

CELEBRATE OAKtober WITH US!



WHAT IS OAKTOBER?

OAKtober is Illinois' month-long celebration of oak trees and the things that make them great. We love oaks here at the Forest Preserve District, so we're thrilled to be a part of it!

WHY OAKS?

Think of your favorite wild animals — white-tailed deer, woodpeckers, chickadees, white-footed mice, nuthatches, owls, squirrels. In one way or another they all depend on oaks for food or shelter. Over 500 different kinds of insects rely on the trees! (That's good news for the birds, frogs, squirrels and other animals that dine on insects.) Oaks also provide shade and soak up thousands of gallons of water during heavy rains.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PLANT OAKS IN MY TOWN?

As the county's oaks age (many are well over 100 years old), there aren't as many new ones to replace them. The Forest Preserve District creates areas where oaks can thrive, but the benefits of oaks don't stop at the property line. Oaks planted outside of the forest preserves extend the oak canopy into parks and backyards, giving wild animals that depend on the stately trees more places to live and dine.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE OAKTOBER?

Whether you're ready to start planting or just want to spread the word, there are lots of ways you can be a part of OAKtober!

- Plant an oak in your yard this fall.
- Volunteer at an oak-recovery workday, and help remove invasive plants so oaks have space to grow.
- Hug an oak tree.
- Join a guided walk through an oak forest.
- Invite a local oak expert to talk at your next neighborhood or civic meeting.
- Encourage your town to plant oaks in picnic areas and parks.
- Find the largest oak in your neighborhood and share it with your friends on social media.
- Encourage classrooms to write essays or create posters on the importance of oaks.
- Sign up for one of the OAKtober programs on the flip side of this flyer.

