



the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2021

Sticky Seeds

Easy Strolls 101

Fall Program Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



Greetings from the DuPage forest preserves! I'm excited to share updates on some capital projects that are in the planning process.

Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn has been in existence for over 50 years. At the center, staff and volunteers provide medical treatment to injured and orphaned wildlife, releasing the animals into natural habitats once they're healthy. Over the decades Willowbrook has seen a dramatic increase in the number of patients in its care. It now takes in approximately 10,000 animals each year. The construction of a new state-of-the-art wildlife rehabilitation facility will not only place the District as a national leader in veterinary science, medical care, and rehabilitation but also create a center with expanded naturalized outdoor wildlife rehabilitation areas, public educational opportunities, improved trails, and a restored adjacent preserve.

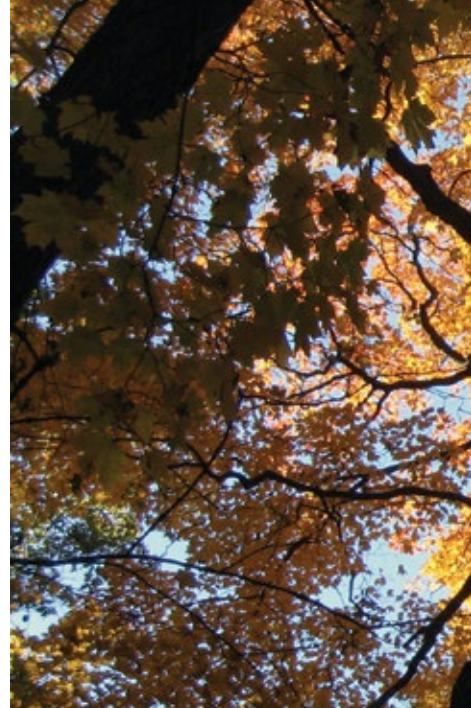
Our second large project is at Mayslake Hall in Oak Brook. In 1919 Francis Stuyvesant Peabody commissioned renowned Chicago architect Benjamin Marshall to design the Tudor Revival-style mansion. Today, the Forest Preserve District is working to restore the building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The hall currently serves as a venue for architectural tours, lectures, nature-related art classes and performances throughout the year. The renovation work, which is expected to start in 2022, will restore the façade and protect the structure for years to come.

Given the scale and cost of these projects, the District plans to issue tax-exempt bonds, likely in early 2022. The good news is that because the District is in such excellent financial health, we'll be able to complete these projects — along with others — with no increase in your property taxes. (You'll find a review of our financial health on Page 4.)

Big changes are coming to some of the county's most popular forest preserves. I am very excited about these projects and know they will benefit all DuPage residents!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Daniel Hebreard, Woodridge

Commissioners

Marsha Murphy, Bloomingdale — District 1

Tina Tyson-Dunne, Lombard — District 2

Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3

Jeff Gahris, Wheaton — District 4

Barbara O'Meara, Naperville — District 5

Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

Executive Director

Karie Friling



BOARD MEETINGS

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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

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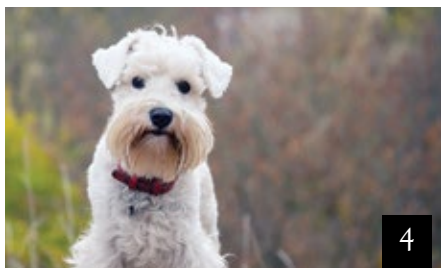


FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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dupageforest.org

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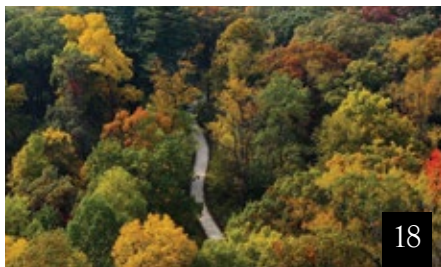
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On the cover: Sumac by Hank Erdmann/Shutterstock.com

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

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Financial Health

The purpose of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is to acquire, preserve, protect and restore the natural resources in DuPage County while providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

S&P AAA RATING

(That's like a person having a perfect 850 credit score.)

S&P Rating Based On

- ✓ Strong governance & financial management
- ✓ Adequate reserves
- ✓ Disciplined budgeting practices

Your Property Tax Dollars & DuPage Forest Preserves

For Every **\$1** in Property Taxes



2¢

Goes to Your DuPage Forest Preserve District

That 2¢ Supports



6 Million Annual Visitors
26,000 Acres
166 Miles of Trails
60 Forest Preserves
47 Miles of Rivers & Streams
31 Lakes
6 Education & Cultural Sites

Master Plan 5-Year Implementation

32 Certified Projects

15 Districtwide Initiatives

All With No Increase to the Forest Preserve District Portion of Your Property Taxes

Estimated Annual Property Taxes Paid to the Forest Preserve District for the Next Five Years

Home Value		
\$300,000	\$500,000	\$750,000
\$125	\$205	\$305
Annual Taxes		

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

For the safety of visitors as well as staff, until further notice, all Board of Commissioners meetings will be online only. You can link directly to live streaming video from the Forest Preserve District's Facebook page at facebook.com/dupageforest and from dupageforest.org.

Details on how to submit public comments and links to agendas, minutes, and recordings of previous meetings are at dupageforest.org under "Our Board."

Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.



GIVING THE GIFT of Nature

Looking for a gift for that someone who has everything? Want an easy way to pay for DuPage forest preserve summer camps? Then get a Forest Preserve District gift card!

Use the cards to pay for programs and camps; reserve picnic shelters and campsites; rent canoes, kayaks, or boats; or buy cool swag. You can buy cards through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or forest@dupageforest.org. Interested in golf? Get gift cards good at all three Forest Preserve District courses at DuPageGolf.com.



MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts May 1 – Aug. 31. To learn how your financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforest.org/friends. 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

Dr. Richard Pena and Ms. Edith Podrazik
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Estate of Theodore Utchen
\$10,000 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Friends of Tom Fahey
\$3,000 — The Preserve at Oak Meadows
Gary Schreiber
\$2,641.67 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Family of Krystyna Lewandowska
\$1,500 — Pratt's Wayne Woods
Ann McGill and Kate Welborn
\$1,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Simmons
\$1,250 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Domtar Inc.
\$1,000 — Adopt a Blanding's Turtle
The Richard Laurence Parish Foundation
\$1,000 — Greatest needs

Bruce and Martha Sanders
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
DocuSign
\$925 — Volunteer Services
Charmaine Cyza
\$750 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Karen DeToro
\$750 — Mayslake Peabody Estate
Brandi Apostolos
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Vivian Grant
\$500 — Greatest needs
Kathy Isoda
\$500 — St. James Farm
Larry Larson
\$500 — Adopt a Blanding's Turtle, greatest needs, Mayslake Peabody Estate and Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Kathleen Murphy
\$500 — Kline Creek Farm in memory of Carl Hoppe
Tom Schutz
\$500 — Springbrook Prairie

2022 ANNUAL PERMITS ON SALE DEC. 1

Annual permits for private boating, archery, off-leash dog areas and model crafts go on sale Wednesday, Dec. 1 at dupageforest.org under "Registration & Permits."

Permits will also be available at Forest Preserve District headquarters, 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dog lovers can buy off-leash permits at Mayslake Peabody Estate, 1717 W. 31st St. in Oak Brook, Monday – Friday noon – 3 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Questions? Call Visitor Services weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 630-933-7248 or use our convenient online chat at dupageforest.org.



iStock.com/mandj98

BECAUSE DEER DON'T LOOK BOTH WAYS

A deer can run in front of your car anytime, but the risk goes up in fall, when these animals have one thing on their minds: finding mates. Because they're not concerned about you, it's up to you to watch for them.

- Be careful at dawn and dusk, when deer are most active and visibility is poor. Odds are higher along woods, fields, fencerows and rivers.
- Watch for deer-crossing signs. Agencies post them in areas that have had multiple accidents.
- Slow down when approaching deer. They may bolt or quickly change direction without warning.
- Deer often travel in groups, so if you see one, be ready for more.
- Don't swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid deer. Slow to a stop, wait and flash your headlights.
- If you have passengers, make sure they're on deer patrol, too.
- If you hit a deer, don't try to move it. Call law enforcement instead.



Enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*)

Sticky Seeds

© Daniel Cahen

by **SCOTT MEISTER**, NATURAL RESOURCES

Cooler nights and shorter days signal a change for many plants. Although colorful blooms are long gone for many species, plants are still using stored energy for one last hoorah to ensure their species' presence next season: seed production.

In the science world, plants reproduce using what's called an "r-strategy." Without the ability to provide parental care, r-strategists produce many offspring in the hopes that a few will grow and survive. (Insects are another example of r-strategists.) For instance, one oak tree can produce 10,000 acorns in a good year, but the majority won't survive to become trees. Acorns and other seeds are often eaten by wildlife or accidentally destroyed. Some simply do not find a suitable location to grow and thrive.

Plants have different tactics to disperse their seeds in hopes of finding good growing conditions. Milkweed seeds are attached to cottonlike puffs that can sail in the wind long distances. Cattails use water to float their seeds downstream to find homes. When seedpods of wild geranium dry and crack open they launch their seeds like a catapult.

Another common dispersal strategy relies on animals to move a plant's seeds. (Anyone who has walked off-trail this time of year is familiar with this sly tactic.) Technically, seed dispersal via fur or feather is called "epizoochory." Epizoochorous seeds, or "sticky seeds" as I call them, are equipped with hooks, barbs or spines that cling to any passing bird, furry mammal (deer, coyote, cottontail, etc.) or pant leg.

Once a seed is attached, the unsuspecting host can transport it long distances. The hitchhiking seed is released when the animal grooms or scratches itself or rubs against an object (or when a person picks the seed off clothes). If lucky, the dropped seed will land in a hospitable location where it can grow the following year.

In DuPage County, dozens of plants rely on wildlife (and humans) to disburse their seeds. The following are a handful of common



© Michael Henry

◀ It's not uncommon for forest preserve visitors to find "sticky seeds," such as the small pods of showy ticktrefoil, on pant legs and shoes in fall.

ones forest preserve visitors might find attached to pants, shirts and pet fur when visiting in fall.

Stickseed is a native plant that grows in woodlands and along wooded trails. It's inconspicuous eighth-inch-wide summer flowers produce small seeded fruits covered in hooked, Velcro-like prickles, which should leave no question as to how the plant received its common name. The fruits latch to any passing animal or human. Because the plant can be 2 to 4 feet tall, its seeds are likely to stick to shirttails and dogs.

Native common beggar's tick blooms in late summer in sunny, wet habitats. If you brush against vegetation near a body of water, expect to encounter beggar's ticks. Each seed ends with two pointed barbs that resemble Batman's cowl and easily attach to passers-by. In addition to dispersing with the help of wildlife, the seeds are light enough to be carried by the wind, allowing them to grow in many areas. The plants are 1 to 3 feet tall, so the seeds often stick to pant legs and shoelaces.

Many native species of ticktrefoil grow in DuPage County, but all of them produce seedpods covered in fine, hooked hairs. A member of the legume (or bean) family, ticktrefoil seeds are recognizable as flat bean pods 1 to 3 inches long with two to five segments. Showy ticktrefoil is the most common in DuPage and grows in sunny locations, including along trails. Fortunately, the fine hairs easily detach from clothing.

The scientific name of enchanter's nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana*, comes from Circe, an enchantress and goddess in Greek mythology. But the plant can be more maddening than mesmerizing to those who find its seeds attached to clothing. Growing in woodlands and shady areas, one flower stalk can produce a dozen or more tiny flowers, each producing a seedpod with hooked hairs that stiffen in fall, making them stronger and more likely to latch upon someone walking by. Growing 1 to 2 feet tall, the entire flower stem with its multiple seedpods can break from the plant and attach to clothing at knee level or below.

Common burdock is not native to DuPage, but this invasive plant is widely distributed with an ability to grow almost anywhere, including unkept backyards. Its large heart-shaped leaves measure up to 2 feet long. Flower stalks form in summer and can reach 6 feet tall. As a flower withers, a bur with small stiff hooks forms and remains on the plant through winter. (Examining burdock seeds under a microscope in the 1940s inspired a Swiss man to invent Velcro.) The hooks are so numerous that removing them from clothing or pets can be difficult; they're so strong they can trap light-weight hummingbirds.

Epizoochorous seeds are one of nature's smart designs, but because some of these "sticky seeds" can become invasive, visitors should always check for unwanted hitchhikers before leaving a forest preserve, inspecting clothes, pets, and shoes — especially shoelaces — and removing seeds before leaving the area. It might add an extra step, but it's just part of enjoying the forest preserves in fall! •



© Nate Harley

▲ Stickseed (*Hackelia virginiana*)



© Daniel Cahen

▲ Common beggar's tick (*Bidens frondosa*)



© ekruth

▲ Showy ticktrefoil (*Desmodium canadense*)



© yaoshawn

▲ Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)

fall calendar

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October

- 1** Bird Walk
Fresh Air Friday
Peabody's Pages Book Club
Morning Discussions Begin
Woody Invasive Species Workshop
- 2** The Ins and Outs of Oak Trees
Kayaking: Basics
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 3** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Forest Hike
Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 5** Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 6** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 7** Tree Spirit Woman Begins
- 8** Bird Walk
- 9** Fishing: Families
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Haunted Wildlife Scavenger Hunt
Kayaking: Basics
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Peabody's Pages Book Club
Evening Discussions Begin
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Oaks on the Prairie
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 14** Oaks on the Prairie
- 15** Bird Walk
- 16** Birding by Boat
Horse Ownership Lecture Series Begins
The Ins and Outs of Oak Trees
Little Pumpkins
Long-Distance Hike
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Urban Stream Research Center Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** OAKtober Walk
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 18** Forest Hike
Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 19** Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 20** Oak Recovery Hike
- 22** Bird Walk
- 23** Archery: Families
Lantern-Lit Haunted Hike
Nature's Tricks and Treats
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 24** Lantern-Lit Haunted Hike
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride: Fall Oak Colors
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Forest Hike
Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 26** Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour
- 29** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 30** Fishing: Families
Haunted Wildlife Scavenger Hunt
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 31** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit 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.

November

- 1** Forest Hike
- 3** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 5** Fresh Air Friday
- 6** Fishing: Families
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Fall Nature Detectives
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 8** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 13** Archery: Adults
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Forest Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 16** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Cast-Iron Cooking
Friendsgiving With Wildlife
Grant Me Serenity Gratitude Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Grant Me Serenity Gratitude Walk
- 27** Archery: Families
- 28** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Waterfowl Walk
- 29** Forest Hike

December

- 3** Fresh Air Friday
- 4** Acappellago
Backyard Wild Dogs
Cast-Iron Cooking
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Nature Poetry Walk
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Archery: Adults
Raptors of DuPage
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Tracking and Observation
- 19** Sinfonietta Bel Canto
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike

RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES

At press time, in accordance with Illinois guidelines, all visitors 2 or older regardless of vaccination status must

- Wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when inside forest preserve buildings.
- Consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities that involve close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

PROGRAM CHANGES

This calendar is accurate at press time, but program dates may change. For the most recent information, especially for programs that do not require advanced registration, call the number listed in the description or visit dupageforest.org before heading out.



Plants & Wildlife

Backyard Wild Dogs 20185

Often misunderstood and disliked creatures, coyotes have a fascinating natural history and play an important role in the environment. Learn how coyotes have become so successful in the Chicagoland area, and finish with a hike at sunset to hopefully hear these singing dogs. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Dec. 4	3 – 5 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Birding by Boat 20186

Look for birds along the shoreline during a guided paddle. (Paddling experience is not required.) Bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent a one-person kayak for an additional \$15. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 16	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Mallard Lake
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Bird Walk 20322

Learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds on this guided walk for beginners. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Oct. 8 	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Oct. 15 	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct. 22	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake

Fall Nature Detectives 20200

Bring your family on this signs-of-fall scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of St. James Farm. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 7	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Friendsgiving With Wildlife 20187

Get a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the winter care of the center's residents – from diet prep and habitat changes to training and enrichment – each based on the animal's species, health needs and personality. Then, help with a fall-themed enrichment project that we will give to the animals during the program. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Nov. 20	2 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Haunted Wildlife Scavenger Hunt 20348

Join a not-so-scary outdoor scavenger hunt that will look for clues and solve wildlife mysteries about bats, owls, raccoons and other animals that awaken in the night. Then, enjoy a bonfire and s'mores as we talk about our spooky findings! All ages. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 10 & 30	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Nature's Tricks and Treats 20190

Learn about trick-or-treating in the world of wildlife. (Many animals wear costumes, use misleading tricks and offer treats to help them survive!) Then, make your own wildlife-inspired masks to get ready for Halloween. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 23	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Oak Recovery Hike 20311

On this 4-mile guided hike through a high-quality oak woodland, learn about the Forest Preserve District's efforts to restore the county's disappearing oak habitats and how you as a homeowner can help. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 20	Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
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Oaks on the Prairie 20349

Help harvest native wildflower seeds for use in new or existing forest preserve habitats, and find out how oaks play a role in prairie ecosystems. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7233.

Oct. 13	10 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
Oct. 14	10 a.m. – Noon	Danada/HQ


Celebrate
OAKtober
With Us!

What's so great about oaks? Find out throughout the month of OAKtober! Look for oak leaves in this calendar for featured programs.



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit 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.

OAKtober Walk 20199-

Enjoy the fall colors as you learn about oaks on a guided walk. If you wish, bring crayons and paper to make your own leaf and bark rubbings. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 17	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Raptors of DuPage 20192

Get a close-up look at hawks, owls and a turkey vulture as you learn about the natural history and unique adaptations of the county's native birds of prey. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Dec. 11	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride: Fall Oak Colors 20202

Celebrate OAKtober on a 30-minute covered wagon ride through one of the largest oak forests in DuPage. Rides leave at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248. For additional dates as the colors change, visit dupageforest.org.

Oct. 23 & 24	1 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Urban Stream Research Center Tour 20313

Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Forest Preserve District's efforts to raise freshwater mussels, federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies and state-endangered Blanding's turtles. Then, meet some of the crayfish, insects and fish that call the county's waterways home. Tours leave every 30 minutes. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 16	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Waterfowl Walk 20193

Search for the bright, colorful feathers of migrating waterfowl on a guided walk. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Nov. 28	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Danada
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Wildlife Tracking and Observation 20194

Reconnect with your surroundings and develop an acute awareness of the stories told by wildlife as you explore animal tracks and other signs of the natural world. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Dec. 18	2 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike 20191

Welcome the first day of winter (and look for early morning wildlife) on a hike to the top of Mount Hoy to see the winter solstice sunrise. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Dec. 21	6:30 – 8 a.m.	Blackwell
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Woody Invasive Species Workshop 20312

Pick up tips for creating healthy home landscapes, and discover how tackling invasive woody species can improve local ecosystems while increasing an area's natural beauty. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Online
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Ways to Play

Archery

Adults 20182

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 13	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Dec. 11	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake

See **RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES** and **PROGRAM CHANGES** information on Page 9.

fall calendar



Families 20173

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 23	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 27	10 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

Cast-Iron Cooking 20179

Help prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire as you learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 20	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec. 4	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Herrick Lake

Fishing: Families 20169

Don't rely on luck to catch fish! Learn basic skills to help make your family outings successful. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 9	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Oct. 30	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Nov. 6	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Blackwell

Horse Ownership Lecture Series

Five-Part Program 20282

Whether you're a prospective owner or just an enthusiast, get an in-depth look at horse care. Each session features a different topic — behavior, health, feed, conformation and leasing versus owning — and includes a 60-minute lecture followed by 30 minutes of practical, hands-on applications in the barn. Ages 12 and up. \$50 for all five programs. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

Oct. 16 – Nov. 13	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Danada
Saturdays		

Kayaking: Basics 20143

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 2	3 – 5 p.m.	Herrick Lake
Oct. 10	9 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

Lantern-Lit Haunted Hike 20510

Take a self-guided lantern-lit hike along the trails of St. James Farm starting with a ghost story and ending with a haunted conversation around the fire. Hikes leave every 15 minutes. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 23 & 24	7 – 10 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Little Pumpkins 20514

Experience nature with your child as you join in stories and rhymes about pumpkins, and then search for a little pumpkin to decorate and take home. Ages 3 – 6 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 16	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

St. James Farm

Exercise and school your horse at the indoor riding arena. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. To register, call 630-580-7027.

Riding Lessons 20204

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in October and November. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$310 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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

1. Visit 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.

Pumpkin Night Hike for Families 20511

Use pumpkins and lanterns to light your way on a self-guided night hike through Fullersburg Woods. There will be a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt for kids to complete and a treat at the end! Hikes leave every 15 minutes. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 23 & 24	5:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Long-Distance Hike 20309

Test your abilities and push your stepping boundaries as you enjoy this invigorating 8-mile hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 16	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
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Nature Poetry Walk 20201

Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk; then create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Dec. 5	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Health & Well-Being

Forest Hike 20298

Get some healthy exercise and enjoy the wonders of a DuPage forest preserve on a guided 3- to 5-mile hike. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 4	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Oct. 11	8:30 – 10 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Oct. 18	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Philip State Park
Oct. 25	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Nov. 1	8:30 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 8	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Nov. 15	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov. 22	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 29	8:30 – 10 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods

Fresh Air Friday 20195

Breathe deep on a scenic guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 5	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Dec. 3	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

Grant Me Serenity Gratitude Walk 20286

Seeking to create a more peaceful, serene holiday season? Then join this gentle walk (outside or indoors depending on the weather) that will focus on principles for creating inner peace with time for private reflection. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Nov. 20	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
Nov. 25	7:30 – 9 a.m.	Mayslake

Heritage

The Ins and Outs of Oak Trees 20388

Celebrate OAKtober with a walk through an oak savanna, and then relax in Mayslake Hall's historic library with some white oak bark tea. Take a docent-led tour of the library and study, both featuring 100-year-old oak walls and flooring, and leave with acorn flour recipes from the 1920s. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 2 & 16	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour 20454

After the sun sets, enjoy a guided tour of the mansion and hear urban legends, tales of hauntings and stories of mischief while learning about the building's architecture, history and ownership. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 4, 5, 18, 19, 25 & 26	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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See **RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES** and **PROGRAM CHANGES** information on Page 9.

fall calendar



Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride

Enjoy a 30-minute ride through the scenic forest preserve. Rides leave at 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are first-come, first-served and go on sale at noon the day of the rides. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. For questions or private group ride reservations, call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 2, 3, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 & 31	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada 🍁
Nov. 6 & 7	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada



1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

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

CORN HARVEST

Experience life as a field hand as you help harvest this year's corn crop, which will feed the farm's livestock throughout the year and provide seed for next year's plantings. Learn about the importance of this crop to farmers in the 1890s and today as you learn how to properly shuck corn.

Saturdays & Sundays in October
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

FARMHOUSE TOURS

Join us in the farmhouse for a look at 1890s home life with themes that change to reflect the seasons.

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 (except Nov. 25 and Dec. 25)
Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

Nature Art & Culture

Acappellago

Enjoy *Escape to ... an Old-Fashioned Christmas* with music reminiscent of handmade Christmas gifts, candles on the tree, togetherness, and simple gatherings with friends and relatives. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 – \$17 per person. Purchase tickets at acappellago.org or 708-762-3140.

Dec. 4	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
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Peabody's Pages Book Club 🍁

Three-Part Discussion 20283

Meet in Mayslake Hall's 100-year-old library or online for enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9568.

Oct. 1, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
Oct. 12, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14	6:45 – 8 p.m.	Online

Sinfonietta Bel Canto

Enjoy this chamber orchestra's special holiday presentation. All ages. \$24 per adult; \$7 per student or child accompanied by an adult. Purchase tickets at sinfoniettabelcanto.org.

Dec. 19	3 – 4 p.m.	Mayslake
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Restoration-in-Progress Tours

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Learn about the past — and future — of this historic 1920s Tudor Revival-style mansion. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
Monday – Friday 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 11:30 a.m.
(except Nov. 25 & 26 and Dec. 25)



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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.

Tree Spirit Woman Eight-Part Program 20296

Work on collages and mixed media projects in an inspiring studio-style class with weekly discussions and demonstrations designed to further composition skills and collage techniques. Ages 18 and up. \$125 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 7 – Dec. 9 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake
Thursdays (except Oct. 28 and Nov. 25)



Art at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

NEAR WEST ART COLLECTIVE

Enjoy beautiful works of art by this talented group as you immerse yourself in artistic interpretations of the natural world. A reception will take place on Oct. 21 at 5:30 p.m. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Oct. 1 – Nov. 13

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NATURAL BY DESIGN

Take in an exhibit that combines decorative arts and the architecture of Mayslake Hall to highlight how people are not distinct from nature and how the places we call home are filled with signs of our connections to the natural world. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 (except Nov. 25 & 26 and Dec. 25)

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 20078

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 30-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

Oct. 3, 9, 11, 16, 18, 24 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct. 9 & 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial Springbrook
Oct. 10, 12 & 23	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Oct. 23 & 30	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Nov. 6, 8, 13, 14, 20, 22 & 28	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Springbrook
Nov. 6, 16 & 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Nov. 6 & 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Nov. 21	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Nov. 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
Dec. 4, 6, 11, 18 & 20	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Maple Grove
Dec. 4 & 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Dec. 4 & 14	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Dec. 4 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 20121

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

Oct. 6, 13, 18, 23 & 29	8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 3, 8 & 15	8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Blackwell

See **RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES** and **PROGRAM CHANGES** information on Page 9.



Easy Strolls 101

by **SHANNON BURNS**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

Research shows that even a few minutes in nature have many health benefits. Fortunately, whether you're looking to take a stroll, find a trail that's walker- or wheelchair-friendly, sit to relax with a book, or picnic with a friend, DuPage preserves have just the thing!

Everything about the preserves is online at dupageforest.org, but there's a lot of in-person information, too. After all, some people either don't have internet service or rather prefer to talk to a friendly voice. That's why the Forest Preserve District's Visitor Services office is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 630-933-7248 and at the headquarters office at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Visitor Services can help you get maps and directions to the preserves or purchase permits for forest preserve off-leash dog areas, model craft areas, the archery range or private watercraft. (The first permit for each is free for people 65 or older!) The office also knows if there are any planned closures.

For anyone heading out to the preserves, one good way to plan for a visit is to have a “to-go” bag at the ready, containing items such as water and snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, maps of the preserves, and field guides to plants, birds, mammals, or insects. Many also stock their bags with art supplies or a journal, should inspiration strike.

During peak times, some locations can have small amounts

of traffic, but taking it slow is always the best course. Once parked, how you enjoy the preserve is up to you. Many people relax in a parked car, taking in the view. Some sit at picnic tables or in lawn chairs on the grass. Others take a pleasant stroll around a trail. Whatever works best is the right way to have a great visit.

If you do hit the trails, it's important to know that most are considered “multipurpose.” This means that in addition to people on foot you'll encounter bikes and horses. But if you follow good trail etiquette and walk on the right side of the trail, bikers, joggers, and horses will be able to easily pass on your left. (They should loudly announce “on your left” as they do, but some don't. Still, if you stay to the right, you'll be safe.)

There are 60 forest preserves in DuPage, but the ones described on the next page have features that make them especially mobility-friendly. They have asphalt or crushed limestone surfaces graded to accommodate canes, walkers, and wheelchairs on sunny, dry days and parking (including handicap spots with curb cutouts) right where the trails begin. Each has looped trails around a mile or less that begin and end at the same place and benches or shelters with shady places to rest along the way. And they all have accessible flush, pit or portable toilets (as designated with an F, PI or PO.) So read on and start planning your next trip!

Cricket Creek PO

This pleasant oasis in Addison features a series of lakes, each circled by mostly sunny crushed limestone trails. Benches dot the 0.4- to 0.6-mile trails and offer inviting places to take a break. The picnic area off Fullerton Avenue has grassy areas where you can sit and read or chat with friends, and the lot on Fullerton is near the preserve's portable toilets.

Herrick Lake F, PI

This preserve in Wheaton boasts an easy 0.8-mile trail around Herrick Lake with benches for resting along the way. Sunny areas blend with shady for a pleasant stroll. It's important to note, though, that the preserve's regional trail connects with the Illinois Prairie Path, so it might be busier than other preserves. There's plenty of space, though, to set up a lawn chair to read, soak up the view or visit with friends.

Hidden Lake F

This Downers Grove location offers two mile-long looped trails, each circling a lake. There are benches on both trails along the water and a bridge that goes over the East Branch DuPage River.

Maple Grove PO

Another Downers Grove preserve, Maple Grove has a pleasant 0.5-mile looped trail that's lightly shaded. Its recently restored natural areas offer relaxing woodland views with tall mature trees and native plants along both sides.

Spring Creek Reservoir F

A sunny 1.1-mile asphalt loop circles a large body of water with plenty of places to sit along the way and enjoy the great open views at this Bloomingdale forest preserve.

St. James Farm F, PO

Located on the former estate of the McCormick family, St. James Farm in Warrenville has multiple trails, some brick or paved, that pass old farm buildings and statues. Sit on the lawn to people watch, stroll among the old farm buildings to read the interpretive signs, or take a longer walk through one of the tree-lined allées.

Wood Dale Grove PO

This Wood Dale forest preserve has two 0.5-mile trails. One circles Grove Lake in the sun; the second is shadier and circles around a marsh. Both have benches, but the loop around Grove Lake has picnic tables as well as an accessible fishing pier.

York Woods PI

Old oaks and open meadows on 1 mile of trail make this Oak Brook preserve an ideal place for a shady stroll. Because it's part of the regional Salt Creek Greenway Trail, make sure to stay to the right as you walk. Near the Harger Road lot, a grassy area with picnic tables is perfect for sitting and reading or chatting with a friend. A picnic shelter on the west side of the preserve is available on a first-come, first-served basis. •



▲ Most DuPage forest preserves, especially the ones featured in this article, have parking lots with handicapped spots and curb cutouts near the trailhead.



▲ Both of the trails at Hidden Lake circle around water, offering scenic strolls with strategically placed benches for great places to soak up the surrounding landscape.



▲ A comfortable chair and a good book in a grassy spot by the water at Herrick Lake let you enjoy some favorite pastimes while spending time outdoors.

directory



PLEASE NOTE

At press time, forest preserves, golf courses, and select education center features are open, but as Restore Illinois guidelines change, so might the Forest Preserve District's lineup. For the most recent information, including hours, call the number associated with the center or visit dupageforest.org.

HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services

630-933-7248

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Development & Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

HOURS

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please call the District's ADA coordinator at 630-933-7683 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit.

EDUCATION Centers

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

KLINE CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

GOLF Courses

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330

PARTNER Sites

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

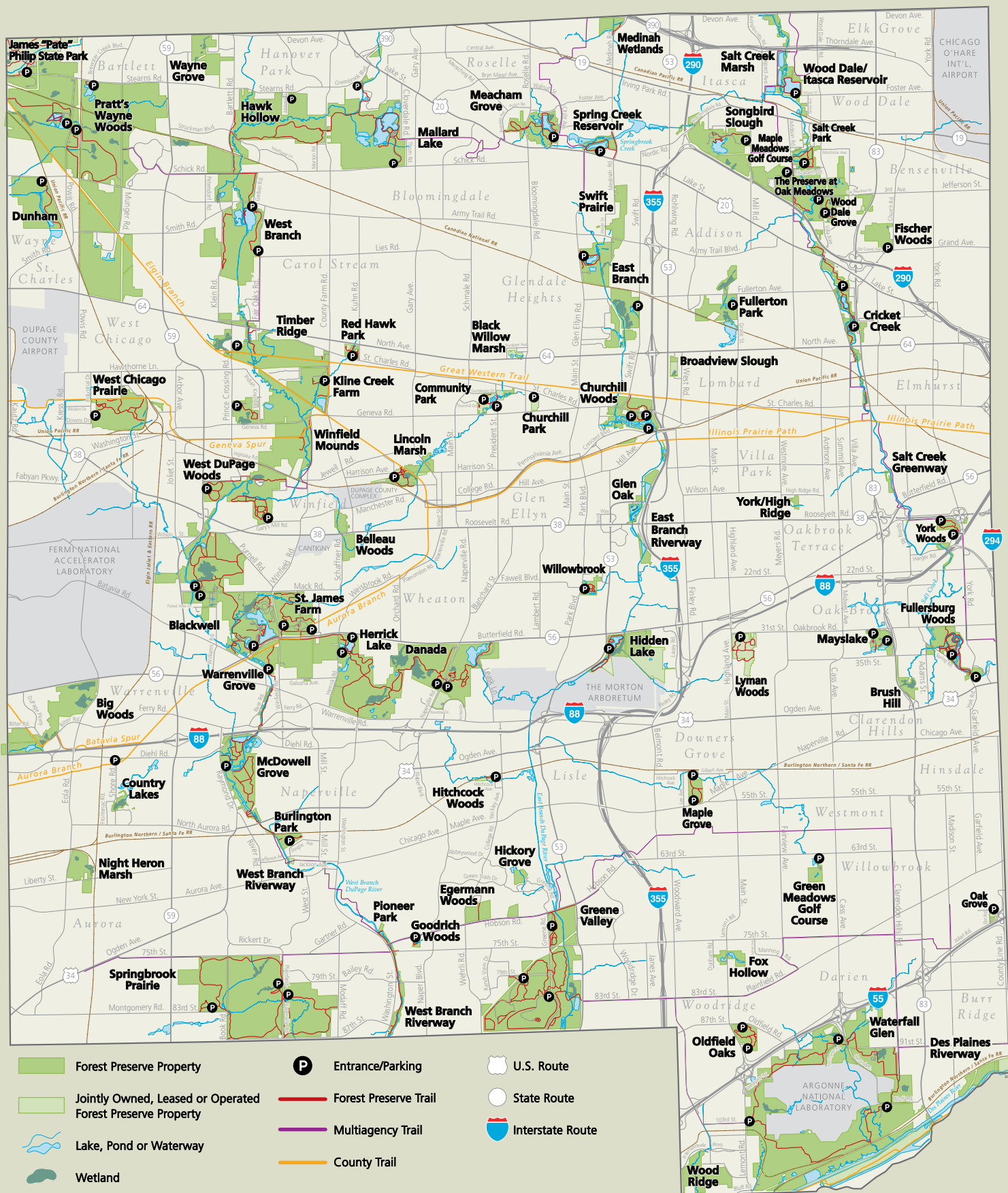
Oak Brook • 630-655-2090

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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Wheaton, IL 60189

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Fall 2021

DuPage Forest Preserves

Halloween Happenings

Haunted Wildlife Scavenger Hunt

Lantern-Lit Haunted Hike

Little Pumpkins

Mayslake Hall Moonlight Mansion Tour

Nature's Tricks and Treats

Pumpkin Night Hike for Families & More!

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS, AND VISIT DUPAGEFOREST.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS