

# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2022**

## **A Helping Hand for Mussels**

**A Bridge to the Past**

**Big Plans for Popular Preserves**



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



# from the president



Happy New Year from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, where we've been very busy! In 2020 we welcomed 2 million additional visitors due to the pandemic, and we expect 2021 to exceed that amount, putting us at well over 6 million total. People have not only rediscovered nature over the past two years but also continued to connect with the forest preserves as part of their daily lives.

Also, after many years of strategic master planning, we are now fully into implementation mode. Our recently adopted 2022 fiscal year budget includes many major initiatives, such as large habitat restoration projects at Herrick Lake, Eggermann Woods, Hickory Grove, and Waterfall Glen; a new parking lot at Waterfall Glen; exterior renovations at Mayslake Hall; site improvements at Willowbrook Wildlife Center; and a renewable-energy solar project at our fleet services building.

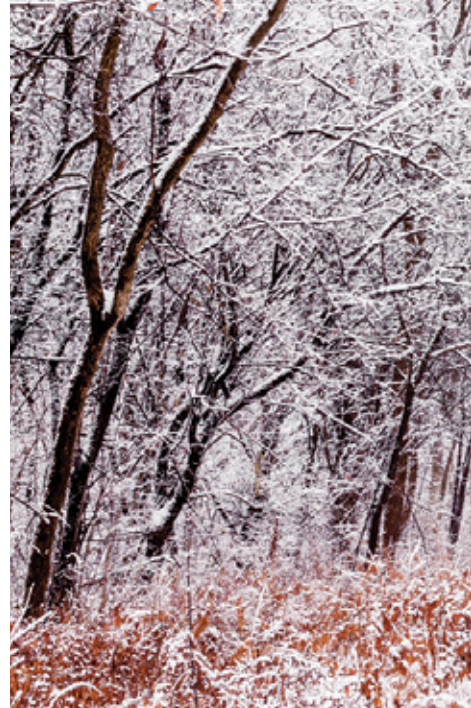
The good news is that we are able to undertake these important generational capital projects without raising property taxes. Our 2022 tax levy will remain the same as it was for 2021. The Board of Commissioners was also able to approve the issuance of \$40 million in bonds to support these projects without an increase in taxes. And we continue to aggressively pursue other revenue sources. We expect to receive over \$7 million in grant funding next year; our golf enterprises are expected to generate over \$6 million.

Both the board and staff are committed to ensuring we continue to offer the very best services at a good value to our residents. Remember, for every dollar you pay in property taxes, two cents go to support 26,000 acres, 166 miles of trails, 60 forest preserves, 47 miles of rivers and streams, 31 lakes, and six educational and cultural sites. I hope you agree this is a good bargain for supporting conservation and sustainability.

All the best to you and yours in 2022, and we'll see you on the trails!

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



## THE CONSERVATIONIST

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## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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

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Andrew S/Shutterstock.com

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**On the cover:** Herrick Lake Forest Preserve by Andrew S/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



## COLLECTIONS *Corner*

At Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center you'll see a series of mounts — birds, a coyote, an American mink — that offer a look at some of the native animals that live in the preserves but may be rarely seen. But like other assets in the Forest Preserve District's collection they require care and maintenance to keep them from naturally degrading.

Taxidermy cleaning is a careful and delicate process that takes a lot of time and patience (and more than just a dust rag). To protect the mount and the person cleaning it, it's important for the handler to always wear gloves. Older mounts made in the '80s and earlier used toxic chemicals in the tanning process, and oils from human hands can damage fur or feathers.

A special HEPA vacuum with a control for the suction gently removes dust and other fine particles. A Q-tip dipped in ammonia-free glass cleaner removes elements from glass eyes and birds' feet.

To view these remarkable pieces and other natural-history-related exhibits, plan a visit to Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. It's open Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and is closed on Sundays and select holidays. And to find out more about the Forest Preserve District's efforts to preserve its entire diverse catalog of artifacts, check out "Collections Corner" in upcoming issues of *The Conservationist*.

## 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](https://facebook.com/dupageforest) and from [dupageforest.org](https://dupageforest.org).

Details on how to submit public comments and links to agendas, minutes, and recordings of previous meetings are at [dupageforest.org](https://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.

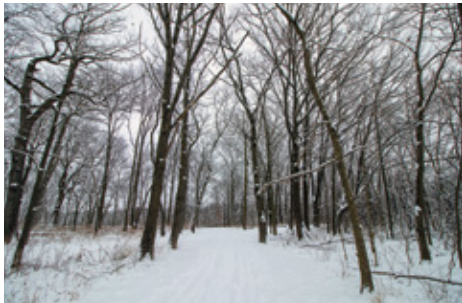


## GIVE YOUR VALENTINE *the Gift of Nature*

Looking for a gift for that special someone who has everything? Then get them a Forest Preserve District gift card!

Cards can pay for programs and camps; picnic shelters and campsites; canoe, kayak, and boat rentals; and cool Forest Preserve District swag. You can buy cards through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or [forest@dupageforest.org](mailto:forest@dupageforest.org).

Know someone interested in golf? Get gift cards good at all three Forest Preserve District courses at [DuPageGolf.com](https://DuPageGolf.com).



## MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts Sept. 1 – Oct. 31. To learn how your financial support can benefit the District, visit [dupageforest.org/friends](http://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](http://dupageforest.org/donate).

### Gifts of Note

Wheaton Garden Club  
\$1,250 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Keith Tomes  
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Ellen Alkeno Wier  
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
in honor of Luna, Neptune, and Juno

### Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Margaret Riordan  
\$3,800 — Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve in memory of John P. Carney  
Ellen Alkeno Wier  
\$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
Adopt an Animal  
Family of Ken and Ann Morgan  
\$750 — Herrick Lake Forest Preserve  
Draus Family  
\$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center in memory of Daniel Motel  
Matthew Kaefer  
\$500 — Greatest Needs  
David Nienke  
\$500 — Greatest Needs  
November Pandolfi  
\$500 — A Night for Nature  
Wheaton Lions Club  
\$500 — A Night for Nature Duck Race

## YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK IN NATURE

This winter the Forest Preserve District will start work to restore 31 acres of woodland habitat at Hickory Grove, 87 at Egermann Woods, 550 at Herrick Lake, and 72 at Waterfall Glen, all designed to further the agency's mission to preserve the flora, fauna, and scenic beauty of DuPage natural areas.

Invasive and exotic species are keeping sun and water from reaching the grasses, wildflowers, and oak and hickory seedlings that grow at these sites. As a result, the variety of plants and animals that live there is declining.

Crews will cut invasive trees and shrubs and conduct beneficial prescription burns. The mature hickories and majestic oaks will remain untouched, promoting further germination of young seedlings.

Because these projects require construction crews with heavy equipment, for visitors' safety the restoration areas, including some trails, may periodically close during winter. For certain activities, only Forest Preserve District employees and contractors will be allowed in the area. The District will post signs to let visitors know when this occurs and expects the bulk of all four projects to be completed by December 2024.



## EASIER ACCESS for Fans of Waterfall Glen

A new lot in southeast Waterfall Glen near the Rocky Glen waterfall area and the intersection of Cass Avenue and Bluff Road will bring much-needed parking relief and improved safety for forest preserve visitors.

The 2019 certified master-plan project will add parking for 175 cars, create a 0.3-acre picnic area, allow for future flush restrooms, improve trail access, and reduce many traffic conflicts near the popular intersection.

The design will be in tandem with ongoing natural resource restoration work, which will minimize disruptions to the preserve, improve public safety, and enhance the overall visitor experience.

The Forest Preserve District anticipates to open the lot by the last week of October 2022.

**FOR MORE NEWS & NOTES  
SEE PAGE 16.**





◀ After spending up to two years growing in captivity, these native freshwater mussels are finally large enough to be released into a DuPage river.

# A Helping Hand for Mussels

by **JOE LIMPERS**, NATURAL RESOURCES

**F**reshwater mussels are impressive creatures. They're tiny water-treatment plants that live in rivers and streams, taking in water and then filtering out pollutants and other particles before passing it back into the waterway. One adult can filter between 6 and 20 gallons of water this way in just one day. But the chance of a juvenile freshwater mussel surviving to adulthood in the wild is slim — less than 1%. In waterways with heavy pollution it can take hundreds of years for small populations to multiply, so it's no surprise that freshwater mussels are some of the most imperiled animals in the world. So what can the Forest Preserve District do to boost populations of these small creatures that play such a big role in local water quality? One answer is propagation.

Forest Preserve District ecologists like myself have been raising freshwater mussels at the Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell Forest Preserve since 2012. The process gives us a way to increase populations in a relatively short period of time.

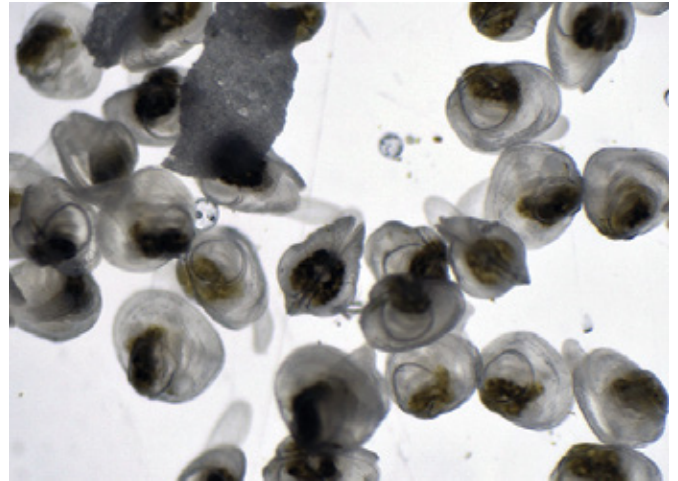
The main goal is to raise juveniles to a size that will increase their chances of survival in the wild. Juvenile mussels can be as small as 0.15 millimeter (far too small to see with the naked eye), placing them at risk from aquatic organisms such as hungry flatworms or creatures called “rotifers,” which at only 0.01 millimeter themselves can colonize en masse around juvenile mussels, cutting off their food supply.

Since opening, the research center has propagated over 24,000 mussels, but raising these seemingly simple creatures is not an easy task. The vigorous, intense process is quite involved and can take almost two years depending on the type of mussel. Added to that is the fact that mussel larvae, called “glochidia,” can only successfully develop into juveniles if they first attach to the gills of specific host fish.

To start, ecologists first need to find pregnant, or “gravid,” female mussels. To do so we don waders and slowly move through streams and rivers on our hands and knees, feeling for mussels and gently prying open shells to look for inflated



▲ Ecologists use water to gently flush mussel larvae, called “glochidia,” from an adult female elktoe freshwater mussel.



▲ At just a week old, glochidia can only be seen through the lens of a microscope.

“marsupial gills,” which indicate a mussel is full of glochidia.

The gravid mussels go to the Urban Stream Research Center, where we remove and count the glochidia. The most common extraction technique uses water to flush out the marsupial gills, easily removing large amounts of glochidia without causing significant damage to the adult. We then examine the glochidia under a microscope to make sure they’re fully developed and healthy. A little salt in the observation dish will cause healthy glochidia to quickly snap shut, showing they should be able to successfully latch onto the gills of their host fish when the time comes.

Some glochidia will only attach to the gills of certain species of fish; others are less picky. For common fish such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and yellow perch, the Forest Preserve District can purchase the stock it needs from a hatchery, but for smaller nongame species such as creek chubs, darters, and minnows, it may have to collect the fish from local rivers and streams.

To get glochidia to pair with a host fish, we place both in a small water-filled bucket and lightly stir the contents to ensure the microscopic mussels remain suspended. (If they settle on the bottom they’re less likely to come in contact with a fish’s gills.) During this process, we monitor the health of the fish and ensure an ample amount of glochidia have latched on, at which point we move the fish into a larger tank. There, the mussels harmlessly feed off nutrients from their unsuspecting host.

After one to three weeks the mussels’ vital organs fully develop, and they detach. They’re now considered day-old juveniles. At this point it’s time to move the mussels into specialized pans, each set up with a sandy bottom, water temperature, flow rate, and algae diet that’s appropriate for the particular species. We measure the mussels on a weekly basis and place them in different containers as they grow. Once they reach 2 to 5 millimeters (no bigger than a pencil eraser),

though, they’re ready for a more natural environment.

For this second-to-last step, we number the mussels and move them into floating containers lined with sand, which go in a spring-fed pond that connects to a river. We can still monitor the mussels, but they now have a more natural wild-water diet, one they can’t receive in an artificial setting.

After four to six months, the mussels, now “subadults,” measure anywhere from 30 to 60 millimeters (1 to 2.25 inches) and are ready to move into their forever homes along the streambed. It’s not time for us to say goodbye, though. We’ll continue to check in on them over the years. After all, the goal is for these mussels to start producing offspring of their own. Just one self-sustaining population can contain 100 to 1,000 individuals, and that’s a lot of clean river water!

Raising freshwater mussels is not an easy task, but through propagation the Forest Preserve District hopes to bring populations back to historical numbers one species at a time. •



▲ Juvenile freshwater mussels spend the first months of their lives in temperature-controlled pans at the Urban Stream Research Center.

# winter calendar

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Health & Well-Being

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Volunteer

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

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| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | mar |    |

## January

- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 6** Art Journaling Eight-Part Class Begins
- 7** The Challenge: Live Quiz Game  
Peabody's Pages Book Club Morning Discussions Begin
- 8** Fishing: Hard Water Classic  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Hiking With Our Nocturnal Neighbors  
Peabody's Pages Book Club Evening Discussions Begin  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Baroque Showcase  
Horse-Riding Clinics at St. James Farm: Fun With  
Ground Poles  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 18** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 20** Native Landscaping: All About Plants
- 22** Archery: Adults  
Eco Ugly Art Workshop  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Winter Wildlife Clues
- 23** History of St. James Farm  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Drumming Circle
- 28** Delightful Details
- 29** Archery: Families  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 31** Volunteer Restoration Workday

### 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](http://dupageforest.org) before heading out.



## February

- 1** Hiking With Our Nocturnal Neighbors
- 5** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Native Landscaping: All About Plants
- 11** Romantic Night Walk
- 12** Horse-Riding Clinics at St. James Farm: Centered Riding  
Romantic Night Walk  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Valentines
- 13** Horse-Riding Clinics at St. James Farm: Centered Riding  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 14** The Challenge: Live Quiz Game
- 17** Native Landscaping: Small Spaces  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Archery: Families  
Eco Ugly Art Workshop  
Wildlife Tracking and Observation
- 20** The Other McCormick of DuPage:  
Chauncey McCormick  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 22** Hiking With Our Nocturnal Neighbors  
Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 25** Delightful Details
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Winter Story and Stroll
- 28** Drumming Circle  
Volunteer Restoration Workday

## March

- 1** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
- 4** Fresh Air Friday
- 5** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 8** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Native Landscaping: Small Spaces
- 11** Native Landscaping: Challenges Q&A
- 12** Cast-Iron Cooking  
Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 15** Hiking With Our Nocturnal Neighbors  
Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design  
Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 17** The Challenge: Live Quiz Game  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday  
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 21** Drumming Circle  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
- 24** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 25** Delightful Details  
Watch Out for Woodcocks!
- 26** Archery: Families  
Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Maple Sugaring  
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 28** Jr. Keeper Camp: Spring Break Begins
- 29** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Design
- 31** Watch Out for Woodcocks!





## Plants & Wildlife

### Hiking With Our Nocturnal Neighbors

20799

Explore the secrets of nighttime in nature on a guided hike, where we'll search for signs of coyotes, owls, and deer and find out what it takes to survive the cold of Illinois. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

|          |                  |                |
|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Jan. 11  | 5 – 7 p.m.       | Greene Valley  |
| Feb. 1   | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. | Springbrook    |
| Feb. 22  | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. | St. James Farm |
| March 15 | 5 – 7 p.m.       | Willowbrook    |

### Jr. Keeper Camp: Spring Break

Five-Day Program 20798

Learn what it takes to be a wildlife keeper as you go behind the scenes to help prepare food, clean, and care for different animals at this five-day camp. For sixth through eighth grade. \$150 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

|                    |               |             |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| March 28 – April 1 | 9 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|



## 2022 Summer Camps

Multiple Forest Preserves

In 2022 we'll have a great lineup of camps for kids entering kindergarten through eighth grade, many focusing on nature's relationship with science, technology, engineering, and math. With plenty of time for team-building, exploration, and play, kids might not realize they're firing up new neurons as they're making new friends! For program descriptions, visit [dupageforest.org/camps](https://dupageforest.org/camps) starting Feb. 1.

**Feb. 15** Early-bird registration starts for DuPage residents at [dupageforest.org](https://dupageforest.org)

**March 1** Open registration begins

### Watch Out for Woodcocks! 20687

Walk with a birding expert on a search for the amazing mating displays of the American woodcock. Learn about the mysterious lives woodcocks lead, and witness their displays firsthand. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|          |            |                    |
|----------|------------|--------------------|
| March 25 | 7 – 8 p.m. | W. Chicago Prairie |
| March 31 | 7 – 8 p.m. | Mayslake           |

### Wildlife Tracking and Observation 20795

Reconnect with your surroundings by developing an acute awareness of the stories told by local wildlife and the natural world through observation and deduction. We'll discover nature's clues by exploring animal tracks, signs, and evidence. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

|         |                |             |
|---------|----------------|-------------|
| Feb. 19 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Willowbrook |
|---------|----------------|-------------|

### Willowbrook Happy Hour 20804

Join us for a quiet after-hours tour of the exhibit trail. During this small-group experience we'll deliver meals to the animals that live along the trail, discuss their stories, and share how we care for these wild residents. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

|                 |                  |             |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| Jan. 2, 17 & 30 | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| Feb. 13 & 21    | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |
| March 6 & 20    | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. | Willowbrook |

### Willowbrook Valentines 20730

Learn about animal adaptations and how we make sure the exhibit trail animals are comfortable and safe in winter. Watch live training sessions, and discover the importance of the trainer-animal relationship. Then help make a valentine-themed enrichment project that we'll 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.

|         |            |             |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| Feb. 12 | 1 – 2 p.m. | Willowbrook |
|---------|------------|-------------|

### Winter Story and Stroll 20717

Join a guided walk to look for signs of wildlife, including the tracks they leave behind. Then, warm up with a wintertime story in the indoor riding arena. Ages 5 – 8 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Feb. 27 | 2 – 3 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|------------|----------------|





**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.

**Winter Wildlife Clues 20729**

Look for signs of wildlife in winter, and discover what animals need to survive in cold weather. Then, enjoy a bonfire and s'mores while we discuss our findings! All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Jan. 22                      1 – 2 p.m.                      Willowbrook

**Fishing: Hard Water Classic 20833**

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

Jan. 8                      Noon – 3:30 p.m.                      Blackwell

**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 20666**

Ages 18 and up.

Jan. 22                      10 – 11:30 a.m.                      Mayslake

**Families 20662**

Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Jan. 29                      10 – 11:30 a.m.                      St. James Farm  
Feb. 19                      10 – 11:30 a.m.                      Mayslake  
March 26                      10 – 11:30 a.m.                      Blackwell

**Cast-Iron Cooking 20667**

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.

Feb. 5                      10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.                      Herrick Lake  
March 12                      10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.                      Churchill Woods

**The Challenge: Live Quiz Game 20788**

Challenge your friends and neighbors as you compete for prizes during this friendly quiz game featuring pop culture, music, animals, history, geography, and other categories. Register as a team of up to five, or have us pick your team. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 7                      7 – 8:30 p.m.                      Mayslake  
Feb. 14                      7 – 8:30 p.m.                      Mayslake  
March 17                      7 – 8:30 p.m.                      Mayslake



**The Indoor Riding Arena**

*St. James Farm*

Sign up for these great ways to spend time at the indoor riding arena with your horse!

**RIDING YOUR HORSE IN THE INDOOR RIDING ARENA**

Exercise and school your horse at this historic venue. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-580-7027.

**OBSTACLE COURSE PLAY DATE 20846**

Exercise and school your horse at your own pace through a series of obstacles, which may include bridge, cake top stand, fishing pole, maypole, carrying items, parallel parking, or gate work. Share the arena with up to three other riders, or register and pay for all four slots and have the arena all to yourself for one hour. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo. To register by phone instead, call 630-668-6012.

**Jan. 8, 9, 22 & 23**

**Feb. 5, 6, 19 & 20**

**March 5, 6, 19 & 20**

**10 – 11 a.m., 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.,  
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. & 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.**





# winter calendar



## More Ways to Play

### SNOW TUBING & SNOWSHOE RENTALS

*Blackwell*

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are allowed. Rentals are \$10 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. Credit card or exact cash only. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

**Weekends Through Feb. 27 (except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1)  
Plus Dec. 20 – 24, Dec. 27 – 31, Jan. 17,  
Jan. 21 & Feb. 21  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### SNOWSHOES

*Blackwell & Fullersburg Woods*

Rentals are \$10 for two hours or \$15 per day and are only available when there's plenty of snow on the trails. Credit card or exact cash.

- When Mount Hoy's open, rent at the base until 2 p.m.
- Rent Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last rental at 2 p.m.) at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call 630-850-8110 in advance for availability.

## Horse-Riding Clinics at St. James Farm

Bring your horse to the indoor riding arena for these fun instructional programs.

### Centered Riding

Join instructor Peggy Brown, and learn an innovative way of expressing the classical principles of riding that uses body awareness, centering, and imagery; encompasses all seats and styles of riding; and teaches a language that allows clearer communication between horse, rider, and instructor. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Fees TBD. Register at 630-668-6012.

|              |           |                |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Feb. 12 & 13 | Times TBD | St. James Farm |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|

### Fun With Ground Poles

Join instructor Kelley Shetter-Ruiz, and work over ground and cavaletti poles in a series of challenging exercises at a 90-minute session tailored to your experience level and designed to strengthen the communication between horse and rider. Sessions start at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$100 per horse-rider combo. Register at 630-668-6012.

|         |                 |                |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Jan. 15 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|

## Pre-K Outdoor Play 20690

Engage your little ones in outdoor adventure as you participate together in stories, songs, movement, and games followed by a guided outdoor exploration activity. Ages 2 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|          |             |                   |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| Jan. 18  | 9 – 10 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
| Feb. 22  | 9 – 10 a.m. | St. James Farm    |
| March 15 | 9 – 10 a.m. | Fullersburg Woods |

## Health & Well-Being

### Fresh Air Friday 20660

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

|         |               |                |
|---------|---------------|----------------|
| March 4 | Noon – 1 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|---------------|----------------|



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

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

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

### Romantic Night Walk 20694

Take a lantern-lit 1- to 3-mile self-guided walk through the winter woods with your sweetheart at your own pace, be it leisurely or moderate. Then, warm up around a cozy fire. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|              |               |                   |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Feb. 11 & 12 | 6 – 8:30 p.m. | Fullersburg Woods |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|

### Small Spaces 20695

Don't feel limited by spatial constraints when planning your native garden! Get tips and tricks for incorporating native plants into small outdoor spaces such as planter boxes, porches, or balconies. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Feb. 17 | 7 – 8 p.m. | St. James Farm |
| March 9 | 7 – 8 p.m. | Online         |

## Living Green

### Native Landscaping

#### All About Plants 20680

Learn about the benefits of native plants and how they differ from other garden plants. Get tips and tricks for planting natives in your own yard to attract wildlife, including pollinators such as hummingbirds and butterflies. (Join us at Oak Meadows, and sip a drink in the clubhouse while you learn!) Ages 18 and up; must be 21 or older with valid ID to purchase alcoholic beverages. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|         |               |             |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Jan. 20 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Oak Meadows |
| Feb. 10 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Online      |

#### Challenges Q&A 20682

Sip a drink in the clubhouse as you discuss common challenges faced in native gardening and find answers to questions that have arisen from your personal native-landscaping experiences. Ages 18 and up; must be 21 or older with valid ID to purchase alcoholic beverages. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|          |               |             |
|----------|---------------|-------------|
| March 11 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Oak Meadows |
|----------|---------------|-------------|

#### Creating Your Garden Design 20696

Share drawings or photos of your yard in advance, and then get customized one-on-one advice at a one-hour meeting with a plant expert who will help you select native plants to match your goals and growing conditions. Ages 18 and up. \$30 per meeting. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|                            |                         |        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| March 1, 8, 15,<br>22 & 29 | 3 – 4 p.m. & 6 – 7 p.m. | Online |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|



## Coming This Spring!

### NATIVE PLANT SALE

*Mayslake Peabody Estate*

Shop in person May 13 and 14 for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees!

Support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District and purchase a ticket for an exclusive advanced shopping event May 12.

This year's sale will be in-person only. For details, including a list of plants and info on tickets for the May 12 advanced event, visit [dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale](http://dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale) after March 1.

We'll see you there!

#### May 12

**Advanced Shopping Event (Ticket Required)**  
4 – 7 p.m.

#### May 13

10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

#### May 14

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Get ready for this year's sale by signing up for one or more of our Native Landscaping programs on this page.





## Heritage

### Delightful Details 20783

Learn about Mayslake Hall's early days when Francis S. Peabody lived at the mansion. Hear about two different areas of the hall, and then take a short tour of each. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

|          |                |          |
|----------|----------------|----------|
| Jan. 28  | 10 a.m. – Noon | Mayslake |
| Feb. 25  | 10 a.m. – Noon | Mayslake |
| March 25 | 10 a.m. – Noon | Mayslake |

### History of St. James Farm 20661

Get an in-depth look into the site'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.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Jan. 23 | 2 – 3 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|------------|----------------|

### Maple Sugaring

Enjoy a day in nature with the family! Discover how sap becomes syrup as you try tapping with tools from the 1890s, check the collection buckets, and watch sap thicken over the fire. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

|                     |            |                  |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| March 5, 6, 12,     | 1 – 4 p.m. | Kline Creek Farm |
| 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 |            |                  |

### The Other McCormick of DuPage: Chauncey McCormick 20670

Chauncey McCormick of St. James Farm was a farmer, gentleman, and philanthropist whose influence is far-reaching but little known. Get to know the life of this man who played a significant role in the county's history. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

|         |            |                |
|---------|------------|----------------|
| Feb. 20 | 2 – 3 p.m. | St. James Farm |
|---------|------------|----------------|

## Nature Art & Culture

### 1890s Living

*Kline Creek Farm*

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Registration not required for these all-ages programs. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

#### FARMHOUSE TOURS

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

**Jan. 2 – March 30**

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

#### FARM LIFE IN WINTER

Help prune the orchard or stack wood for fuel, or see how blacksmithing skills helped farmers. Join us for the ice harvest if the lake freezes, or watch as we shear the ewes in preparation for lambing in March. There's a new lineup every day, so follow us at facebook.com/klinecreekfarm for activity updates.

**Jan. 2 – Feb. 28**

**Thursday – Monday 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

### Art Journaling Eight-Part Class 20792

What do the grace of nature, natural flow, and tea bags have in common? That's what we'll find out as we savor our favorite teas and then reuse the dried tea bags, working with the beauty of flow in our lives and using the magic of the natural world as inspiration. Ages 18 and up. \$145 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

|                  |                  |          |
|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Jan. 6 – Feb. 24 | 9:30 a.m. – Noon | Mayslake |
| Thursdays        |                  |          |

### 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.

**Jan. 2 – March 31**

**Monday – Friday 12:30 p.m.**

**Saturdays 11:30 a.m.**



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

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

1. Visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Baroque Showcase

Enjoy an afternoon of baroque as Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra musicians perform the works of George Frideric Handel, J. S. Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, and Georg Phillip Telemann. Ages 18 and up. \$12 – \$35 per person. For tickets visit [elmhurstsymphony.org](http://elmhurstsymphony.org) or call 630-941-0202.

|         |               |          |
|---------|---------------|----------|
| Jan. 15 | 2:30 – 4 p.m. | Mayslake |
|---------|---------------|----------|

Drumming Circle 20774

Encourage spring's arrival in a new way: by drumming in the warmer weather in Mayslake Hall's beautiful historic library. Bring your own drum, or borrow one of our homemade percussion instruments. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

|          |               |          |
|----------|---------------|----------|
| Jan. 24  | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Mayslake |
| Feb. 28  | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Mayslake |
| March 21 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Mayslake |

Eco Ugly Art Workshop 20780

Beat the winter blahs in a creative way! Join us for a fun afternoon using recycled materials to create ugly art, and get inspiration for future "upcycled" projects. Materials provided. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

|         |            |          |
|---------|------------|----------|
| Jan. 22 | 2 – 4 p.m. | Mayslake |
| Feb. 19 | 2 – 4 p.m. | Mayslake |

Art at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

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

CHICAGO AREA VISUAL ARTISTS EXHIBIT

Jan. 5 – Feb. 28  
Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.  
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

HIDDEN CREATIVITY: NATURE THROUGH THE EYE OF FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

March 3 – April 30  
Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.  
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Discussion 20909

Sign up for these enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In January we'll discuss *The Midnight Library*; in February, *Never Cry Wolf*; and in March, *Doll Face*. Titles are subject to change. Register for either the three morning or three evening discussions. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person for all three discussions. (To join all 12 discussions throughout the year for \$20 per person, register for program 20921.) Register online or at 630-206-9566.

|                              |                 |          |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Jan. 7, Feb. 4<br>& March 4  | 10 – 11:15 a.m. | Mayslake |
| Jan. 11, Feb. 8<br>& March 8 | 6:45 – 8 p.m.   | Online   |

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 20718

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

|                                      |                  |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 2, 8, 9, 15,<br>17, 23, 29 & 31 | 8:30 – 11 a.m.   | Churchill Woods |
| Jan. 8, 11 & 22                      | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Springbrook     |
| Jan. 8 & 22                          | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Maple Grove     |
| Jan. 17 & 30                         | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Willowbrook     |
| Feb. 5, 12, 13,<br>20, 26 & 28       | 8:30 – 11 a.m.   | Churchill Woods |
| Feb. 5, 8, 17 & 20                   | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Springbrook     |
| Feb. 12 & 21                         | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Willowbrook     |
| Feb. 12 & 26                         | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Maple Grove     |
| March 5, 8,<br>20 & 24               | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Springbrook     |
| March 6, 12, 13,<br>19, 21, 26 & 27  | 8:30 – 11 a.m.   | Churchill Woods |
| March 6 & 20                         | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Willowbrook     |
| March 12 & 26                        | 9 a.m. – Noon    | Maple Grove     |
| March 17                             | 2:45 – 4:45 p.m. | Big Woods       |



# news & notes

## LET'S "RAYS" a Cleaner Tomorrow

For more than 100 years the Forest Preserve District has restored prairies, woodlands, and wetlands to create sustainable landscapes in DuPage.

Today, we're adopting new operational strategies to further support the environment.

To start, we've created a fleet of vehicles and equipment (including tractors and lawn mowers) that use alternative fuels or hybrid technology. This has lowered fuel expenditures, reduced tailpipe emissions, and lengthened the lifespan of our equipment. But that's not enough.

With a pledge from gracious donors, we're also installing a solar array on the fleet management building at Blackwell Forest Preserve. The 330-kilowatt array will be capable of producing 384 megawatt hours of electricity a year, offsetting 100% of the building's electrical-energy consumption. It will not only save taxpayers an estimated \$22,000 annually but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 272 metric tons of carbon dioxide. (We'll also sell back an additional 29,000 kilowatt hours to ComEd annually with its net-metering program.)

Our goal is to get to "net zero," but we can't get there alone. We need your help to get this building and others like it to generate as much energy as they consume.

That's why we've created the green-energy endowment fund to help implement conservation efforts at the fleet building and similar structures. To find out how you can be a part of this bright future, visit [dupageforest.org/solar-project-campaign](http://dupageforest.org/solar-project-campaign).

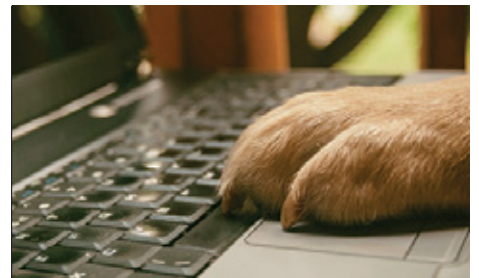


## MORE GOOD NEWS FOR ENDANGERED DRAGONFLIES

For six years the Forest Preserve District has been raising federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies at the Urban Stream Research Center at Blackwell. The center's efforts focus on DuPage, but its ecologists also collaborate with outside agencies to boost populations of these nationally rare insects.

Recently, the Urban Stream Research Center received 101 larvae from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Genoa National Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin. The dragonflies started out at the hatchery but needed a place to overwinter. These insects will join the 30 larvae and 1,000 eggs already housed at the center. The District also assisted the transfer of 100 eggs from the center to the Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery in Topeka, Illinois, which recently joined the partnership to raise Hine's emeralds.

In other news, the University of South Dakota, another partner organization, received a Recovery Challenge Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, highlighting the importance of boosting Hine's emerald dragonfly numbers by providing much-needed resources to the rearing efforts at the Urban Stream Research Center.



## ANNUAL PERMITS ON SALE

Annual permits for private boating, stand-up paddleboarding, archery, off-leash dog areas, and model crafts are now on sale at [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org) under "Registration & Permits."

Although we encourage you to get permits online or over the phone through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 you can also purchase them at 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. Note, however, that you must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when inside any District building.



© Greg Lasley





# A Bridge to the Past

by **KEITH MCCLOW**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES





**O**n a breezy afternoon I stood on the old bridge that spans the East Branch DuPage River at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve, talking to people as they crossed. I met joggers, families with strollers, a birdwatcher from Utah admiring the swallows, two men fishing, and lots of walkers, some who said they'd probably crossed the bridge a hundred times.

Most of the people I talked with guessed the bridge was about 40 years old. One engineer noted it had to be older because of its cast-iron parts. Everyone was surprised to hear it dated back to the late 1800s and was most likely still in its original location.

The story of the bridge begins with a mill and a road.

Between 1837 and 1854 the Barney Sawmill operated along the East Branch DuPage River at today's Hidden Lake. Locals bought timber in a lot just south of the river and hauled it along a road to the mill to be cut into boards for building.

The road had many names – Barney Mill Road, Stauch Road, Bryant Road – and after the mill closed people continued to use it. In fact, the road was extended north several times, reaching Prospect Park, today's Glen Ellyn, in the 1870s. Around the same time a bridge was installed over the East Branch DuPage River to carry the road over the water. (Whether the bridge replaced an existing one or whether people previously crossed by traveling through the water is not known.)

The 50-foot-long, 13-foot-wide wrought-iron and wood bridge was manufactured in Cleveland, Ohio, by Zenas King and his newly formed King Iron Bridge Manufacturing

Company, which at one point was the largest bridge company in the United States. It probably arrived in Prospect Park in parts via train. From there, horses pulled the pieces south along a dirt road to the installation point, likely the same spot where the bridge sits today.

The structure, a new design at the time, is called a bowstring pony truss bridge. It used less material than stone bridges and lasted longer than wooden ones. Its relatively light weight and standardized design made it easy to transport all over the country.

As more cars and trucks traveled through DuPage, highways started to replace the small roads that connected town to town, and in 1924 plans began for Route 53, which would link the north and south ends of the county. Old atlases show that much of Bryant Road north of Butterfield Road (Route 56) became Route 53. But south of Butterfield Road, the new route deviated from the old road, veering west before crossing the river, possibly to avoid property owned by The Morton Arboretum. Whatever the reason, this turn saved the little bridge, which would have been replaced long ago had Route 53 crossed over that stretch of the East Branch DuPage River. Instead, the bridge became part of a driveway to a private farmhouse. There it stood for another 50 years, surrounded by farm fields and clearly visible to passersby on Route 53.

The Forest Preserve District purchased the bulk of Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in 1977 and 1978 and officially closed the road leading to the bridge in 1983, incorporating the bridge into the forest preserve's trail system. It repaired the

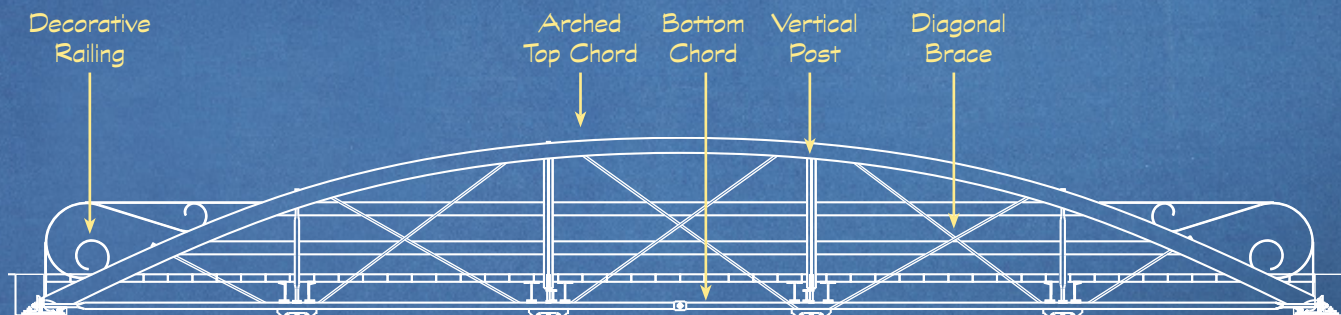
## What Puts the "Bowstring" in a Bowstring Pony Truss Bridge?

"Bowstring pony truss bridge" may be a mouthful, but each part of the name tells a little about the bridge's design.

The bridge is supported on either side by a long iron arch, called the "top chord," that's supported by a series of vertical posts and diagonal braces, which evenly distribute the load and keep the bridge stable. These posts and braces are what make it a "truss" bridge. Some truss bridges have iron braces that cross over the top, but the sides of a "pony" truss are too short, so it's open at the

top. To some, the arched top chord over the straight bottom chord resembled an archer's bow, thus giving the term "bowstring" truss. This design only exerts vertical pressure on the concrete abutments on each shore, making a strong stable footing.

Although not a necessary component of a bowstring pony truss bridge, the spiraled wrought-iron bars at each end create decorative railings and prevent people (and at one time, livestock) from stepping over the edge.





bridge in the 1980s, but 40 years later the structure is again in need of work. Because of the bridge's sturdy construction and its connection to the county's history (it's one of a few remaining of its kind) the District is restoring it rather than replacing it. (Restoring the bridge makes fiscal sense, too, because even though it will cost more than a new bridge, it will last much longer.) Crews will move the bridge off-site for repairs and then reinstall it with new concrete abutments.

Start to finish, the process will take about three months, but once repaired, the bridge will be ready to serve trail users for another 100 years. •



▲ Early maps of DuPage show the location of Barney's Sawmill along the East Branch DuPage River.



▲ Work on the 1870s bridge will refurbish the bridge's original wrought iron.



▲ The decorative railings keep people from walking over the arched top chord, which bends down to meet the wooden decking near each end of the bridge.

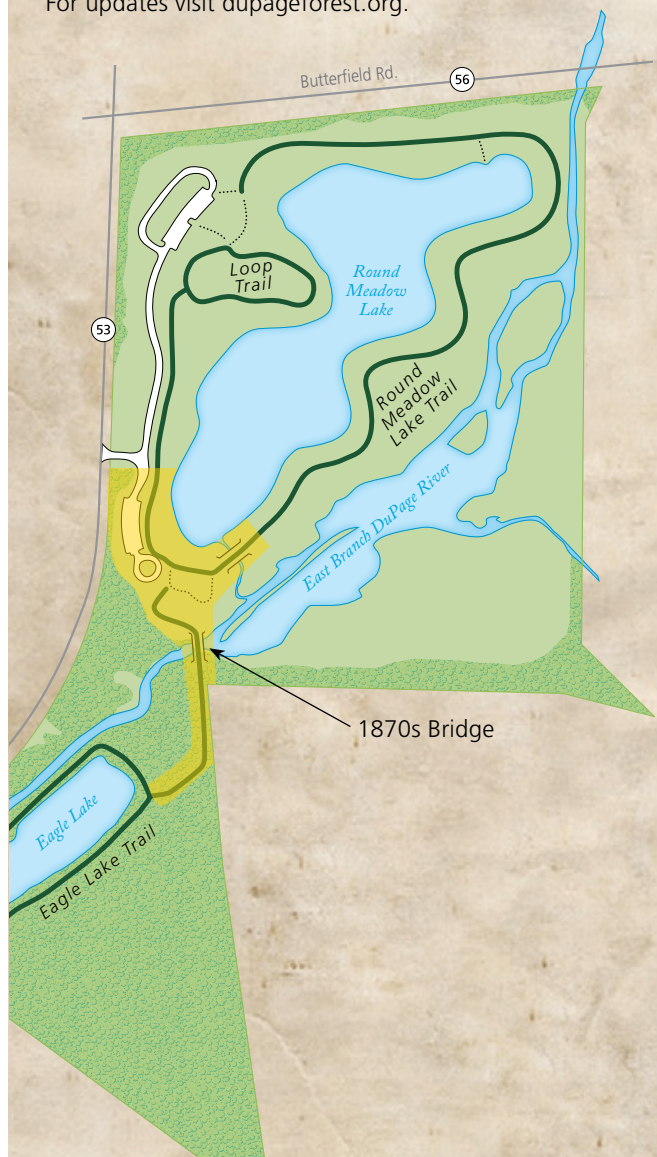
## The Path to Progress

In spring 2022 the Forest Preserve District will start work on two bridges at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve, the 1870s bridge featured in this article and a second to the northeast. It expects to complete both projects by the end of fall 2022.

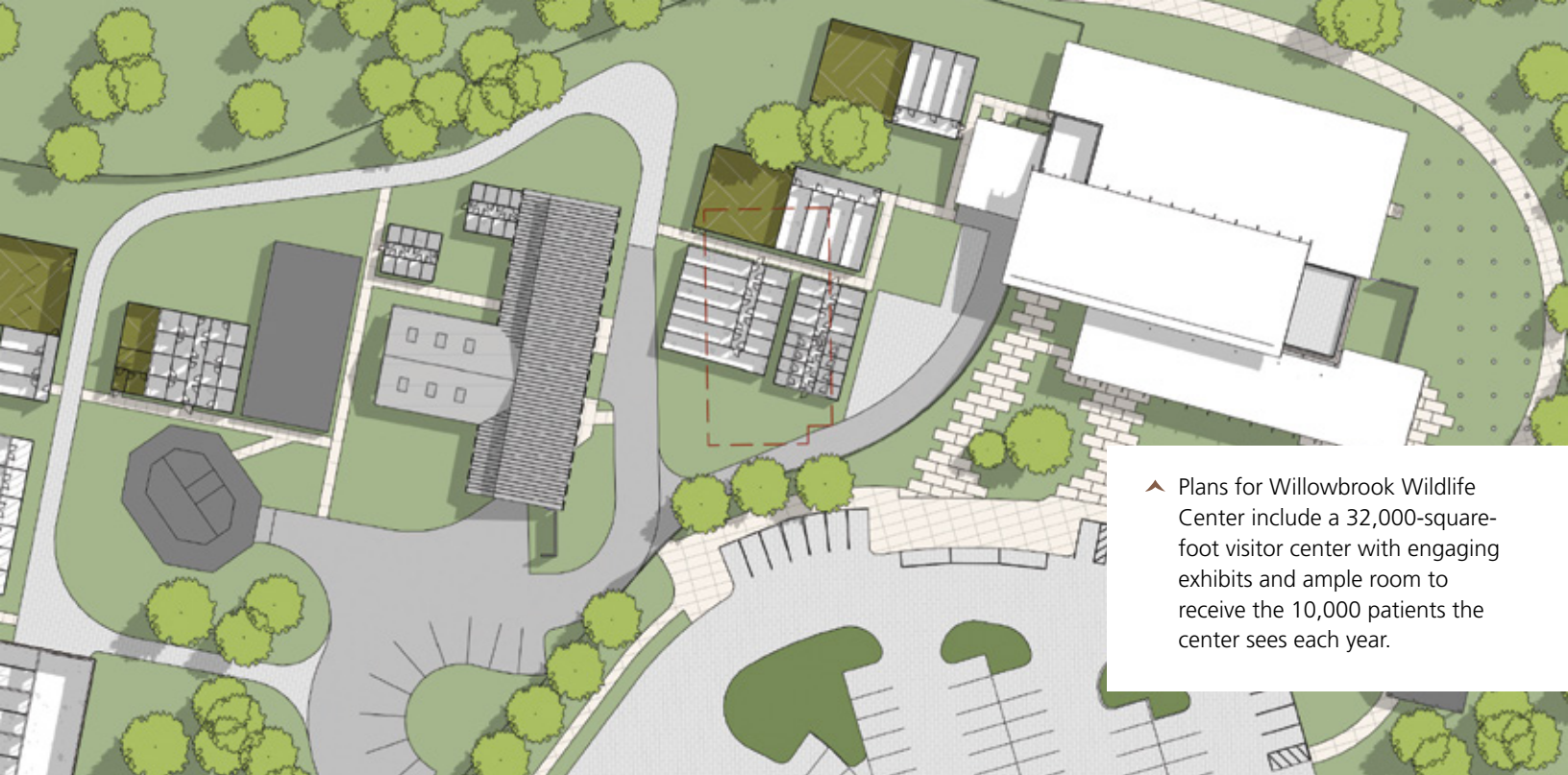
Once construction begins, the south parking lot will close to allow for equipment. Part of the trail around Round Meadow Lake will also close, and access to the Eagle Lake Trail and Eagle Lake will not be available, as shown on the map below in yellow. Please be careful near the construction area, and follow all signs and workers' instructions.

The north parking lot, including the picnic shelter and restrooms, will remain open as will access to the Loop Trail and Round Meadow Lake. Most of the Round Meadow Lake Trail will remain open, but you won't be able to complete the entire loop.

For updates visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).







▲ Plans for Willowbrook Wildlife Center include a 32,000-square-foot visitor center with engaging exhibits and ample room to receive the 10,000 patients the center sees each year.

# Big Plans for Popular Preserves

In 2019 the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved a plan that would guide developments over the next five years. The District inventoried its current holdings and compared them against similar agencies. It held meetings for the public, volunteers, staff, commissioners, and special-interest groups and conducted surveys. It gathered ideas from more than 6,500 people and looked at national, state, and regional trends. In the end, the Board of Commissioners approved 32 certified projects and 15 initiatives. Two of the certified projects are at Willowbrook Wildlife Center and Mayslake Peabody Estate, some of the District's most popular sites.

Since 1956 the Forest Preserve District has been taking care of injured and orphaned native wildlife at its Willowbrook Wildlife Center. Over the decades the center has seen a dramatic increase in the number of patients it sees each year, from a few hundred at its onset to now over 10,000.

But the aging visitor center has been unable to keep up with the growing needs of 21st century visitors, patients, and programs. In fact, the visitor center has not reopened to the public since closing for the COVID-19 lockdown because every square inch has been converted into treatment areas.

In 2011 the District took the first step toward an updated Willowbrook Wildlife Center by adopting a plan to guide the center's development over the next several years. As part of the first phase, between 2013 and 2021 the District expanded the parking lot, built a new animal rehabilitation building, and installed a 72.2-kilowatt solar array.

Now the District is ready to take on the next — and more involved — phase. Although research and public opinion helped develop initial plans, guidelines from the National Wildlife Rehabilitator Association and the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council on housing and exhibiting rehabilitating wildlife changed significantly in the ensuing years, requiring the

District to reassess some of its goals. It presented its updated ideas to the public last fall and gathered opinions via three open houses, surveys, and online comments.

When completed, the re-envisioned Willowbrook Wildlife Center will feature a 32,000-square-foot clinic and visitor center with expanded indoor rehabilitation areas and exhibits that will give visitors behind-the-scenes looks at the treatment process. Outside, expanded naturalized areas will give recovering animals quiet, stress-free places to recuperate and offer visitors camouflaged observation windows where they can discreetly view the animals. A welcome plaza, an outdoor classroom, and activity spaces showing how to attract and live in harmony with wildlife will round off the improvements.

This will be by far one of the Forest Preserve District's largest capital projects but one that adheres closely to the missions of both the District and the center. Construction is expected to start in 2022 and be completed by the end of 2024.

Mayslake Peabody Estate, another certified master-plan project, will receive a significant face-lift in 2022. Designed by renowned Chicago architect Benjamin H. Marshal, the Tudor Revival-style Mayslake Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the last remaining examples of the country estates that dotted DuPage County between 1880 and 1924. In 1926, the estate was sold to the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, who operated the estate as a retreat house, adding a retreat wing and chapel to the west side of the mansion. The District, via a publicly approved referendum, purchased the estate from the Franciscans in 1993.

The mansion is nearly 100 years old, and many of the original materials used in its construction are in need of repair or replacement to ensure the building can remain a center for cultural and nature-based programs.

In 2020, the District hired an architectural consultant to identify structural issues and material deficiencies that were contributing to water damage and other threats. The assessment determined that addressing major issues with the exterior – the roof, wood and stucco façades, brick and limestone masonry, foundation, surrounding site drainage – would be necessary if the Forest Preserve District wanted to maintain the structural integrity of the historic house. The work should begin in spring 2022 and wrap up in early 2023. The hall will need to close to the public during some of this time, but updates will be posted on [dupageforest.org](https://dupageforest.org).

To fund these and other approved master plan projects the Board of Commissioners approved the issuance of \$40 million in bonds. Because the District is in strong financial shape with sufficient bonding capacity and an excellent credit rating it can issue the bonds without causing an increase in annual property taxes. The District will be able to not only complete these two major projects but also fund additional land acquisitions and smaller capital projects.

Big things are on the horizon for both Willowbrook Wildlife Center and Mayslake Peabody Estate, and we know old fans and new will be thrilled with the results! •



▲ By repairing the exterior of Mayslake Hall, the Forest Preserve District will ensure that the restored interiors, such as the oak-detailed library, will remain protected.



▲ Once completed, the new Willowbrook Wildlife Center will give staff expanded treatment areas to accommodate the center's ever-increasing amount of patients and give visitors fun, engaging looks into the wildlife rehabilitation process.



# 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. All visitors 2 or older regardless of vaccination status must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when inside forest preserve buildings. For the most recent information, including hours, call the number associated with the center or visit [dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org).

## HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton • 630-933-7200  
TTY 800-526-0857  
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)  
[forest@dupageforest.org](mailto: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

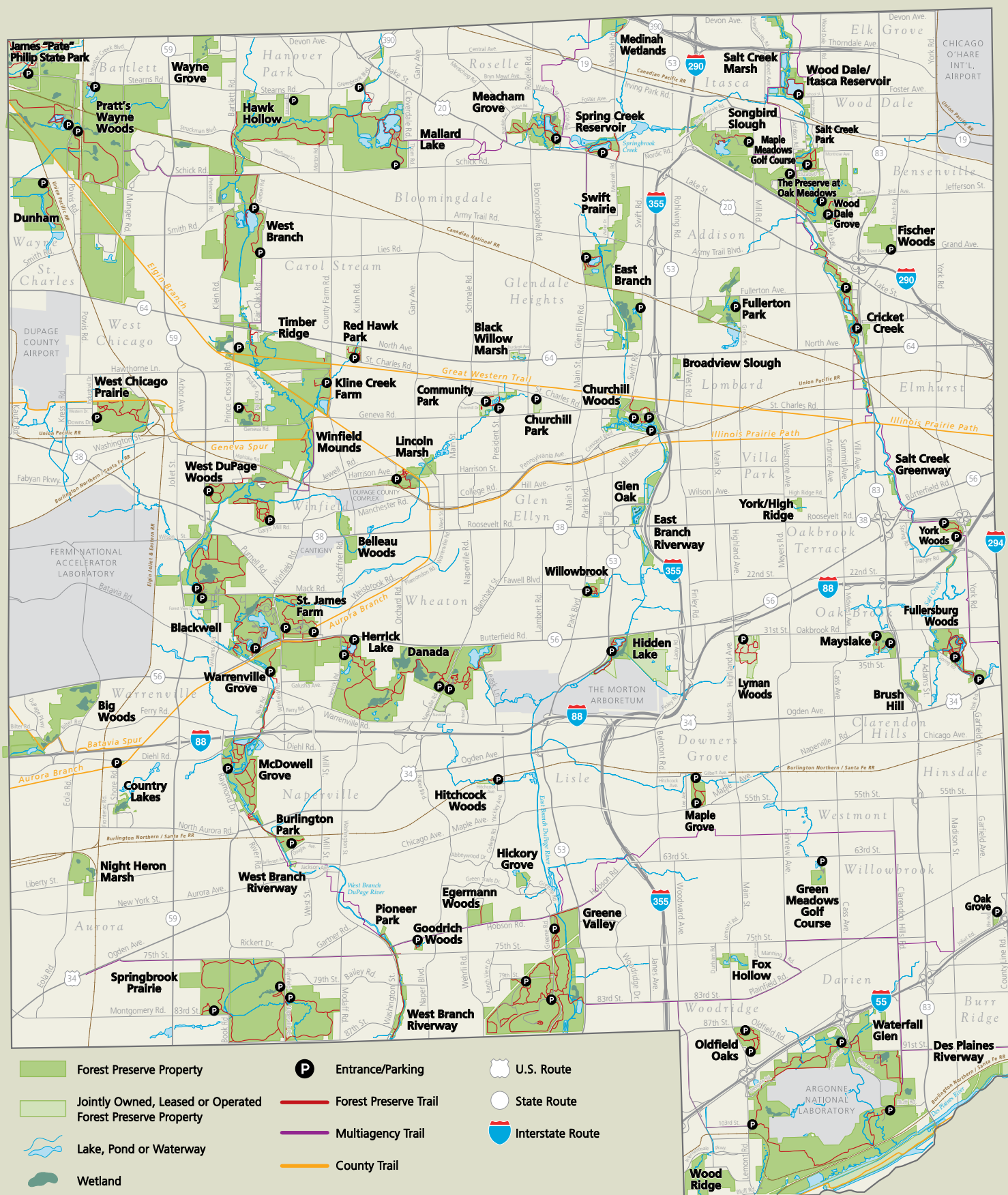
Oak Brook • 630-655-2090

### BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

### LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388







**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**

35580 Naperville Road  
Wheaton, IL 60189

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# the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

**Winter 2022**

## DUPAGE FOREST PRESERVES *Winter* ADVENTURE SERIES

As the ground turns white and the lakes freeze we'll be adding a flurry of fun to our winter calendar.

To find out about new programs as soon as they're scheduled, text EVENTS to 866-743-7332 to sign up for text alerts. We'll also post new programs at [facebook.com/dupageforest](https://facebook.com/dupageforest) and [dupageforest.org](https://dupageforest.org).

So get your hats and scarves ready, and let's think snow!

ICE FISHING



SCAVENGER HUNTS

SNOWSHOEING



AND MORE!