped trails, making it a great

## Trail Prep

Although snowshoeing is all about the shoes, you need to make sure the rest of you is properly outfitted as well.

- Dress in layers that are easy to remove and put back on. It may feel chilly when you're taking your first few steps, but you'll likely warm up quickly.
- Wear materials that wick moisture away from your body. You don't want to get warm and then get chilled as your body cools because the layer closest to your skin is wet.
- Make sure your hands, face and head are protected.
- Bring sunglasses and sunscreen. Snowy, sunny days can produce a lot of glare.
- Bring water. Dry winter air speeds dehydration, and because your body's focusing on keeping warm it takes longer for the brain to register you need a drink. (If anything, stopping to take a sip will give you an excuse to look and listen for wildlife!)



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▲ Rangers bring snowshoes to programs like Wonders of Winter for visitors of all ages to try.



© Nick Harris

▲ A stop on a quiet snowshoe trek gives you a chance to look for some of the preserves' winter residents.

destination for a two-hour walk. (You can rent shoes for the day or for just two hours.)

In 2015 the Forest Preserve District also started renting snowshoes at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Visitors can trek atop the snow through the woods and along Salt Creek on more than 4 miles of trails. After, they can warm up by investigating exhibits on the county's natural history inside the visitor center. Fans of the center's annual "Romantic Night Hike" can stroll along the lantern-lit trails by snowshoe as well if the weather cooperates.

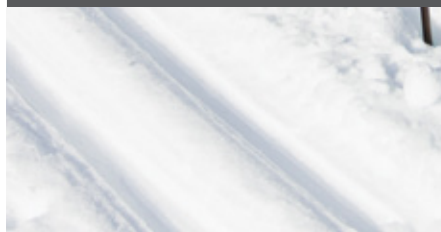
So if you're looking for a new reason to get off the couch this winter, the Forest Preserve District has the perfect fit. See our calendar starting on Page 8 for programs and "Winter Fun" on Page 17 for rental info. And we'll see you on the trails! •

## Share the Trails

People on snowshoe, boot or cross-country ski can use most Forest Preserve District trails, and sharing the trails means guaranteed fun for everyone!

If you're a classic skier, use the set tracks on the outside of the trail. (Forest Preserve District rangers groom trails for cross-country skiing when conditions allow.)

If you're in boots or snowshoes or if you're a freestyle skier, use the inside of the trail and don't step on the set tracks. (Classic skiers using the trail after you will thank you!)



iStock.com/gasp13

# directory



## GENERAL *Contacts*

### HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

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

### Website

[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

### Email Address

[forest@dupageforest.org](mailto: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

### THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

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

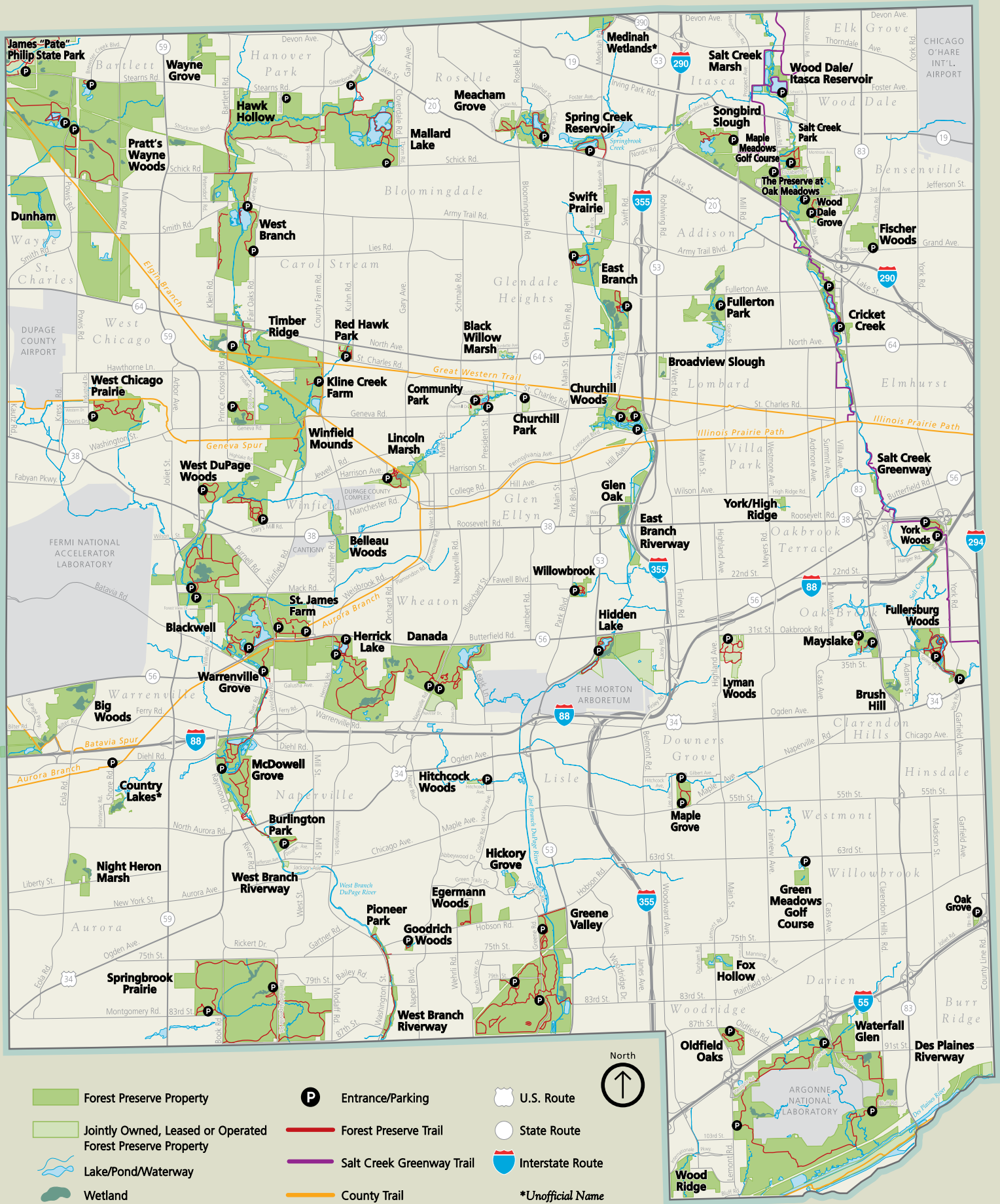
1717 W. 31st St.  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
630-206-9566

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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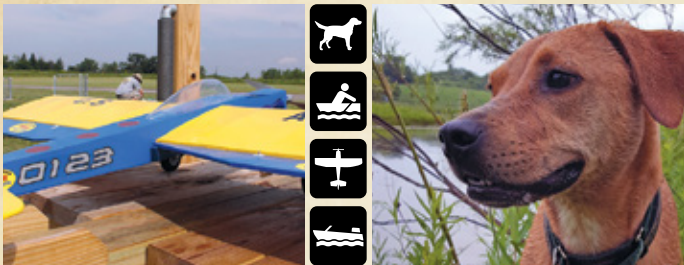
*please deliver to current resident*

# the Conservationist

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Winter 2018

## It's Not Too Soon to Start Planning



### Annual Permits

**Buy 2018 permits** for off-leash dog areas, private boats and model crafts 24/7 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).

**Click** "Registration & Permits" and "Purchase Permits."

**Find** the one you need and click "Add to Cart."

**Create** an account or log in to your existing one.

**Pay** for your permit and then look for it in the mail (even for off-leash dogs!)

**Questions?** Call Visitor Services at **630-933-7248**  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.



### Summer Camps

**Horses, kayaking, fishing, art, wildlife, farming, science ... Your kids and teens are bound to find their favorites!**

Registration for DuPage residents starts Jan. 1 at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).

Open registration begins Feb. 1.

