

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2019

Dig In

Gardening With Native Plants

Nature Play

Why It Matters

Go Fish!



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



After a record-setting Polar Vortex and a fair share of snow, I think we're all ready to roll out the red carpet for spring. Here at the Forest Preserve District, that means inspecting trails, opening up parking lots, and gearing up for another year of improving the county's nearly 26,000 acres of natural areas.

Locally we might consider the county's patchwork of open space all ours, but it also belongs to an important global network of ecosystems. With the ever-increasing effects of climate change, high-quality prairies, woodlands and wetlands are needed more than ever.

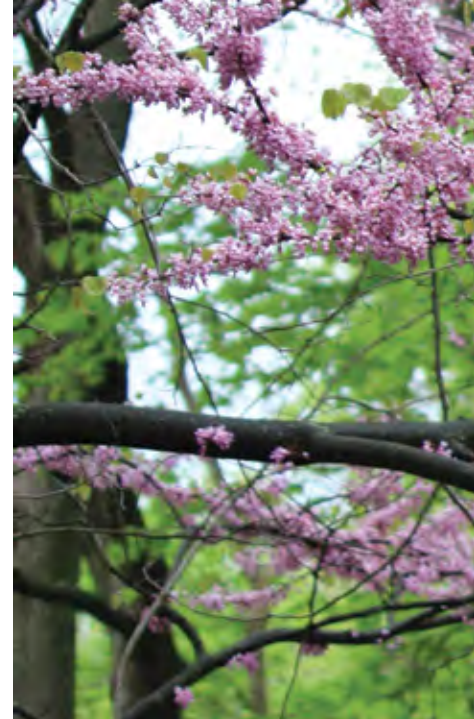
At their most basic these areas take the place of turf-grass lawns, which means fewer gas-powered mowers. But at their most complex they're nonstop "carbon sinks" that continually remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere before it can join other greenhouse gases. Trees as well as prairie and wetland plants need carbon dioxide for photosynthesis, and although some is re-released a lot remains locked in the plants. When the plants decompose, it becomes part of the soil.

As an agency, we're lowering the amount of carbon dioxide we produce in the first place by switching to equipment with lower carbon-emission levels. We'll be augmenting those efforts in the future by relying more on solar power as well.

The encouraging part is that we can all create patches of natural areas in our own backyards. For ideas, read "Dig In" starting on Page 20, and look for info on our annual native plant sale and related programs on Page 13 or online at dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale. Let's put on the gardening gloves and get going!

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

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Ed Stevenson



BOARD MEETINGS

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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

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On the cover: Prairie smoke © Paul Prior

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



ARCHERY RANGE PERMITS COMING JUNE 1

Starting June 1 anyone using the archery range at Blackwell will need to display a Forest Preserve District permit. Fees from the sale of the permits will help defray the cost of equipment repairs, new targets, and the general upkeep of the beginner, intermediate, and interactive ranges, whose popularity has increased tremendously over the past few years.

Permits will go on sale May 1 at dupageforest.org under “Registration & Permits” and through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248. Annual permits will be \$30 for DuPage residents and \$50 for nonresidents; daily permits will be \$5 and \$10, respectively. Additionally, permits purchased in 2019 will be good through 2020. Senior citizens, active U.S. military personnel and honorably discharged U.S. veterans will be entitled to one free annual permit per year.

Archers will need to indicate on their applications if they’ll be using recurve, compound or longbows; only individuals who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide copies of their disability cards are allowed to use crossbows.

WORK ON CREEK TO AFFECT CAMPING AT BLACKWELL

Since 2015 the Forest Preserve District has been removing underwater barriers and returning natural twists and turns along more than a mile of Spring Brook Creek. Fish and freshwater mussels are able to move farther upstream, and wildlife in general is benefiting from a revitalized aquatic habitat.

The project is now moving into Blackwell. As a result, family campsite availability will be limited in 2019, although there will be some openings on select Friday and Saturday nights. The youth-group campground will be closed through 2020. Daytime visitors may hear some noise, see dust or encounter closed trails, but the District hopes these temporary conditions will be offset by the outdoor experiences visitors will enjoy when the work ends.

For updates and family campground availability, visit dupageforest.org or call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

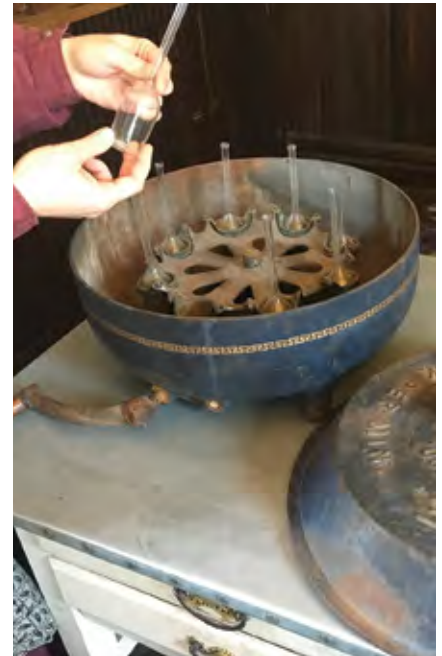


VISITOR SERVICES

Extended Summer Hours

This summer, the Forest Preserve District’s Visitor Services office is making it easier to get answers to your questions about permits, reservations, programs, boat rentals and more!

The office, located at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton, will be open Saturdays June 1 – Aug. 24 (except July 6) 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This will be in addition to the regular 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Friday hours. Stop by in person, or give the office a call at 630-933-7248.



COLLECTIONS Corner

This June, Kline Creek Farm will be celebrating National Dairy Month by featuring several dairy-related pieces from its artifacts collection, including one of its “quirkier” items: the Babcock Butler Butter Fat Tester.

Many 1890s dairy farmers relied on the tester to measure the fat content of their milk. Their neighbors valued high-fat dairy, so farmers could make more money by selling “fatter” milk.

A farmer would fill several small bottles with milk and a bit of sulfuric acid. The acid dissolved part of the milk but none of the fat, which floated to the top. The bottles then went into a tray inside the tester, and the farmer would use a hand crank to spin the tray for several minutes. This further separated the fat and forced it into the bottles’ narrow necks, which had graduated markings that revealed the milk’s fat content.

Check out “News & Notes” in future issues of *The Conservationist* for more “Collections Corner” features!



MANY Thanks

The Forest Preserve District thanks the donors who contributed to its efforts between Nov. 26 and Feb. 3. To learn how your financial support can benefit the District, visit dupageforest.org/friends. To give to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Friends of the Forest Preserve District, visit dupageforest.org/donate.

Gifts of Note

College of DuPage – 90.9FM WDCB Public Radio

\$2,955 – Mayslake Peabody Estate

Michael and Diane Webb

\$2,000 – Mayslake Peabody Estate and Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Harold III and Mary Bamford

\$1,500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Anonymous

\$1,200 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Richard James McCann Foundation

\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Brian and Kathleen Beggerow

\$500 – Areas of greatest need

Phil and Amy Gelber

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

John and Holly Hudak

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Adopt an Animal to benefit the resident barred owl, bobcat and sandhill crane

Edmond Pereira

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Gary Dobson and Cynthia Rein

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Gifts of Note to the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

Estate of Lani K. Harrington

\$5,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Larry C. Larson

\$2,000 – Belleau Woods and West Chicago Prairie restoration, other natural-resource initiatives, Adopt a Blanding's Turtle, ADA-accessible piers project, and Mayslake Hall staircase restoration

William II and Patricia Smith

\$1,710 – Law Enforcement search-and-rescue drone and Kline Creek Farm

Seth Becker and Helen Nam

\$1,545 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Anonymous

\$1,500 – Adopt a Blanding's Turtle

Greenprint LLC

\$1,500 – St. James Farm

Anonymous

\$1,200 – Areas of greatest need

Tom and Ruth Cloonan

\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Kenneth McAfee

\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Carol McGee

\$1,000 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Dan and Cheryl Zinnen

\$800 – Belleau Woods and West Chicago Prairie restoration and Mayslake Hall staircase restoration

Diane Telander

\$675 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Scott and Peggy Hardek

\$600 – Areas of greatest need

Anonymous

\$500 – Adopt a Blanding's Turtle

Daniel Grobe Sachs and Kathleen Sachs

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

Craig J. Holderness

\$500 – Areas of greatest need

Kathy Isoda

\$500 – Law Enforcement search-and-rescue drone

Frank and Nancy Mores

\$500 – Willowbrook Wildlife Center

John and Marion Tableriou

\$500 – Areas of greatest need

LIVE and on Demand

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

Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and take place at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, and planning sessions are at 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board discusses Forest Preserve District business, hears public comments and staff reports, and votes on agenda items.



IF YOU CARE, LEAVE THEM THERE

It's baby animal season, and Willowbrook Wildlife Center is reminding residents that it's normal for wild animals to leave their young alone for several hours at a time. Human intervention may be helpful, though, if an animal is injured or truly abandoned.

If you have concerns about a wild animal, contact Willowbrook at 630-942-6200 or willowbrook@dupageforest.org for guidance. Calls are answered daily (see Page 22 for hours), and after-hours recordings provide general information.



Go Fish!

by **DAN GRIGAS**, NATURAL RESOURCES

For me, fishing is as much of an American pastime as baseball. Few other activities rally my excitement and fill me with anticipation. My experience is rich with memories of fishing northern Wisconsin lakes for crappie, perch, walleye and other game fish found in typical “north woods” waters. Today, these memories — for better or worse — influence my expectations when I’m fishing, no matter where I am. Lucky for me and other anglers, DuPage forest preserve lakes and ponds contain many favorites.

When I began working in fisheries ecology for the Forest Preserve District, I wanted to continue the agency’s goal of providing quality fishing opportunities in DuPage. Many of our fisheries management activities focus on bolstering or maintaining a robust and diverse fish community, not only for the ecological health of the county’s lakes and rivers but also for various recreational opportunities, especially fishing.

Most anglers I’ve encountered fit into one of three groups — Newcomer, Generalist or Diehard — and the Forest Preserve District works to create fisheries that suit everyone’s needs and desires. Which one are you? •

The Newcomer

The Newcomer is either new to fishing or trying to get someone else (especially a child) interested in the sport. If you’re either, there are several easy-to-reach lakes where you can catch fish (primarily small- to medium-sized bluegill) without much trouble.

If you’re *not* a Newcomer, you’re probably asking, “Who wants to just catch dink panfish?” But keep in mind that waters with constant action are able to capture the attention of young kids and new anglers who want to get “hooked.”

Where to Go

Blackwell — Silver Lake, White Pine Pond and Sand Pond
Wood Dale Grove — Grove Lake
Pratt’s Wayne Woods — Pickerel Lake and Catfish Pond



The Generalist

Generalists love to fish. Catching anything and being outdoors is what it's all about. When I talk with anglers in this group, they typically say they're fishing for "anything that bites" and that "a bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work."

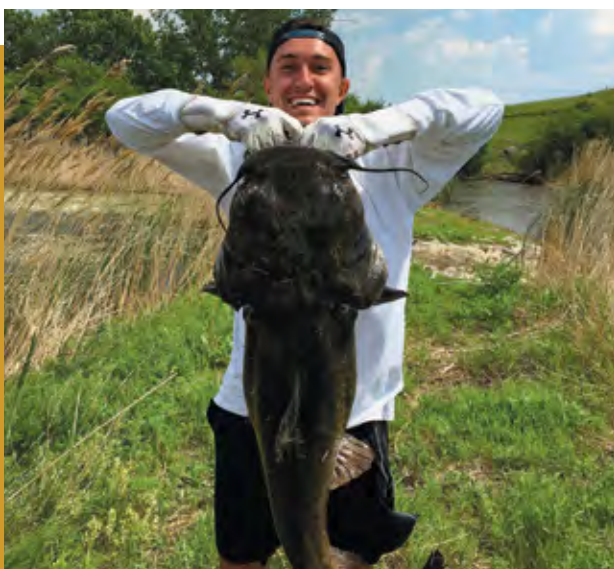
All DuPage forest preserve lakes and ponds have been stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish at some point. The lakes listed under Newcomer also have northern pike, yellow perch and black crappie. The lakes below have been stocked with a variety of species over the years and, according to recent surveys, have diverse communities with plenty of fish.

Where to Go

Hidden Lake — Round Meadow Lake and Eagle Lake

Mallard Lake — Mallard Lake and Cloverdale Pond

West Branch — Deep Quarry Lake



The Diehard

The Diehard is a special breed (and the one I associate with the most). These anglers fish rain or shine, in blizzards or during volcanic eruptions. For them, fishing is life. The trophy seekers in this group can take solace in knowing DuPage forest preserves have quite a few places to hook a monster. A handful have muskie, northern pike, walleye, largemouth bass and catfish guaranteed to raise the hair on the back of any angler's neck!

Where to Go

Mallard Lake — Mallard Lake
flathead catfish around 50 pounds

Blackwell — Silver Lake

Mallard Lake — Mallard Lake
northern pike over 30 inches, musky over 45 inches and 20 pounds, and walleye over 20 inches

Pratt's Wayne Woods — Harrier Lake
walleye over 25 inches nearing 8 pounds

West Branch — Deep Quarry Lake
northern pike over 30 inches and largemouth bass over 20 inches and 5 pounds

McDowell Grove — Mud Lake

Songbird Slough — Songbird Lake

Hidden Lake — Round Meadow Lake
largemouth bass over 20 inches and 5 pounds

No matter which group you belong to (or if you have one of your own) you can find your next favorite fishing hole in the Forest Preserve District's *Fishing Guide*, which has maps, species lists and creel limits for 31 lakes and ponds and local rivers. Download a copy at dupageforest.org, or call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 to have one mailed to you.

spring calendar

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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April

- 1** Forest Fitness Walk
- 5** Archery: Families
Bird Walk
- 6** Fishing: Spring Trout Season
Opener
Twilight Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Animal Care Experiences
Native Landscaping: All About
Plants
- 8** Forest Fitness Walk
- 9** Mindful Nature Walking for
Seniors
- 10** Bird Walk
Native Landscaping: Design
- 11** Music at Mayslake: Elmhurst
Symphony Orchestra
- 12** Fishing: Families
- 13** Lectures at Mayslake: Beatrix
Potter
Native Landscaping: Wild Suburbia
Spring Into Volunteering
Volunteer Restoration Workday

- 14** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters
- 15** Forest Fitness Walk
- 16** Climate Change and Habitat
Restoration
Art at Mayslake: Exploring
Watercolor Begins
- 18** Music at Mayslake: WDCB Jazz
- 19** Bird Walk
Fishing: Families
Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour
- 20** Animal Care Experiences
Spring Into Volunteering
Twilight Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 22** Art at Mayslake: Easy Botanical
Drawing Begins
Earth Week Forest Preserve
Pick-Me-Up
Forest Fitness Walk
- 23** Earth Week Forest Preserve
Pick-Me-Up

- 24** Bird Walk
Earth Week Forest Preserve
Pick-Me-Up
Wildflower Walk
- 25** Earth Week Forest Preserve
Pick-Me-Up
Native Landscaping: Yikes! What's
Wrong With My Plant?
- 26** Archery: Families
Earth Week Forest Preserve
Pick-Me-Up
- 27** Earth Day Poetry Walk
Native Landscaping: For Birds, Bees
and You
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 28** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters
- 29** Art at Mayslake: Plein-Air Oil
Painting Begins
Forest Fitness Walk
- 30** Art at Mayslake: Intro to
Watercolor Landscapes Begins
Mayslake Hall Franciscan Era Tour



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.

May

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Wildflower Walk | 11 Music at Mayslake: Acappellago Native Plant Sale Volunteer Restoration Workday | 19 Wildlife Encounters |
| 2 Eco Wind Chime Workshop | | 20 Forest Fitness Walk Volunteer Workday at the Nursery |
| 3 Bird Walk | 12 Animal Care Experiences Fishing: With Mom | 21 Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour |
| 4 Archery: Families
Sheep Shearing
Twilight Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery | 13 Forest Fitness Walk | 22 Bird Walk |
| 5 Sheep Shearing | 14 Mindful Nature Walking for Seniors | 24 Kayaking: Basics |
| 6 Forest Fitness Walk | 15 An Evening for the OAKS Volunteer Workday at the Nursery | 25 Bird Walk: Warblers
Sunrise Gratitude Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday |
| 9 Music at Mayslake: Sinfonietta Bel Canto Presents <i>Gianni Schicchi</i> | 17 Archery: Families
Bird Walk | 26 Animal Care Experience |
| 10 Kayaking: Basics
Native Plant Sale
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery | 18 Bird Walk: Warblers
Twilight Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday | 27 Memorial Day Remembered |
| | | 31 Fishing: Families |

June

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Family Field Day at St. James Farm
National Trails Day Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery | 9 Fishing: Just for Kids Fishing Derby
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Encounters | 16 Fishing: With Dad |
| 2 Wildlife Encounters | 12 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Wellness Stretching for Gardening | 17 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery |
| 4 Art at Mayslake: Exploring
Watercolor Begins
Art at Mayslake: Intro to
Watercolor Landscapes Begins | 13 Music at Mayslake: WDCB Jazz | 18 Mindful Nature Walking for Seniors |
| 7 Volunteer Workday at the Nursery | 14 Archery: Families
Fresh Air Friday | 21 Summer Solstice Hike |
| 8 Farm to Table: Homemade Biscuits & Butter
Kayaking: Basics
Twilight Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday | 15 Animal Care Experience
Dad and Me and the Great Outdoors
Great American Campout Begins
Mayslake Hall Franciscan Era Tour | 22 Farm to Table: Honeybees & Local Cheese
Sunrise Hayride
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery |
| | | 23 Wildlife Encounters |
| | | 27 The Glorious Fourth |
| | | 28 Fishing: Families |
| | | 30 Wildlife Encounters |



Plants & Wildlife

Animal Care Experiences 15507

Get an exclusive, in-depth look at different aspects of animal care, and help prepare and deliver food or enrichment to the resident animals. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Enrichment		
April 7	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
May 12	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
June 15	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Diet		
April 20	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
May 26	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook

Bird Walk 15248

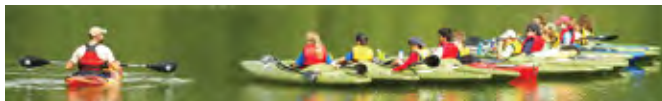
Join a naturalist-led hike to see how the diversity of birds changes through spring. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person in advance; \$5 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 5	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Danada
April 10	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
April 19	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
April 24	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley
May 3	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 17	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
May 22	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Springbrook

Bird Walk: Warblers 15508

Search for these colorful neotropical migrants on a special naturalist-led hike. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person in advance; \$5 at the walk. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

May 18	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods
May 25	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Songbird Slough



Summer Camps 15109

Multiple Locations

From critters, crafts and kayaking to life on the farm or time as a ranger, the Forest Preserve District has a great lineup of day camps for kids and teens ages 5 –15. Several camps are still open so register online!

Climate Change and Habitat Restoration 15521

Join our director of Natural Resources to learn about past, present, and future habitat restoration projects, how they affect biodiversity, and what we can do to help natural areas adapt as climate gets warmer and drier – or wetter. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 16	6:30 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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An Evening for the OAKS 15467

Learn what you can do to help the county's rare oak communities. This joint event with the Woodridge Park District will have a brief presentation by local experts on planting and caring for oaks followed by a Q-and-A session. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 15	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Woodridge
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Twilight Hike 15485

Experience the transition from daylight to twilight, and learn how to use your senses like a nocturnal predator on a guided hike. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 6	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
April 20	7 – 9 p.m.	Blackwell
May 4	7 – 9 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 18	7 – 9 p.m.	Waterfall Glen
June 8	7 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Wildlife Encounters 15506

Join a naturalist and an animal keeper to participate in hands-on positive-reinforcement training with one of the center's resident animal. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$50 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Bobcat		
April 14 & 28	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
June 2 & 23	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Woodchuck		
May 19	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
June 9 & 30	1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Willowbrook



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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.

Ways to Play

Archery: Families 15460

Learn basic techniques and safety essentials of this classic sport. Equipment provided. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 5	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
April 26	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
May 4	9:30 – 11 a.m.	Wood Dale Grove
May 17	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
June 14	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Blackwell

Dad and Me and the Great Outdoors 15593

Take Dad on an adventure with a nature scavenger hunt, and then make a fun craft. Ages 5 – 12 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

June 15	1 – 2 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Fishing

Families 15469

Learn fish ecology and identification as well as techniques and regulations. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 12	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Hidden Lake
April 19	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
May 31	5 – 6:30 p.m.	Blackwell
June 28	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Meacham Grove

Just for Kids Fishing Derby 15579

Bring the family to this friendly fishing competition just for kids 15 and younger with raffles and prizes for the biggest catches. Ages 15 and under with an adult. Free. Register online, at the event or at 630-933-7248.

June 9	8 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
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Fore!

The Preserve at Oak Meadows

Maple Meadows • Green Meadows

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit DuPageGolf.com.

Spring Trout Season Opener

Try your luck at Blackwell, Pratt's Wayne Woods or Wood Dale Grove. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7668.

April 6	6 a.m.	Multiple
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With Dad 15474

Enjoy a morning by the lake with Dad as you learn how to catch and ID different fish. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 16	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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With Mom 15466

Spend the morning along the water with Mom as you learn how to catch different kinds of fish. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

May 12	10 a.m. – Noon	Hidden Lake
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Horse Time

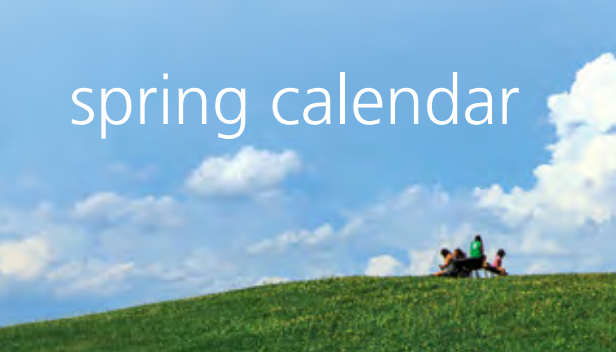
Danada Equestrian Center

RIDING LESSONS 15329

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in April, May and June. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

NO RUSH BRUSH

Interested in spending time with a horse but don't care to ride? Want to get comfortable on the ground before your first lesson? Then join us for 45 minutes of one-on-one grooming time followed by 15 minutes of lectures or ground work. Ages 10 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 per person. Register at 630-668-6012.



More Ways to Play

GROUP ADVENTURES BY REQUEST

Attention families, friends, Scouts, youth groups and seniors! Let us plan a ranger-led archery, fishing, kayaking or nature hike program for your group of 10 or more. Ages and fees vary by program. To schedule yours, call 630-933-7247.

KAYAK, CANOE AND BOAT RENTALS

Rentals are \$12 per hour for single kayaks or rowboats, \$15 for two-person kayaks or canoes, and \$20 for boats with trolling motors (Blackwell only) and end one hour before closing. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Blackwell

April 6 – May 26

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

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

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

Open 8 a.m. Memorial Day, July 4 & Labor Day

Sept. 7 – Sept. 29

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Herrick Lake

Memorial Day – Labor Day

Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6:30 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.

May 4 – Oct. 27

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice.

FAMILY CAMPGROUND

Blackwell

Due to habitat restoration work along Spring Brook Creek, campsite availability will be limited in 2019, but we'll have some openings on select Friday and Saturday nights. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits," or call Visitor Services at 630-933-7248.

Great American Campout 15269

Bring your tent and gear to a family-fun campout that's part of the National Wildlife Federation's nationwide event!

Enjoy picnic games, archery, nature activities, a guided night hike and an egg-drop contest. Campfire dinner, s'mores and continental breakfast included. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person ages 2 and up; under 2 free. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

June 15 – 16	1 p.m. – 11 a.m.	Greene Valley
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Kayaking: Basics 15481

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

May 10	5 – 7 p.m.	Herrick Lake
May 24	5 – 7 p.m.	East Branch
June 8	9 – 11 a.m.	Herrick Lake

Health & Well-Being

Earth Day Poetry Walk 15592

Celebrate Earth Day on a guided walk featuring nature-inspired poetry. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

April 27	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Forest Fitness Walk 15256

Enjoy the wonders of the preserves with a naturalist, and get some healthy exercise on these brisk walks that increase in distance every week. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person in advance; \$5 at the walk. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 1	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Maple Grove
April 8	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Hidden Lake
April 15	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
April 22	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Springbrook
April 29	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Herrick Lake
May 6	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Timber Ridge
May 13	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Blackwell
May 20	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Fresh Air Friday 15594

Breathe deep on a guided walk through the preserve. Ages 18 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-580-7025.

June 14	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Mindful Nature Walking for Seniors 15304

Experience the healing benefits of nature on a relaxing 1-mile (or shorter) guided walk designed just for you. Get tips on mindfulness and tidbits about nature, too! Come alone or bring a friend; the trail can accommodate walkers and canes. Ages 60 and up. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

April 9	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Hidden Lake
May 14	1:30 – 3 p.m.	Oldfield Oaks
June 18	1:30 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm

National Trails Day Hike 15591

Celebrate with trails fans across the U.S. as you learn about plants, wildlife, history and forest preserve features. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 1	9 – 10 a.m.	Springbrook
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Summer Solstice Hike 13816

Celebrate the longest day of the year, and learn about wildlife, plants, history and forest preserve features on a ranger-led hike that ends with a view of the sunset from the top of the scenic overlook. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

June 21	6 – 8 p.m.	Greene Valley
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Sunrise Gratitude Walk 15296

In time for Memorial Day, contemplate the freedoms you're grateful for on a leisurely guided walk. Bring pen and paper to jot down your thoughts (if the mood strikes you) at scheduled stops along the way. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person in advance; \$5 at the walk. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

May 25	7 – 8:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Sunrise Hayride 15433

After coffee, juice and doughnuts in the barn, relax on a tractor-drawn hayride through this scenic preserve. Bask in the summer sunrise over Rice Lake, and then get a glimpse of the horses in their paddocks as they greet the day. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-668-6012.

June 22	4:30 – 6 a.m.	Danada
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Living Green

Farm to Table

Homemade Biscuits & Butter 15522

Bake delicious homemade biscuits in an 1890s summer kitchen, learn how to make your own butter the historic way, and enjoy fresh local herbs in your creations. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

June 8	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Honeybees & Local Cheese 15523

Ever wonder how much honey comes from one hive or how many gallons of milk it takes to make cheese? Discover the answers and the histories of these foods as you learn how to pair the two while tasting local selections. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-876-5900.

June 22	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Native Plant Sale

Attract butterflies, bees and other pollinators with flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs adapted to DuPage conditions, and get advice from Forest Preserve District plant experts while you shop. All ages. Free admission. No registration. For details and presale orders, visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale.

May 10	11 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Mayslake
May 11	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Mayslake

We've hand-picked the next eight programs to make it easier for you to find different ways to make the most of this year's sale, so register today!

Eco Wind Chime Workshop 15298

Bring tranquility to your garden by making a wind chime from repurposed materials, and get inspiration for other "upcycled" projects. Supplies included. Ages 18 and up. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

May 2	10 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Native Landscaping: All About Plants 15234

Learn about the benefits of native plants and how their root structures differ from ornamentals'. Get tips and tricks for planting natives in your own yard to attract wildlife. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 7	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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spring calendar



Native Landscaping: Design 15237

Bring digital or hand-drawn pictures of your landscaping plan to a 40-minute customized session with our experts, and then leave with a design for your own backyard habitat. Sessions start at 6, 6:40 and 7:20 p.m. Ages 18 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 10	6 – 8 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Native Landscaping: For Birds, Bees and You 15247

Learn how to create a beautiful, lower-maintenance, highly productive, resource-conserving backyard landscape that benefits wildlife and you. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 27	9 – 10:30 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Native Landscaping: Wild Suburbia 15323

Learn how to attract pollinators and other wildlife to your yard using beautiful native plants, and make a wildlife-safe project for your garden. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

April 13	1 – 3 p.m.	Willowbrook
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Native Landscaping: Yikes! What's Wrong With My Plant? 15297

Learn diagnostic steps that can help you pinpoint what's killing your plant's branches or chewing on its leaves. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 25	7 – 8 p.m.	Mayslake
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Wellness Stretching for Gardening 15299

Explore how to keep your muscles and joints flexible as you work in your garden. Be ready to stretch and move at this active beginner's program, and learn ways to keep your body (and mind) fit. Ages 18 and up. \$3 per person in advance; \$5 at the program. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

June 12	9 – 10 a.m.	Mayslake
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Wildflower Walk 15266

Find out how to identify different spring flowers, and discover which varieties you can grow at home during a leisurely walk with a plant expert. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-850-8110.

April 24	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
May 1	10 – 11 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Heritage

Family Field Day at St. James Farm

Celebrate the farm's heritage at this annual event featuring equestrian, canine, and sheep-herding demos, a dairy exhibit, hayrides, kids activities, archery, fishing, and food. All ages. Free admission; fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

June 1	11 a.m. – 5 p.m.	St. James Farm
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The Glorious Fourth

Experience the excitement of one of America's first holidays. In the afternoon play 1887 baseball, make crafts and watch model hot-air balloon launches. Stay into the evening for a reading of the Declaration of Independence and an ice cream social. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

June 27	2 – 8 p.m.	Kline Creek Farm
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Mayslake Hall Engineering Tour 15289

Explore the mansion and learn about the structural, mechanical and electrical innovations used in its construction. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

May 21	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Mayslake Hall Franciscan Era Tour 15293

Learn about the Franciscans who operated Mayslake Hall as a retreat house from 1924 to 1991 and the "mad monks" who chased away curious visitors. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 30	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
June 15	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Mayslake Hall Unseen Spaces Tour 15285

Take a guided, behind-the-scenes tour (including stairs) of the hall's basement, attic and collection storage space. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 19	10 – 11:30 a.m.	Mayslake
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Registering on dupageforest.org?

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Memorial Day Remembered

Observe Memorial Day with a ceremony rooted in the history and traditions of the late 1800s, when the holiday was known as "Decoration Day." All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

May 27 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Tractor-Drawn Covered Wagon Rides

St. James Farm

Enjoy a 30-minute ride through the farm. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-580-7025.

May 5 – 26 Sundays
June 5 – 30 Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays
Noon, 12:45 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Sheep Shearing

Watch farmhands shear the Southdown sheep without electricity, and see how trained border collies herd a flock. Learn how washed wool becomes dyed, spun yarn, and enjoy quilting and other handwork demonstrations. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

May 4 & 5 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

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.

Wednesdays 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:30, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

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

BLACKSMITHING DEMONSTRATIONS

Stop by the wagon shed to see the blacksmith demonstrate the tools and techniques of the trade.

Saturdays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

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

June 3 – Aug. 26
Mondays 10 – 11 a.m.

DAIRY MONTH

Learn why some farmers bred Shorthorn cattle for milk and some for meat, how farmers milked their cows, and why the windmill was vital to a farm's dairy operations. On weekends, watch cooking demonstrations. Activities vary, so follow facebook.com/klinecreekfarm for updates.

June 1 – 30
Thursday – Monday
Hours Vary

FARM CHORES FOR KIDS

Kids, learn firsthand how 1890s children helped on the house and farm, on Mondays with Mom's chores and Thursdays with Dad's.

June 3 – Aug. 29 (except July 4)
Mondays & Thursdays 1:30, 2:30 & 3:30 p.m.

FARMHOUSE MUSEUM TOUR

Explore the lifestyle of a successful farm family as you tour the farmhouse museum. Learn how the home was a place for work as well as relaxation and how it served as the building block of the rural community.

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

SPRING PLANTING

Watch the draft horses plow and harrow the fields to ready them for planting, and see the kitchen garden prepped to ensure fresh and canned vegetables year-round. Activities vary, so follow facebook.com/klinecreekfarm for updates.

May 11 – 26
Saturdays & Sundays 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.



Nature Art & Performances

Art at Mayslake

Easy Botanical Drawing Four-Part Class 15291
Working in graphite and watercolors, learn the basics as you draw plants from the fields, forest and gardens of Mayslake. Supplies included. Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$100 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 22 – May 13 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake



Theater and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

FIRST FOLIO THEATRE'S *THE FIRESTORM*

Gaby and Patrick, an interracial political power couple hot on the campaign trail, are thrust into the center of a media frenzy when a racially charged incident from Patrick's past surfaces, fracturing their seemingly perfect marriage. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$25 – \$44 per person. Tickets at 630-986-8067 or firstfolio.org.

Through April 28

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

Sundays & Thursdays 3 – 5 p.m.

Plus April 13 – 27

Saturdays 4 – 6 p.m.

ART EXHIBITS

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

ALLIANCE OF FINE ART

Through April 29

OAK BROOK ART LEAGUE

May 1 – July 1

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Exploring Watercolor Five- or Eight-Part Class 15308

Improve your skills at this intermediate-advanced, open-studio-style class, where you'll get guidance from the instructor and group critique sessions. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$105 per person for five-part April 16 class; \$165 for eight-part June 4 class. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 16 – May 21 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake
(except April 23)

June 4 – July 23 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake

Intro to Watercolor Landscapes Four- or Eight-Part Class 15311

Try basic sketching and watercolor painting techniques and plein-air exercises to create paintings focusing on the landscape. Tuesdays. Ages 18 and up. \$85 per person for four-part April 30 class; \$165 for eight-part June 4 class. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 30 – May 21 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake
June 4 – July 23 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake

Plein-Air Oil Painting Four-Part Class 15292

Learn practical logistics of painting outdoors on the beautiful grounds of Mayslake. Each session will focus on a different area (composition, value, etc.) Mondays. Ages 18 and up. \$100 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 29 – May 20 9 a.m. – Noon Mayslake

Lectures at Mayslake: Beatrix Potter 15300

At this first-person portrayal, learn about the author and illustrator of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, who was also a conservationist who bequeathed over 4,000 acres of land to the National Trust in the U.K. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 13 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Mayslake

Music at Mayslake

Acappellago

Join this a cappella chamber choir for *Another Sentimental Journey*, a special farewell performance led by founding maestro Dennis Smith featuring favorites from 17 seasons – and a few surprises. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 – \$17 per person. Tickets at acappellago.org or 708-484-3797.

May 11 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Mayslake



Registering on dupageforest.org?

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Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra

Celebrate National Poetry Month with nature-inspired poems from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and performances by Janelle Jansen Lake and Nicole Luchs. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$12 – \$25 per person. Tickets at elmhurstsymphony.org or 630-941-0202.

April 11	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Sinfonietta Bel Canto Presents *Gianni Schicchi*

This staged performance of the third part of Puccini's 100-year-old opera *Il Trittico* features a full orchestra accompaniment and is sung in Italian with a projected English translation. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 – \$24 per person. Tickets at sinfoniettabelcanto.org.

May 9	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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WDCB Jazz 15509

Join us April 18 for the Curtis Robinson Trio and jazz instrumental treatments of the music of Motown and June 13 for the world-acclaimed Elmhurst College Jazz Band. Ticket proceeds from both nights support the restoration of Mayslake Hall. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

April 18	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake
June 13	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Mayslake

Volunteer

Earth Week Forest Preserve Pick-Me-Up 15575

Pick up your mood as you help pick up litter or remove invasive 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).

April 22	4 – 6 p.m.	Springbrook
April 23	4 – 6 p.m.	Burlington Park
April 24	4 – 6 p.m.	Greene Valley
April 25	4 – 6 p.m.	Springbrook
April 26	4 – 6 p.m.	McDowell

Spring Into Volunteering 15544

Join Scouts, families and other forest preserve fans to clean and beautify a popular preserve. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630.

April 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Herrick Lake
April 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Spring Creek Res.

Volunteer Restoration Workday 15547

Help improve a 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).

April 6 & 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
April 13	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
April 13, 14, 27 & 28	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
April 20	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
May 4, 11 & 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
May 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
May 11 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
May 11 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	St. James Farm
May 18	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill Woods
June 8	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
June 9	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 15447

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

April 27	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
May 4, 10, 15 & 20	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell
June 1, 7, 12, 17 & 22	8 – 11 a.m.	Blackwell

Nature Play

by **ANAMARI DORGAN**, COMMUNITY SERVICES & EDUCATION

We were exploring a forested trail when the lightning came and the skies opened up, forcing us to seek shelter. The storm eventually passed, and as we returned to the car, lo and behold there were puddles galore. So what did my 3- and 4-year-olds instinctively do? They galloped and jumped and splashed the whole way back, giggling uncontrollably, as did I. They played until they were sopping wet and covered with mud from head to toe. And it was wonderful.

Play is essential to childhood development, and although board games, Legos and play sets are important, they can't beat the benefits of unstructured "nature play." Fueled by our species' innate connection with the outdoors, kids engaging in nature play walk on top of fallen logs, lead off-trail expeditions through tall grasses, find forts in the low-hanging branches of trees, or turn over rocks to discover what lies beneath.

Nature play is fun, and behind the scenes it's continuously doing amazing things for young bodies and brains. It often lasts longer than indoor play and is more complex and self-directed. It presents irregular, challenging spaces that help kids recognize, assess and negotiate risk while gaining confidence and competence. As much as we parents want to guide our kids' development, nature play encourages learning through independent trial and error. Recent research tells us even more.

It's good for growing bodies.

- Nature play improves motor skills. Negotiating boulders and logs demands more coordination than balancing on manufactured play equipment.
- When enjoyed regularly, it reduces incidences of obesity.
- It increases exposure to sunlight and vitamin D, which when deficient can put kids at risk for several health conditions.



▲ Focusing on finds in the distance gives young eyes a break from close-up screen time.



▲ Stepping from rock to rock requires more strength and dexterity than balancing on equipment in a playground.

Show Them How It's Done (We Can Help!)

The world beyond our backyards can be scary for kids, but we can do a lot to remove some of the anxiety. Get your kids talking about nature. Bring bits of it into your home. When outside, encourage independent exploration and risk-taking, and by all means let them get dirty!

The Forest Preserve District has programs for kids from tots to teens that present new experiences and ways to safely enjoy nature play. This spring's schedule starts on Page 8. You can also request a customized adventure just for your group by calling 630-933-7247.



© FatCamera

- It focuses young eyes on what's ahead, not on hand-held devices, reducing the risk of nearsightedness, which is increasingly common in children.
- It stimulates the immune system. (Yes, dirt is good!) Kids who frequently play in natural settings are sick less often than those who don't.

It's good for developing brains.

- Nature play places kids in natural environments, which fosters the development of independence and autonomy and improves awareness, reasoning, and observational skills.
- It improves early literacy skills and reinforces self-worth.
- It helps children with symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder better concentrate.
- It reduces stress and incidences of behavioral disorders, anxiety and depression.

It's good for young social skills.

- It teaches kids how to collaborate, establish community rules and exercise self-control.
- Natural environments stimulate social interaction, create more positive feelings between kids, and reduce bullying.
- Nature play fosters a connection between kids and the natural world, creating a lifelong love of the environment and an interest in protecting it that lasts well into adulthood.

For thousands of years we humans existed exclusively in the great outdoors, attuned to the feel of the breeze on a warm day, the smell of soil after a rain, the sound of splashing water. No wonder today's nature play engages the imagination and supports the healthy development of our littlest humans as seamlessly as it does. •

Kick Around a Creek

First-hand experiences in nature "off the beaten path" give a huge boost to a child's body, mind and well-being. Fortunately, DuPage preserves have plenty of neat places to poke around.

At Kline Creek Farm, a recently cleared area near the parking lot gives kids room to run, explore and feel the creek through their fingers. A footpath along the water has fallen logs to climb and rocks to overturn to see what lives below. But grown-ups, don't forget to embrace your own "inner child" while you're there. Nature play is great for everyone!





Dig In With Natives

by **JAYNE BOHNER**, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Here at the Forest Preserve District we're all about native plants. We grow them, plant them, spread them. We even sell them. (See our back page ad!) But what's so great about native plants, and how can we take advantage of that greatness in our own backyards?

In a nutshell, natives are grasses, flowers, shrubs and other plants that have been growing in an area for centuries (not the same exact individual plants, of course, but the same species, reseeding or otherwise spreading year after year). As a result, here in DuPage, native plants are well-adapted to hot summers, hungry insects, droughts and far-from-perfect soils.

Many plants you'll find at local garden shops are not native. Most are "cultivars" specifically bred for certain characteristics. Others are technically "native" but to other parts of the country or world. Some people prefer these types of plants, thinking natives will create unruly gardens, but many natives come in equally attractive colors with similar-looking leaves and sizes. And because natives are at home in DuPage, they're ideal lower-maintenance options for today's manicured landscapes. With some research you can create attractive tiered clusters of colors and textures that bloom throughout the growing season year after year.

Plant a patch of Virginia bluebells next to wild geraniums and meadow anemone, and in spring you'll have low-growing blankets of blues, pinks and whites. Group rough blazing star with wild bergamot and butterfly weed, and you'll get 3-foot-tall summertime stalks of magenta and purple poms next to wide bobbing clusters of orange blooms. Taller elm-leaved goldenrod and Short's aster planted with little bluestem will give you sprays of white and yellow next to waves of purplish bronze come fall.

Whatever you plant, don't forget the mulch. For those who prefer a "landscaped" look, a 2- to 3-inch layer can give any garden that finishing touch. Mulch also forms a barrier that helps beat back weeds before they have a chance to sprout.

More importantly, mulch limits evaporation, which means less watering, especially during summer's long dry spells. As it decomposes, it releases lots of rich organic material into the soil. It's also a welcome mat for earthworms, which pull that organic material underground, breaking it into smaller pieces that really get your garden growing!

Ready to get started? Visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale for a copy of our plant guide, and flip to Page 13 in this issue of *The Conservationist* for our lineup of gardening programs that'll get your creativity growing, too! •

Flower Swap

Just like cultivated plants you'll find at most garden shops, natives come in a variety of colors, textures and predictable sizes. Thinking about making the switch? Try some of these substitutes below.

If You Like

Pansies
Daylilies
Hostas
Dianthus
Bachelor's buttons
Snapdragons
Astilbes
Hibiscus

For Their

Burst of early spring color
Vibrant oranges
Tolerance for shade
Sprays of five-petaled flowers
Cornflower-blue blooms
Exotic flower heads
Feathery plumes
Tropical flare

Try This Native Plant Instead

Celandine poppy
Michigan lily
Wild ginger
Prairie phlox
Tall bellflower
Obedient plant
Queen of the prairie
Swamp rose mallow



▲ Celandine poppy



▲ Michigan lily



▲ Wild ginger



▲ Prairie phlox



▼ Tall bellflower



▼ Obedient plant



▼ Queen of the prairie



▼ Swamp rose mallow



Let It All Soak In

Even native plants need watering, especially the first few seasons as their roots start to take hold. Save water — and money — by using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler. On hot days a third of the water from a sprinkler can evaporate. Soaker hoses release less water and do so at ground level, limiting evaporation. After you plant, put the hose in place, cover it with mulch, and you're set!

directory



HEADQUARTERS

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

Visitor Services

630-933-7248

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Plus Saturdays June 1 – Aug. 24 (except
July 6) 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Fundraising & Development and the Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-933-7097

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

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



HOURS

Most forest preserves are open daily from
one hour after sunrise until one hour after
sunset. Education centers have varying
hours and are closed on select holidays.

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

Office

Daily 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 – 5 p.m.

KLINE CREEK FARM

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

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Thursdays June – August 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

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

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Closed Sundays

Tours

Wednesdays 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9, 9:30, 10, 11 & 11:30 a.m.
No tours mid-December – mid-January

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

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

Visitor Center

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

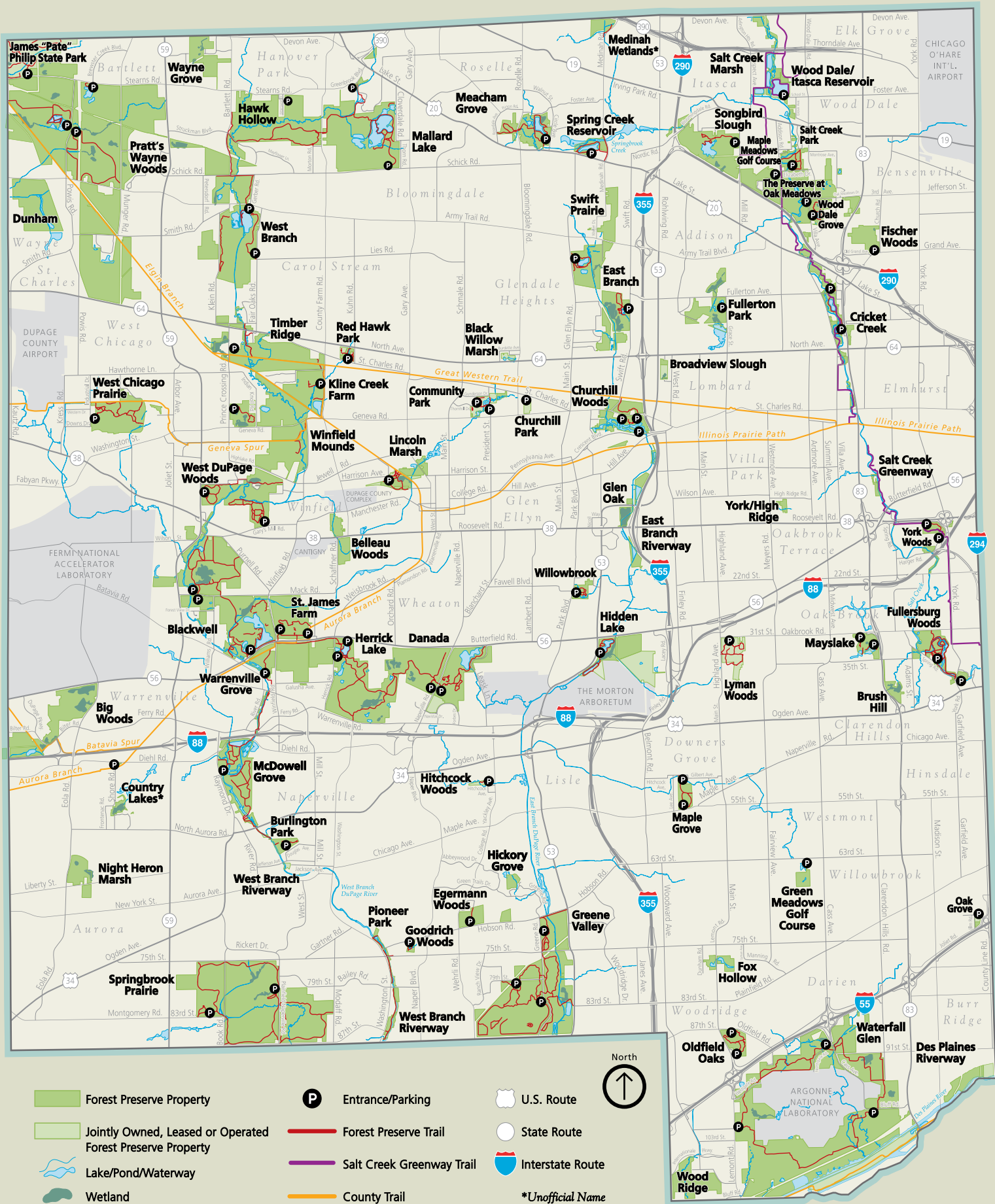
Animal Admittance

November – March

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

April – October

Daily 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

35580 Naperville Road
P.O. Box 5000
Wheaton, IL 60189

please deliver to current resident

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Carol Stream, IL
Permit No. 96

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Spring 2019

Native Plant Sale

Plant Local, Think Global

dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale

Friday & Saturday

May 10 • 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

May 11 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Shop for flowers, grasses, trees
and shrubs, and get expert advice
on creating inviting habitats
in your own backyard.

Save the Date! Preorders begin
March 11 for the first 350 customers.

For info on presale orders and programs,
visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale.

• Mayslake Peabody Estate
• 1717 W. 31st St. in Oak Brook

