

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2021**



Big Year of Birding

Harmful Algae Blooms

Summer Program Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



Walking the trails in a DuPage forest preserve is a wonderful experience any time of year, but in summer, the surrounding landscape is certainly at its fullest. Oaks, hickories, and maples are fully leafed out; yellow, purple and white blooms on wildflowers are bursting; and tall native grasses and sedges create wavy curtains in warm breezes. As the state prepares to move into the final phase of Restore Illinois, the Forest Preserve District is ready to welcome its seasonal offerings as well.

Summer camps are in full swing, families are enjoying weekends under the stars at the campground at Blackwell, and groups are experiencing kayaking and archery excursions as part of "Have It at Herrick." We've even kicked off our first summer of paddle boat rentals at Silver Lake at Blackwell. The visitor center at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center is open, farmhouse tours are resuming at Kline Creek Farm, and the outdoor exhibit trail at Willowbrook Wildlife Center again provides a way to visit some of the center's residents. And as you'll see in this issue's calendar, we're back to a full schedule of guided fishing, hiking, birding and historical programs.

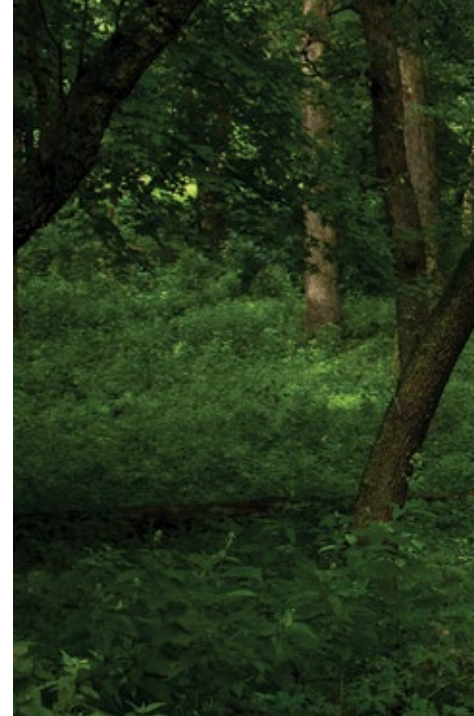
Behind the scenes, staff is working to provide even more new amenities and features, a few outlined in "News & Notes" on pages 4 and 5. (One big project underway at The Preserve at Oak Meadows will be highlighted in our next issue.)

I know the past 18 months have been trying for visitors in many ways, but as we ready to welcome the return to "business as usual," I hope the preserves' trails and natural areas have provided a small respite from otherwise challenging times.

Here's to summer, and here's to all fans of DuPage forest preserves!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President

Daniel Hebreard, Woodridge

Commissioners

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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

Summer 2021, Vol. 58, No. 3

Community Relations Director

Tony Martinez Jr.



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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contents

Vol. 58, No. 3 | **Summer 2021**

4 **News & Notes**

6 **A Big Year of Birding**

8 **Summer Calendar**

16 **Harmful Algae Blooms**

18 **Directory**

19 **Map**

On the cover: Osprey Krumpelman Photography

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



4



6



8



16



18

news & notes

PLEASE NOTE

At press time the information in News & Notes is correct, but as Restore Illinois guidelines change, so might the Forest Preserve District's lineup. For the latest, visit dupageforest.org.



PAVILION WORK UPDATE *at St. James Farm*

This summer renovation work will be wrapping up on the 1985 pavilion at St. James Farm. The renovations are part of the Forest Preserve District's continuing efforts to support the site's master plan.

As part of the project, the Forest Preserve District needed to completely rebuild the breezeway between the north and south pavilions (shown above). The uncovered breezeway was open to the elements so the existing wood structure was much more degraded than the rest of the pavilion. Crews will then power wash the rest of the structure and seal the woodwork to make the new and old match more closely.

The renovated pavilion will also feature a new roof as well as a patio and grill, accessible paths, plantings, and an elevated area for lawn games with benches and an overlook over the pond to the west.



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.



Verity/Shutterstock.com

ADA-COMPLIANT KAYAK LAUNCH COMING TO SILVER LAKE

The Forest Preserve District is installing a dock with a transfer platform and handrails at Silver Lake at Blackwell that will allow individuals of all ages and abilities to launch a kayak without assistance. The structure, the District's fist, will meet ADA requirements and should be ready for use by the end of the year.

The \$75,650 project will be funded in part by \$15,000 in private donations through the nonprofit Friends of the Forest Preserve District, which identified the dock as a priority project. The remainder will be funded through the Forest Preserve District's yearly appropriated construction and development funds.



MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts Feb. 1 – April 30. 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

Frances Holbrook
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Friends of Mariann Falco
\$4,500 — Meacham Grove in memory of Mariann Falco

Michael Firman and Marilyn Schweitzer
\$3,000 — Education, Natural Resources and Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Mateo's Kids, Inc.
\$3,000 — Timber Ridge in memory of Mateo Rotger

Domtar Paper Company
\$2,500 — Natural Resources and Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Ranch Spur Charitable Trust
\$2,500 — Greatest needs

Sandy Youngstrom
\$1,250 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

John and Maria Shalanko
\$1,025 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Anna Ball
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Anonymous
\$1,000 — Greatest needs

Susan Johansen
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Jacqueline Lindahl
\$700 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Wednesday Walkers and Friends
\$545 — Adopt a Blanding's Turtle in memory of Steve Sentoff

John and Diane Fiore
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Michelle Geoga
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Staley Krause
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center in honor of Dr. Sarah Reich

Adam and Melissa Schmitz
\$500 — Natural Resources

Patricia Sczygiel
\$500 — Natural Resources and Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Debra Sparling
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal

Deborah Yotka
\$500 — Danada Equestrian Center

COLLECTIONS Corner

Throughout the pandemic as we used tools like Zoom and FaceTime to feel closer to family and friends, we experienced a deep-seated human need also felt by past residents of DuPage, such as the Kline family: the need to stay connected.

Because the telephone wasn't prevalent until the 1900s, the writing desk allowed 1890s families to keep in touch. It served not only as a desk but also as a library with shelves for often-used books. This multipurpose piece of furniture, quite similar to modern designs, helped the Kline family write letters and stay informed by perusing available books. The desk also had a mirror so family members could check their reflections (as many of us selfconsciously glance at our own images in Zoom).

Kline Creek Farm's writing desk is currently undergoing restoration to refinish the wood and repair a broken writing surface, but when farmhouse tours begin again this summer you'll be able to see this communication tool from the past.





◀ American golden plover (*Pluvialis dominica*)

A Big Year of Birding

© Kyle Tansley

by **GLENN PERRICONE**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

As a fan of all things feathered, in 2020 I attempted what birders call a “big year,” seeing as many species as possible in a defined geographical area within a calendar year. I chose to conduct my big year in DuPage forest preserves because they have diverse habitats of varying sizes, are easy to get to and have great trail systems that make exploration easy. On top of that, it’s estimated that over 310 species of birds have been observed in the preserves since 1915, from year-round residents to summer breeding birds, migrants, and vagrant birds not from this area.

A big year is a personal endeavor that any birder can do, if you are willing to put your ID skills and ability to plan to the test. Three important factors will determine what you may see. First, you need to think about what birds to expect at any given time of year. Second, you need to know which habitats support which species. Finally, you need to take into consideration that birding often simply comes down to luck.

January – March

My record-breaking big year began at a time of year that can seem bleak and cold, but many birds overwinter in the forest preserves. My favorite winter bird, the northern shrike, spent these months in the thickets at the McKee Marsh area of Blackwell, collecting a larder of prey including small mammals and birds. Northern harriers and short-eared owls spent the

winter at Springbrook Prairie, hunting rodents hiding under the snow. However, no winter habitat is more important than unfrozen lakes and rivers, where bald eagles, geese, swans, and dabbling and diving ducks crowd the open water. By the end of the season, it was time to look overhead for migrating sandhill cranes flying in masses, their loud “garoo-garoo” calls often giving them away before they were spotted.

April – May

These months receive the county’s largest push of northward-migrating birds. I had an exceptionally “big day” on May 15 finding 109 species, including sparrows, warblers, vireos, flycatchers and thrushes along the wooded edges of Elsen’s Hill at West DuPage Woods. On May 25, I followed reports of a rare Kentucky warbler at Greene Valley, finding the masked singer in minutes by cueing in on his bouncy up-and-down song coming from a canopy of black walnut trees.

June – July

This is the heart of the bird-breeding season in DuPage, so it can pay to explore different habitats. On June 20, I teamed up with Forest Preserve District volunteer bird monitors on an extensive survey of different ecosystem units at Pratt’s Wayne Woods. We were thrilled to find fantastic breeding birds such as the ever-boisterous yellow-breasted chat in the

preserve's shrubby areas and the super-secretive least bittern in its wetlands, where we also spotted two exemplary birds: a trumpeter swan that should have migrated from the area three months earlier and a vagrant neotropic cormorant that seemed rather lost. Throughout the summer I enjoyed recurring trips to Pratt's Wayne Woods to monitor the progress of osprey chicks as they grew from little heads peeking over the nest's edge into three awkward fledglings that barely fit inside.

Late July – August

This time of year can be tough for birders. Many breeding birds have finished nesting and have quieted down significantly, but fall migration is just on the cusp. Drought-like conditions in 2020 meant low-water levels throughout many preserves, creating mudflats and stands of emerged cattails. As a result, the Wood Dale reservoir at Salt Creek Marsh in particular was the place to be! An early short-billed dowitcher on July 23 was my first official fall migrant of the year, but was subsequently followed by a black tern, American golden-plovers and numerous other shorebirds that stopped by the reservoir's mudflats to fuel up on the immense source of invertebrates that were readily available due to low water levels.

September – October

This is the peak of the fall migration. Most species that passed through the preserves in April and May returned on their way south joined by their young. In 2020 the raptor migration was particularly exhilarating. On weekends I counted migrating peregrine falcons and sharp-shinned hawks among others from the top of Greene Valley's scenic overlook. At West Branch, a walk along the sedge and cattail edges offered glimpses at shy LeConte's and Nelson's sparrows.

November – December

These months are dominated by the search for species missed earlier in the year, such as snow buntings and white-winged scoters, but in 2020 a rare push of boreal birds befell the forest preserves, bringing northern saw-whet owls and a regionally rare evening grosbeak. On Dec. 29 at Deep Quarry Lake at West Branch, I added my record 227th and final species, a pair of pint-sized cackling geese mixed into a Canada goose flock numbering in the thousands.

In 2020 I capitalized on the outdoor time afforded to me and discovered that you don't need to chase birds to have a big year. You'll have ample chances to discover the forest preserves' diversity of birds just by taking frequent excursions. For me, it was often just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, listening patiently and being lucky enough to catch a glimpse in my binoculars. •

Interested in seeing Glenn's complete list of 227 species from 2020? Then read the expanded version of his article in the online *Conservationist* at dupageforest.org.



▲ Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*)



▲ Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*)



▲ Short-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)



▲ Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

summer calendar

Plants & Wildlife	Page 10	Living Green	Page 14
Ways to Play	Page 11	Heritage	Page 14
Health & Well-Being	Page 13	Nature Art & Culture	Page 15



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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29	30	31				

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RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES

At press time, in accordance with Restore Illinois guidelines, visitors **who are not fully vaccinated** must

- Wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when inside forest preserve buildings.
- Practice social distancing inside **and** outside when in the preserves.
- Wear a mask outside anytime social distancing isn't possible.

For the most current guidelines, visit dupageforest.org.

July

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1 Fourth of July Craft Time: Pinwheels</p> <p>2 Fourth of July Craft Time: Pinwheels
Fresh Air Friday</p> <p>3 Fourth of July Craft Time: Pinwheels</p> <p>5 Animal Ambassador Tour
Fourth of July Craft Time: Pinwheels</p> <p>6 Family Exploration: Bugs
Kayaking: Adults</p> <p>8 Fishing: Families</p> <p>9 Family Exploration: Bugs
Nature Journaling: Parent-Child
Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Morning Discussion Begins</p> <p>10 Building on the Landscape:
Exterior Tour of Mayslake Hall
Egg Collecting
Firefly Night Walk</p> | <p>11 History of St. James Farm
Marvelous Monarchs
Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Archery</p> <p>13 Archery: Adults
Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Evening Discussion Begins</p> <p>15 Fishing: Families</p> <p>16 Building on the Landscape:
Exterior Tour of Mayslake Hall</p> <p>17 Celebrate World Snake Day
Eco Wind Chime Workshop
Egg Collecting
Thanks for Summer Beauty:
Gratitude Walk
Wellness Stretching for Gardeners</p> <p>18 Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Hiking</p> <p>19 Animal Ambassador Tour</p> <p>20 Archery: Families
Family Exploration: Plants & Trees</p> | <p>21 Building on the Landscape:
Exterior Tour of Mayslake Hall</p> <p>22 Kayaking: Basics</p> <p>23 Family Exploration: Plants & Trees
Mayslake by Moonlight
Moonlight Moth Walk</p> <p>24 Egg Collecting
Mayslake by Moonlight</p> <p>25 Wildlife Encounters: Woodchuck</p> <p>26 Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Kayaking</p> <p>29 Building on the Landscape:
Exterior Tour of Mayslake Hall
Fishing: Families</p> <p>31 Egg Collecting
Nature Walk</p> |
|--|--|---|



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.

August

- 1** Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Archery
- 2** Animal Ambassador Tour
- 3** Archery: Adults
Family Exploration: Water and What Lives In It
- 5** Kayaking: Basics
- 6** Family Exploration: Water and What Lives In It
Fresh Air Friday
- 7** Egg Collecting
- 8** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Marvelous Monarchs
- 10** Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Fishing
- 12** Evening Bat Walk
- 14** Eco Wind Chime Workshop
Egg Collecting
Thanks for Summer Beauty: Gratitude Walk
- 15** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Nature Journaling: Adults
Wildlife Encounters: Woodchuck
- 16** Animal Ambassador Tour
- 17** Fishing: Adults
- 18** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
- 19** Fishing: Families
- 21** Egg Collecting
- 22** Mayslake by Moonlight
- 23** Mayslake by Moonlight
- 24** Archery: Families
- 28** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Egg Collecting
Nature Walk

September

- 2** Archery: Adults
Vultures: Nature's Clean Up Crew
- 3** Fresh Air Friday
- 4** Canning at Kline Creek Farm
- 5** Nature Journaling: Adults
- 6** Animal Ambassador Tour
- 8** Evening Forest Hike
- 9** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
- 11** Canning at Kline Creek Farm
- 12** History of St. James Farm
- 13** Forest Hike
- 14** Women's Outdoor Adventure Series: Fishing
- 15** Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Evening Forest Hike
- 16** Archery: Families
- 17** Bird Walk
Families by the Fireside
- 18** Canning at Kline Creek Farm
Get Your Feet Wet
- 19** Mayslake by Moonlight
Twilight Walk
- 20** Forest Hike
Animal Ambassador Tour
Mayslake by Moonlight
- 22** Evening Forest Hike
- 24** Bird Walk
Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of
Mayslake Hall
Fishing: Families
- 25** Canning at Kline Creek Farm
Nature Walk
- 27** Forest Hike
- 29** Evening Forest Hike



Plants & Wildlife

Animal Ambassador Tour 19630

Join a wildlife interpreter for a tour of the exhibit trail and the ambassador animals that live at Willowbrook Wildlife Center. This tour takes place after the trail is closed to the public offering a quiet, small group experience. We'll discuss the animals' stories and interesting facts and share how we care for these wild residents. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

July 5 & 19	3 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
Aug. 2 & 16	3 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook
Sept. 6 & 20	3 – 4 p.m.	Willowbrook

Bird Walk 19646

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.

Sept. 17	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Springbrook
Sept. 24	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne

Celebrate World Snake Day 19629

Celebrate these cold-blooded species by learning about their unique adaptations and what they need for survival. Then see our resident bullsnake and fox snake in their outdoor activity tents. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

July 17	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Evening Bat Walk 19660

Learn about DuPage bats – why they're important, how ecologists monitor their populations and why they're connected to Halloween – then take a guided hike using technology to identify bats overhead. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 12	8:30 – 10 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Get Your Feet Wet 19749

Join us for a walk in the newly restored Spring Brook. Start with a discussion on the importance of streams and their inhabitants and how the Forest Preserve District is restoring these valuable habitats. Then, take a guided walk in the water in search for aquatic wildlife. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 18	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Blackwell
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Marvelous Monarchs 19681

Learn about our beautiful native monarch butterflies and how you can help them and other pollinators. Then, join us on a leisurely 20-minute stroll to find monarchs in their various life stages. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 11	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Aug. 8	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

Moonlight Moth Walk 19672

Celebrate National Moth Week as you learn about DuPage moths and other nocturnal insects, including why they're important and how ecologists monitor populations. Then take a guided hike, stopping at lighting stations to identify moths and to add your observations to a community science project. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 23	9 – 10:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Nature Walk 19649

Discover new and exciting nature facts and finds as you explore a preserve on a casual guided walk, which will be 2 miles or less. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 31	9 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon	Danada HQ
Aug. 28	9 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Sept. 25	9 – 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods



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Vultures: Nature's Clean Up Crew 19628

Celebrate International Vulture Awareness Day (and our local turkey vulture)! Learn about the special characteristics that help vultures survive, the roles vultures play in local ecosystems, and the threats these birds face. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Sept. 2	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Online
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Wildlife Encounters: Woodchuck 19626

Join Willowbrook trainers to experience first-hand what goes into caring for its resident woodchuck, Woodford Charles III. Learn about and take part in a positive reinforcement training session, and see how this enhances the welfare of our animals. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

July 25	2 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
Aug. 15	2 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook

Ways to Play

Archery

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. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Adults 19699

Ages 18 and up.

July 13	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Aug. 3	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Sept. 2	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Families 19700

Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.

July 20	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Aug. 24	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 16	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Families by the Fireside 19657

Explore the trails at night with your family on a self-guided nature activity, and then gather around your own campfire. (Bring marshmallows and sticks for roasting.) Each family can register up to six participants. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 17	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Danada
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Family Exploration 19718

Bring your little ones, and join an educator for fun explorations and discoveries of the natural world using a provided activity kit. Each family can have up to four participants. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Bugs		
July 6 & 9	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Plants & Trees		
July 20 & 23	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Water and What Lives In It		
Aug. 3 & 6	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake

Firefly Night Walk 19706

Witness the spectacle of firefly displays on an hour-long self-guided 1.8-mile lantern-lit walk. Walks leave at 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 10	8:30 – 10:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES

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- Practice social distancing inside **and** outside when in the preserves.
- Wear a mask outside anytime social distancing isn't possible.

For the most current guidelines, visit dupageforest.org.

summer calendar



More Ways to Play

BOAT RENTALS

Rentals end one hour before closing and are \$15 per hour for single kayaks or rowboats; \$18 for two-person kayaks or canoes; and \$20 for paddle boats (Blackwell only). Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Blackwell

Through Labor Day

Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Open 8 a.m. Labor Day

Sept. 11 – Sept. 26

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Herrick Lake

Through Labor Day

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

SCENIC OVERLOOK

Greene Valley

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

Through Oct. 31

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice.

FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Blackwell

Enjoy nature under the stars at one of 60 sites. For weekend reservations visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits." For additional nights around Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

Through Sept. 25

Friday & Saturday Nights

Plus Select Additional Holiday Nights

Fishing

Adults 19695

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Aug. 17	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
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Families 19680

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.

July 8 & 29	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Blackwell
July 15	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
Aug. 19	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Sept. 24	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Kayaking

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. Equipment provided. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Adults 19658

Ages 18 and up.

July 6	1 – 3 p.m.	Herrick Lake
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Basics 19661

Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult.

July 22	5 – 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Aug. 5	9 – 11 a.m.	Herrick



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.



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3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Women's Outdoor Adventure Series

Enjoy great camaraderie (and a lot of fun!) at these programs created for and led by women. Equipment provided. Ages 18 and up. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Archery 19696

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials of this classic sport. \$5 per person.

July 11	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Aug. 1	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods

Fishing 19690

Hear about fish ecology, identification, and creel limits, and then try some sure-fire techniques. \$5 per person.

Aug. 10	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Sept. 14	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake

Hiking 19727

Learn about wildlife, plants and forest preserve features. Free.

July 18	10 a.m. – Noon	Waterfall Glen
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Kayaking 19673

Learn paddling strokes and safety tips in a one-person kayak. \$20 per person.

July 26	5 – 7 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Forest Hike 19637

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.

Sept. 13	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Hidden Lake
Sept. 20	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Sept. 27	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook

Fresh Air Friday 19668

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

July 2	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Aug. 6	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 3	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

Thanks for Summer Beauty: Gratitude Walk 19593

Contemplate the seasonal wonders you're grateful for on a leisurely guided walk. Bring pen and paper and jot down your thoughts at each of four scheduled brief stops along the way, if the mood strikes you. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 17	7:30 – 9 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
Aug. 14	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Mayslake

Twilight Walk 19659

Enjoy walking the trails at twilight, stopping periodically for natural-history moments and special readings. Watch the full harvest moon rise as well, if conditions permit. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Sept. 19	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Health & Well-Being

Evening Forest Hike 19641

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.

Sept. 8	6:30 – 8 p.m.	McDowell Grove
Sept. 15	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Sept. 22	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Meacham Grove
Sept. 29	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Philip State Park

RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES

At press time, in accordance with Restore Illinois guidelines, visitors **who are not fully vaccinated** must

- Wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when inside forest preserve buildings.
- Practice social distancing inside **and** outside when in the preserves.
- Wear a mask outside anytime social distancing isn't possible.

For the most current guidelines, visit dupageforest.org.

summer calendar



Wellness Stretching for Gardeners 19596

Explore ways to keep your muscles and joints flexible as you work outside. This is an active beginner's class, so come prepared to stretch and move as you learn easy ways to keep your whole body (and mind) fit for gardening season. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 17	10 – 11 a.m.	Mayslake
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Egg Collecting 19576

Collect eggs for home from Kline Creek Farm's chicken coop! (The number of eggs you take will vary.) Register and bring up to nine friends. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per group up to 10 people. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

July 10, 17, 24 & 31	10:30 – 11 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm
Aug. 7, 14, 21 & 28	10:30 – 11 a.m.	Kline Creek Farm

Living Green

Canning at Kline Creek Farm

Join us in the summer kitchen to see produce canned from the garden and orchard and to learn how canning helped diligent 1890s farm families store summer foods through winter. We'll be canning tomatoes Sept. 4 and 11 and apples Sept. 18 and 25. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Eco Wind Chime Workshop 19599

From scaring away evil spirits to encouraging tranquility, wind chimes may be the perfect additions to your garden or home. Make your own out of repurposed materials and get inspiration for future "upcycled" projects. All materials will be provided. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 17	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 14	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Heritage

Building on the Landscape: Exterior Tour of Mayslake Hall 19731

Learn about the history and design of Mayslake Hall in this docent-guided tour of the building's exterior. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 10, 16 & 21	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
July 29	7 – 8:15 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 8 & 15	4 – 5:15 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 18	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 28	7 – 8:15 p.m.	Mayslake
Sept. 9	7 – 8:15 p.m.	Mayslake
Sept. 15 & 24	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake

Fourth of July Craft Time: Pinwheels

Celebrate the Fourth of July by making a patriotic pinwheel, the same type of spinning toy whirligig that children in the 1890s enjoyed. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

July 1, 2, 3 & 5	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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RESTORE ILLINOIS GUIDELINES

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For the most current guidelines, visit dupageforest.org.



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.

History of St. James Farm 19674

Get an in-depth look into this forest preserve's fascinating history through stories and historic photographs, and learn about the people who were part of its legacy. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

July 11	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
Sept. 12	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm

Mayslake by Moonlight 18810

After the sun sets, enjoy an outdoor walking tour of Mayslake's grounds as you discover urban legends, tales of hauntings, and stories of mischief while learning about the property's history and ownership. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

July 23 & 24	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
Aug. 22 & 23	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake
Sept. 20 & 21	7:30 – 9 p.m.	Mayslake

Nature Art & Culture

Nature Journaling

Use your senses to observe the natural world while creating a memory record you can return to for reflection or scientific value. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Adults 19666

Ages 18 and up.

Sept. 5	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
Aug. 15	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

Parent-Child 19663

Ages 7 – 10 with an adult.

July 9	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
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Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Discussion 18763

Meet in Mayslake Hall's 100-year-old library for these enriching meetings, where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In July we'll discuss *Nature Obscura*; in August, *Teaching a Stone to Talk*; and in September, *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion*. (Titles subject to change.) Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9568.

July 9, Aug. 6 & Sept. 3	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
July 13, Aug. 10 & Sept. 14	6:45 – 8 p.m.	Online

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm in West Chicago

Registration is not required. These programs are free, but there's a suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

FARM POWER

Learn about one of the major sources of power on an 1890s farm: draft horses!

July 3 – Aug. 29 (except July 4)

Saturdays & Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

FARMHOUSE MUSEUM TOUR

The farmhouse was the center of domestic activities and today contains original artifacts and reproductions that enhance its homelike atmosphere. Tours present topics from baking, canning, quilting and spring cleaning to preparing the house for special celebrations.

Through Sept. 26 (except July 4)

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

STORY TIME

Bring the whole family, and rest under the shade of a tree while a costumed interpreter shares a different historic tale each week. Stories last about 15 minutes and repeat throughout the program.

Through Sept. 27

Mondays 10 a.m. – Noon

Harmful Algae Blooms

© Jeff Reutter

by **DAN GRIGAS**, NATURAL RESOURCES

To say that algae play a role in life under the water is an understatement. Algae are paramount importance to aquatic life. They provide the basis of the food web and oxygenate water and the atmosphere. Without algae, our waterways would be barren wastelands providing little in the way of biological diversity.

There are many types of algae, but algae in freshwater ecosystems fall into three main groups: diatoms, green algae and blue-green algae. Diatoms are sensitive to environmental change, so their presence lets ecologists know an ecosystem is fairly healthy (even though to the naked eye masses of diatoms can look like brown slime). Green algae are brighter; in water they can look like lime-colored strands of hair. Both diatoms and green algae are common, but as summer progresses and the weather warms, in nutrient-rich waters exposed to long stretches of hot and sunny weather, single-cell blue-green algae can also develop.

Blue-green algae, or “cyanobacteria,” form large colonies, or “blooms” that can look like dense mats, foam or floating paint, although affected waters can also look normal on the surface. Some people call these blooms “pond scum.” Blooms can be beneficial for the ecosystem, but they can also be problematic under the right conditions. When certain toxin-producing cyanobacteria dominate a bloom and start to release

those toxins as the algae cells begin to die, the bloom becomes a “harmful” algae bloom, or HAB.

In animals (which of course includes people), contact with HABs can cause a range of adverse health conditions from skin irritations to liver, gastrointestinal or nervous system issues, mostly through two primary routes of exposure. The first route is direct contact with contaminated water. Swimming isn’t allowed in DuPage forest preserves, but people can still come in contact with blooms while fishing or boating, the biggest risk coming from handling wet equipment. The second route, and most prevalent for domestic pets, is ingestion. (A third but less prevalent route occurs when people inhale airborne toxins, but that normally occurs during high-speed water sports, near decorative fountains, or during extreme wave conditions, which cause fine water droplets to drift through the air, all unlikely in DuPage forest preserves.)



Forest Preserve District staff regularly test affected waters to know for certain when HABs clear up. ➤



- ▲ When Forest Preserve District staff notice a harmful algae bloom, like here at Herrick Lake in 2020, they post signs to let anglers know to avoid the area until the bloom clears.



- ▲ In DuPage forest preserves, visitors are most likely to come in contact with HABs when handling wet fishing or boating equipment.

Because harmful algae blooms are a possibility in DuPage forest preserves, the Forest Preserve District monitors waters through summer and early fall for signs of HABs. When a potential harmful algae bloom is spotted, staff conducts an on-site test of the water. If a test is positive, the District notifies the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, posts signs at the site, and alerts future visitors via posts on the Forest Preserve District's website and social media pages. Staff will check the site weekly until tests come back negative but will also keep an eye on the site as the season progresses in case it needs to be tested again.

So how can ecologists prevent HABs? One way is to reduce the amount of nutrients that make their way into a body of water. Adding native aquatic plants to a shoreline can create a buffer zone that absorbs nitrogen, phosphorus and other elements found in fertilizer-rich runoff before they reach the water. Other solutions include installing diffused aeration systems or treating an affected area with alum, but these options are not appropriate for all locations.

Private land owners can help fight HABs by reducing the use of garden and lawn fertilizers, which can eventually reach natural waterways via rain water runoff.

As the weather warms, harmful algae blooms will be a possibility in some DuPage waters, but by monitoring lakes and ponds and investigating mediation techniques, the Forest Preserve District will continue its efforts to get the word out when they happen. •

HAB FAQs

How can I tell if water contains an HAB?

HABs can look like mats, foam or floating paint, but affected waters can also look normal on the surface, so it's not always easy to spot them.

What should I do if I come in contact with one?

Harmful algae blooms can affect anyone, although children, seniors and people with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk. It's best to avoid water either suspected or confirmed to have an active algae bloom. If you do get wet, wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

Make sure, too, that pets do not enter or drink any water. If a pet is exposed, wash the animal as soon as possible, and contact your veterinarian to see if you should take further action.

Are fish safe to eat during an HAB?

Some studies say yes, but others advise people to avoid eating fish during an active bloom, which is always the safest best. The biggest risk is coming in contact with an active bloom while handling tackle and any caught fish. When in doubt, pick another fishing spot.

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, 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

630-933-7097

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

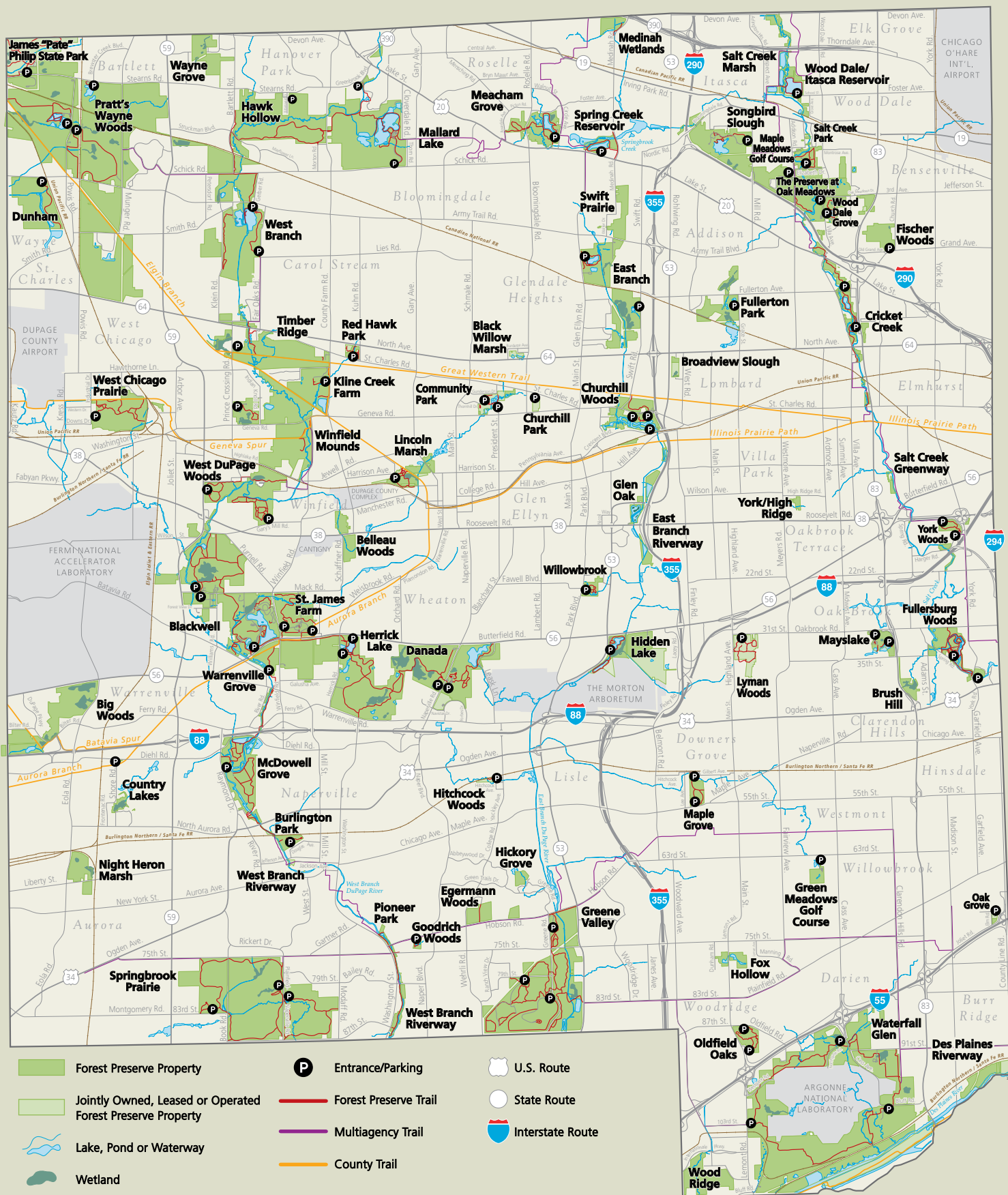
Oak Brook • 630-655-2090

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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A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County **Summer 2021**



When you want that
birthday party, field trip
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that'll keep them
talking all summer long.

Have It at Herrick!

**Boating, Picnic, Fishing and Archery Outings
Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton**

Weekdays through the Friday before Labor Day
Two-, four- and eight-hour packages

Plan your party at 630-871-6419.