Welcome to the Forest Preserves of Cook County! While you’re out in the forest preserves this summer, perhaps trying out one of the programs offered in this brochure, look for the big improvements we’re making across the county:

- At Ned Brown Preserve (Busse Woods) in Elk Grove Village, a new boathouse on Busse Reservoir opened in April, offering boat rental, food concessions and a bait shop.

- Also at Ned Brown, a new pedestrian overpass carries hikers and cyclists across busy Higgins Road, completing a 7.7-mile bike loop.

- At Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland, a new boardwalk snakes across a wetland, allowing visitors to explore this sensitive environment without destroying it.

- New permanent toilet facilities at Bremen Grove in Oak Forest and a refurbished comfort station at Eggers Woods in Chicago are two of ten new facilities that make it easier to enjoy the preserves.

- Recently refurbished 1930s pavilions at Thatcher Woods in River Forest and Dan Ryan Woods in Chicago now host programs and can be reserved for private events.

- By summer 2015, the Forest Preserves will open five campgrounds across the county, allowing organized groups, families and individuals to camp in Cook County.

We’re working harder than ever to connect more people to the preserves, investing in infrastructure that welcomes visitors and helps make every visit to the preserves special.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
President,
Forest Preserves of Cook County

Visit our website at fpdcc.com
**ART IN NATURE SERIES**
Saturday, August 9 • 8 am – noon
artist Kathy Clouse. Introductory outdoor painting class taught by artist Kimberly Butts.
Bring your own equipment and join us in this activity-packed day camp!

**SUMMER SCIENCE SERIES**
Throughout the summer

**EVENING PROGRAMS**

**Twilight Canoe Trip**
Explore a local lake in a canoe at twilight. Adults only. Registration required.
Friday, June 27 • 6:30 pm

**Bird House Contest**
Six boxes or treasure chests for natural objects. Taught by artist Kimberly Butts.

**Yo-ga in Nature**
Experience an open approach to yoga by practicing outdoors with a Master Yoga Instructor. Classes pare yoga down to its original link with nature. Registration and release form required.
Every Sunday in June, July & August • 10 am

**SUMMER DAY CAMPS**
For teens and adults. Registration required.

**Prairie Supermarket**
Illinois prairies were managed by native peoples for food, medicine and useful items. Learn about plant uses on this hike.
Sunday, June 29 • 1 pm

**Who’s Your Daddy?**
The roles that fathers play in the animal kingdom vary greatly from species to species. An informative inside program will be followed by an outside walk to spot “dads at work.”
Sunday, June 15 • 1 pm

**Old Stover Trailhead Bike Ride**
Appropriate for all abilities and bikes, this bike loop links the Nature Center to the Paul Douglas Paved Trail. Bring your bikes and helmets. Registration required.
Sunday, June 22 • 1 pm

**Dip ‘n Drip**
We’ll walk out to a wetland and take samples with dip nets to see what kinds of small critters are living in the water. Water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent are recommended. Shoes and clothing can get wet and muddy.
Sunday, July 6 • 1 pm

**Bring on the Butterflies**
Learn about some of the local Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) and how you can make your yard more “butterfly friendly.”
Sunday, July 13 • 1 pm

**Navigation**
Learn compass reading, map reading and GPS skills.
Wednesday, July 16 • 10 am – noon

**Insect Investigations**
Take a close look at some of our creepy-crawlies and learn about their unique forms and complex life cycles.
Wednesday, August 13 • 10 am – noon

**Bugapalooza!**
Explore insects with activities and crafts. Who will you catch (and release) on your insect safari?
Sunday, August 3 • noon – 4 pm

**Cicadas!**
Lurking below the soil for years, these insects crawl to the surface and make themselves known during the August heat. Learn about their secretive beginnings which later become a part of the summer throng throughout our area.
Sunday, August 10 • 1 pm

**Herps!**
Crabtree is home to many different species of amphibians and reptiles. We’ll meet some of our herp neighbors and learn about their interesting adaptations and lifestyles.
Sunday, August 17 • 1 pm

**SUMMER SCIENCE SERIES**
Perfect for homeschoolers or any kid that likes science, ages 8 – 13. Registration required. $2/class, $5/series.

**Water Wonders**
We’ll investigate the critters big and small that inhabit our ponds and streams.
Wednesday, June 11 • 10 am – noon

**Insect Investigations**
Try stick-tastic activities in our nature play area.

**Altered Altoid Tin**
Transform these boxes into works of art, shadow boxes or treasure chests for natural objects. Taught by artist Kimberly Butts.
Saturday, July 19 • 1 pm

**Beginning Plein Air Painting**
Bring your own equipment and join us in this introductory outdoor painting class taught by artist Kathy Clouse.
Saturday, August 9 • 8 am – noon

**New Summer Hours!**
Hours, June – August
Building 9 am – 4:30 pm, closed Mondays
Grounds 8 am – 5 pm daily
Special Evening Hours! Open Thursdays until 8 pm

**Don’t Miss**
Young Naturalist Field Camp
Hiking, experiments and wildlife discovery await you during this hands-on camp. Ages 9 – 11. Max: 10.
Registration required*. $30.
Tuesday – Thursday, July 8 – 10 • 9:30 am – noon

Nature Art Camp
Tuesday – Thursday, July 15-17 • 10 am – noon

Hooked!
Learn the basics of fishing. Supplies are limited. You’re encouraged to bring your own equipment. Fishing will take place at Papoose Lake. Max: 20.
Registration required.
Saturday, June 7 • 8 – 11 am

Nature is Accessible!
Join us for hours of fun and exploration. Trail walks, pond exploration and hands-on learning will delight visitors of all abilities. Learning activities are accessible.
Wednesday, June 4 • 10 am – 2 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
708-839-6897
Hours, June – August
Building 9 am – 4:30 pm, closed Mondays
Grounds 8 am – 5 pm daily
Special Evening Hours! Open Thursdays until 8 pm

* Registration for all camps begins June 1.
**RiverTrail Nature Center**

### THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

**What’s On The Menu?**
Join us at feeding time to learn about our display animals and their unique habits.
Saturdays & Sundays • 3 pm

**Small Serendipity**
Join us for a nature story and craft or other activity. For preschool and kindergarten children ages 3-6 with an adult. $1 per child.
Wednesdays, June 4 & 18; July 9 & 23; August 13 & 27 • 10 am

### SUMMER ANIMAL SERIES

**Snakes**
Learn about the amazing adaptations snakes use to survive.
Sunday, June 15 • 1:30 pm

**Raptors**
Visit our resident birds of prey and learn about their intriguing characteristics and survival techniques.
Sunday, June 22 • 1:30 pm

**Illinois Mammals**
Ever wonder who might be living in your local forest preserve? Stop by and learn about some of our resident mammals.
Sunday, July 13 • 1:30 pm

**Amphibians**
Learn about the amazing adaptations frogs, toads and salamanders use to survive.
Sunday, August 3 • 1:30 pm

**Owls**
Visit our resident owls and learn about the unique behaviors that make them so fascinating.
Sunday, August 17 • 1:30 pm

### JUNE

**NIGHTLIFE**
Join us on a summer’s night for a unique, nature-themed event, led by one of our naturalists.
*Registration required. $2 per person. 7:15 pm check-in; 7:30 pm start.*

**Raptors**
Visit with our resident birds of prey and learn about the unique characteristics that help them survive.
*Limited entries.*
Friday, June 20 • 7:30 pm

**Bug Bonanza**
Discover the numerous species of insects that live around River Trail.
Sunday, June 8 • 1:30 pm

**Campfire Stories**
Join us on a summer’s night for stories and snacks by a campfire.
Friday, July 25 • 7:30 pm

**Bats**
Separate fact from myth about these fascinating creatures while watching for them over the lawn and river.
Friday, August 15 • 7:30 pm

### SUMMER CAMPS

Camps are four days each. $10 per child. Snacks and beverages provided.

**Discovery Days Camp**
Four fun-filled days participating in engaging hands-on science activities, hikes, arts and crafts. *Registration and payment required by 6/9. Ages 4-6. Monday – Thursday, June 23 – 26 • 9:30 am – noon*

**Nature Explorers Camp**
Engage with and explore the wonders of the forest preserves through hands-on science activities, art projects using natural and recycled materials and nature play activities. *Registration and payment required by 6/30. Ages 7-9. Monday – Thursday, July 14 – 17 • 9:30 am – noon*

**Junior Keepers Camp**
We’ll get our hands dirty as we learn about proper care, feeding, and cleaning of nature center animals. *Registration and payment required by 7/21. Ages 10-12. Monday – Thursday, August 4 – 7 • 9:30 am – noon*

### JULY

**Family Fish School**
Have fun with your family learning about fish and fishing with the Forest Preserve’s fisheries biologist. Limited equipment available or bring your own.
*Registration required. $2 per person. Sunday, June 1 • 9 am – noon*

**Creepy Crawlers**
Catch a case of the willies as we search the trails and gardens for insects, spiders, and other multi-legged beasts.
Sunday, July 6 • 1:30 pm

**Life Under a Log**
You will be surprised at the many things that live in, on and under a rotting tree.
Sunday, July 20 • 1:30 pm

**Bike the Trails**
Bring your off-road bike for a leisurely trek through the forest preserves with one of our naturalists. Helmet required, water bottle recommended.
Sunday, July 27 • 1:30 pm

**Dog Days of Summer**
Walk the trails with a naturalist to experience the wonders of nature.
Sunday, August 10 • 1:30 pm

### AUGUST

**People’s Choice Awards**
Stop by and vote for your favorite River Trail animal. Immediately following, there will be an educational program about the winner.
Sunday, August 17 • 1:30 pm

**Photography Workshop**
Discover how to capture the beautiful sights the forest preserves have to offer. A naturalist will guide you through some techniques to capture your outdoor experience. Point and shoot cameras will be provided. Hiking shoes necessary. For novice photographers. Max: 10. *Registration required. Saturday, August 30 • 9:30 am – noon*

**Wetland Wrigglers**
Take a peek at the weird and wriggling creatures that inhabit a wetland.
Sunday, August 31 • 1:30 pm

**Family Fish School**
Have fun with your family learning about fish and fishing with the Forest Preserve’s fisheries biologist. Limited equipment available or bring your own.
*Registration required. $2 per person. Sunday, June 1 • 9 am – noon*

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Canyon Tours
The Sagawau Canyon is the only natural exposure of bedrock in Cook County. Join naturalists for a hike down the canyon to learn about its formation and how it contributes to local ecological diversity. Meet at Learning Center. Registration required.
June, Saturdays • 1 pm; July, Sundays • 1 pm; August, Saturdays • 1 pm (No canyon tour on August 16 due to Hummingbird Fest.)

Summer Prairie Tour
Enjoy a naturalist-guided walk to learn the history of our restored, tall-grass prairie and why plant diversity is so important.
Sundays, June 22 & August 10 • 1 pm

Field Trip Fridays
A naturalist-led hike at a nearby forest preserve will focus on the site’s history and how it contributes to local ecological diversity. Meet at Learning Center. Registration required.
Swallow Cliff: Friday, June 13 • 9 am – noon
McLaughry Springs: Friday, June 27 • 9 am – noon
Spears Woods: Friday, July 11 • 9 am – noon
Black Partridge: Friday, August 1 • 9 am – noon
Cranberry Slough: Friday, August 29 • 9 am – noon

Drop-In Bird Banding
Banding has been used to study birds for centuries. Visit with our banders to learn about this method and observe bird species up close. Weather permitting.
Wednesdays in June & July, August 20 • 8 am – noon

Monarch Mondays
Take an in-depth look at the Monarch butterfly. Learn about its life cycle, migration and how to conserve its habitat. Registration required.
Mondays, June 23, July 28, August 25 • 10 am – 2 pm

Turtles
Learn about current conservation practices used to study the habits and habitats of these local reptiles.
Sunday, June 1 • 1 pm

Drawing Nature
Learn techniques to capture nature’s beauty. Explore light and shadow, textures, and how to draw plants and animals.
Friday, June 6 • 10 am

Snakes
Learn about the snakes living in the Sag Valley. We will discuss how ecological restoration has improved the health of the snake’s habitat in prairies and wetlands.
Sunday, June 8 • 1 pm

Field Trip Fridays

Sounds of Summer
Listen to the orchestra of insects and birds and learn how they use sound to communicate.
Sunday, August 3 • 1 pm

SUNDAYS, JUNE 22 & AUGUST 10 • 1 PM

Summer Prairie Tour
Enjoy a naturalist-guided walk to learn the history of our restored, tall-grass prairie and why plant diversity is so important.

Turtles
Learn about current conservation practices used to study the habits and habitats of these local reptiles.

Field Trip Fridays

Sounds of Summer
Listen to the orchestra of insects and birds and learn how they use sound to communicate.

Sunday, August 3 • 1 pm

DON’T MISS
Hummingbird Festival
Celebrate the beauty of these amazing birds, and join us for games, viewing and demonstrations of how the birds are banded for tracking and research purposes.
Saturday, August 16 • 8:30 am – 3 pm

Hummingbird Sit
Take a seat and watch hummingbirds as they use aerial displays to guard their feeding resources.
Sunday, August 17 • 1 pm

Dragonfly Pondwatch
Hike to the CCC quarry in search of the first migrant dragonflies. Learn to identify these migratory species on their northern flight.
Monday, June 9 • 1 pm

Bluebirds
Observe this cavity-nesting species as they raise their young and defend their territory from other birds and predators.
Sunday, June 15 • 1 pm

Butterfly Gardening
Walk around our wildlife and prairie gardens and learn ways to transform your garden into a paradise for butterflies and other pollinators.
Sunday, June 29 • 1 pm

Fossil Hunt
Visit an ancient coral reef! Piece together the habitat of the Silurian Sea while searching for fossilized invertebrates. Registration required; space is limited. Meet at Learning Center.
Saturday, July 10 • 1 pm

Build a Vivarium
This two-day, hands-on workshop, we will construct a background, discuss plant selection and assemble the vivarium. Registration required by 6/27. Min 5, max 12. $25.
Fridays, July 18 & July 25 • 10 am – 2 pm

Dragonfly Hike
Enjoy the diversity of dragonflies and observe their flight patterns. Take a closer look by learning how to catch and release responsibly.
Saturday, July 26 • 1 pm

Dragonflies: Migration
Hike to the CCC Quarry and learn the difference between resident and migrant dragonflies.
Friday, August 22 • 1 pm

Butterfly Hike
Search the prairie and woods for butterflies. Learn to identify different species by observing feeding and flight behaviors.
Sunday, August 24 • 1 pm

Naturalist’s Choice
Enjoy a late summer hike led by a naturalist.
Sunday, August 31 • 1 pm
**Pioneer Living**
Have you ever wondered what life was like 200 years ago? Visit our cabins and find out what Illinois’ pioneers experienced.

- Sundays, June 1, July 6, August 3 • 1:30 pm

**Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Hike**
Join our monthly hiking club. A naturalist will lead a vigorous, two-mile hike on our trails.

- Saturdays, June 7, July 5, August 2 • 1:30 pm

**Wee Wonders Series**
Children in preschool and kindergarten are invited to their very own nature program. We’ll explore a different seasonal subject each month.

- Saturdays, June 7 (Monarch Madness), July 5 (Fireflies), August 2 (“Ninja” Turtles) • 10 am

**Restoration Workday**
Many invasive plants are taking over our forest preserves. Join us as we cut brush to help restore biodiversity to Sand Ridge. *Come dressed in long pants and boots.*

- Sundays, July 27 & August 10 • 1:30 pm

**SUMMER EYE-OPENER CAMPS**
Children will enjoy four mornings of fun, hands-on activities and nature exploration. *Space is limited.* Register one week in advance. $15 each.

- **June Session • Ages 7 & 8**
  - Monday – Thursday, June 23 – 26 • 9:30 am – noon

- **July Session • Ages 9 & 10**
  - Monday – Thursday, July 7 – 10 • 9:30 am – noon

**NATURE TALES**
*For children grades 1 – 4.*

**Follow the Drinking Gourd**
Discover how the stars of the Big Dipper were used in the journey to freedom by slaves in earlier times.

- **Saturday, June 14 • 1:30 pm**

**Nature’s Weather Detectors**
Learn about how nature forecasts the weather through crickets, clouds, pinecones and more.

- **Saturday, July 19 • 1:30 pm**

**Aquatic Life**
Join us as we dip nets in our pond to see what kinds of interesting things we can find.

- **Saturday, August 9 • 1:30 pm**

**Garlic Mustard Pull Workday**
Join us in the fight against this pesky invasive. We’ll also show you how you can use this edible plant in recipes, and we’ll have tasty samples for you to try.

- **Register by 6/4.**
  - **Sunday, June 8 • 1:30 pm**

**The Sun, Our Nearest Star**
View the sun through a filtered telescope with our staff astronomer. Learn amazing facts about our nearest star. *A slide program will be presented in poor weather.* Register by 6/12.

- **Saturday, June 14 • 10 am**

**“Juneteenth” Celebration**
Join us as we celebrate freedom, family, and Country with our historical Underground Railroad program. Enjoy history displays, an interactive interpretive hike, traditional music, wild edibles, crafts and much more.

- **Saturday, June 21 • 10 am – 3 pm**

**Wild Edibles**
Join us as we learn how to identify edible wild plants. Some tasty samples will be available for you to try.

- **Register by 7/9.**
  - **Saturday, July 12 • 1:30 pm**

**Fur Tradin’**
You’re invited to learn more about fur trading in the Calumet region during the 1820s.

- **Sunday, July 13 • 1:30 pm**

**Night Hike**
Join us as we take a hike on our trails at night. What animals might be stirring in the woods? Come and find out! Register by 8/6.

- **Friday, August 8 • 8 pm**

**The Art of Nature Photography**
Join nature photographer Joe Nowak for tips on outdoor photography techniques. Don’t forget your camera! Register by 8/14.

- **Saturday, August 16 • 10 am**

**Ecosystem Exploration**
What exactly is an ecosystem? This two-hour hike will explore Sand Ridge’s eight different ecosystems. Wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and dress for the weather. Register by 8/28.

- **Saturday, August 30 • 1:30 – 3:30 pm**
JUNE

Father’s Day Walk
Dads and their families can enjoy a guided walk by our pond and through the woods. Register by 6/13. Sunday, June 15 • 1 pm

Walk with Dragons and Damsels
Dragonflies and damselflies are dipping and dashing in Trailside’s pond. Learn to identify them by color and behaviors. Bring binoculars; a limited amount of binoculars are available to lend. Saturday, July 12 • 1 pm

Parent/Child Woodland Ramble
Enjoy a woodland walk as we look at wildflowers, trees and creatures great and small. Family program, register by 7/11. Sunday, July 13 • 1 pm

Reptiles Revealed
Enjoy an up-close visit with some of our local reptiles. Drop-in family program. Sunday, July 27 • 1 – 2:30 pm

An Afternoon Walk with Ernest Hemingway
Hear how Hemingway experienced and used nature in his writings, then follow in his footsteps on a guided nature walk. Adults & families with children ages 5 & up. Presented with the Ernest Hemingway Foundation; call 708-848-2222 to register. Saturday, August 9 • 1 – 2:30 pm

What Does the Fox Say?
Bark, scream or cry... discover what the fox really says and visit with Trailside’s resident fox. Family program. Sunday, June 29 • 1 pm

AugUST

Creature Feature
Learn about an animal that makes its home within the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Drop-in family program. Sunday, August 10 • 1 – 2:30 pm

Songs of Summer Stroll
Whirr, chirp, creeek. Learn to identify common insect mating calls and test your listening skills on a naturalist-led walk. Family program. Sunday, August 17 • 1 – 2:30 pm

Bats: Night Stalkers
Learn about these mysterious flying mammals, and see live bats outside using special equipment. Adults & children ages 8 & up; register by 8/17. Wednesday, August 20 • 7:30 pm

Plants and Their Pals
Learn about plants’ special adaptations, and the birds, mammals and insects that work together to help plants survive and thrive. For adults and children ages 8 & up; register by 8/29. Sunday, August 31 • 1 pm

TRAILSIDE IS TRANSFORMING!
We are excited to announce several construction projects taking place this summer at Trailside Museum.

The parking lot, walkways and interior will get a makeover. We’re also installing a new accessible walkway and accessible program seating in our outdoor Nature Play Area.

Construction will take place throughout the summer and into fall. Please call Trailside Museum or check our website for updates and closures.

“Woodpecker Hollow” Nature Play Area
Balance on logs and build with sticks as you experience unstructured playtime in our nature play area. Every day

Summer Strolls
Enjoy guided nature walks to explore summer along our trails. Family program. Sundays, June 1; July 20; August 3 • 1 pm

Nature Story Time
Enjoy nature-inspired stories followed by a craft. Ages 3 – 6 with adult. $1 per child. Thursdays, June 5 & 19; July 3 & 17; August 7 & 21 • 10:30 am

Explore Your Preserves
Discover new scenic trails, on naturalist-guided walks in nearby preserves. Call to register and for meeting place. Family program. Saturday, June 7 (Des Plaines River Trail); Saturday July 5 (Brookfield Prairie); Saturday August 2 (Bemis Woods) • 10 –11:30 am

“Bone” Appétit
Join us at feeding time to learn about Trailside’s outdoor resident animals. Sundays, June 8 & 22; Friday, July 4 & Saturday, July 26; Sunday, August 24 & Saturday, August 30 • 1 pm

Neighborhood Tree Walks
Explore nature in your front yard on this naturalist-led walk through River Forest. Call to register and for meeting place. Saturdays, June 14 & August 23 • 10 am

Dog Days of Summer Hikes
Bring your well-mannered, leashed dog on a one-hour guided hike on our trails. Family program. Register 2 days prior. Saturdays, June 21, July 19, August 16 • 10 am

Weekday Nature Walks
Join us as we explore our local trails near Trailside Museum. Tuesdays, June 24, July 29, August 26 • 1 pm

DON’T MISS

Evening Storytelling
Join us on a summer’s night for stories and campfire snacks. Family program; $2. Register by 8/4. Wednesday, August 6 • 7 pm

An Afternoon Walk with Ernest Hemingway
Hear how Hemingway experienced and used nature in his writings, then follow in his footsteps on a guided nature walk. Adults & families with children ages 5 & up. Presented with the Ernest Hemingway Foundation; call 708-848-2222 to register. Saturday, August 9 • 1 – 2:30 pm

STROLLER USERS: Please note that the footpaths around Trailside Museum have uneven terrain and may not be suitable for strollers.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Beaubien Woods Celebration
Beaubien Woods, I-94 & Doty Ave, Chicago
Enjoy this annual family event sponsored in partnership with Fishin’ Buddies and the Calumet Stewardship Initiative. Fish, explore, build with natural materials, hike and more! Register online at enviroday2014.eventbrite.com.
Saturday, June 14 • 11 am – 4 pm

Kids’ Fest
Wampum Lake, I-90/94 & Thornton-Lansing Rd, Thornton-Lansing
Enjoy fishing, hiking, canoeing, archery and other fun activities at this free outdoor extravaganza for kids of all ages. Presented in partnership with Fishin’ Buddies and the Youth Conservation Conference. Register online at fbkidsfest2014.eventbrite.com.
Saturday, July 12 • 10 am – 4 pm

CAMBr Meltdown
Pulaski Woods, 9800 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs
The CAMBr Meltdown is Chicagoland’s premiere mountain biking event, with racing for all ages and abilities. Free for spectators.
Sunday, July 20 • 9 am – 5 pm

Teen Exploration Day
Powderhorn Lake, 13843-14387 S. Brainard Ave, Burnham
The Youth Outdoor Ambassadors invite other teens to join them for a day of outdoor adventure. Enjoy canoeing, hiking, archery, art making and more.
Wednesday, August 6 • 12 – 4 pm

Readers Are Leaders
Cummings Square, 536 N. Harlem Ave, River Forest
WTW Kids brings Readers Are Leaders performances featuring Miss Lori’s CAMPUS to the Forest Preserves. Families with children ages 3-9 years can sing, dance and celebrate all things reading.
Thursday, August 7 • 10:30 – 11:30 am

Teens Outside: The Summit
Green Lake, 1100 River Oaks Dr, Calumet City
Share with your peers what it means for you to be outdoors! Enjoy some great conversation, engage in fun, interactive breakout groups, try your hand at writing green poetry, archery and more.
Friday, August 15 • 12 – 6 pm

Family Fish Fest
Powderhorn Lake, 13843-14387 S. Brainard Ave, Burnham
Celebrate all things “fish” in partnership with the Chicago Park District. The whole family can enjoy fishing, canoeing, archery, learning about native fishes, crafts and more.
Saturday, August 23 • 12 – 4 pm

ARCHERY

Nature Obstacle Course & Archery Night
Eggers Woods, 11201 S. Avenue B, Chicago
Families, try our outdoor challenge! Attempt our nature obstacle course—created from all-natural forest materials. You can also join our staff for archery instruction and activities. *Obstacle course for all ages; archery for ages 10 & up.*
Call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.
Wednesday, June 11 • 4 – 8 pm

Afterschool Archery & Hike
Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest
Explore the trails of Thatcher Woods on a hike led by Forest Preserve staff, followed by a hands-on archery workshop. Pack a picnic and stay for dinner! Ages 10 & up. Archery equipment provided.
Call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.
Wednesday, August 27 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

THIRD THURSDAYS

This monthly series explores nature, art and more. Call 708-771-1373 for more information.
Cummings Square, 536 N. Harlem Ave, River Forest

Film in the Forest: “Over the Hedge” Rated PG
A scheming raccoon learns a thing or two about the importance of family.
Thursday, June 19
Pre-movie activities at 6:30 pm. Movie begins at dusk.
Wellness in the Woods
Learn about and enjoy both the physical and mental health benefits of spending time in nature. Bring your workout outdoors!
Thursday, July 17 • 11 am – 2 pm

Monarchs and More
Celebrate all things monarch! We’ll explore their migratory patterns, learn about plants that help and attract them and more. Create your own memory to take home.
Thursday, August 21 • 1 pm – 4 pm

PADDLING

Dog Fun and Doggy Paddle
Beck Lake Off-Leash Dog Area
1000 N. East River Rd, Des Plaines
Spend some time with your pup and learn about our new Off-Leash Dog Area volunteer opportunities. Then head over to the Beck Lake Boat Launch for a special paddle. Your dog is invited, too! Canoe instruction provided. Ages 12 & up. Call 708-771-1010 for more information.
Thursday, June 5 • 6 – 8 pm

Little Calumet River Ecology Paddle and Cleanup
Little Calumet Boat Launch, Ashland & Jackson, Riverdale
Help us clean up the river as we paddle down to Kickapoo Woods and back. Learn about fur-bearing animals and aquatic life along the Little Calumet. Can you spot any signs of animal life? Canoe instruction provided; includes lunch. All ages. Groups welcome. Register at www.calumetwaterwaystewards.com.
Saturday, June 7 • 9:30 am – 1 pm

Beginners Evening Paddle
Big Bend Lake, 9301 Golf Rd, Des Plaines
Beginner canoeists, this paddle is for you! Learn from Forest Preserve instructors about parts of the canoe and basic paddle strokes. Pack a snack and some water and we’ll relax under the evening sky.
Call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.
Thursday, July 10 • 6 – 8 pm

Full Moon Celebration Paddle
Skokie Lagoons, Tower Road Boat Launch, Winnetka
Join us for a unique paddle dedicated to celebrating the appearance of a full moon. This canoe trip is more than just a paddle—it’s an experience full of surprises you won’t soon forget. Space is limited; call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.
Tuesday, August 12 • 6 – 9:30 pm

Birds of Prey Paddling Workshop
Little Calumet Boat Launch, Ashland & Jackson, Riverdale
Learn exciting facts about our native raptors and their habitat, diet and adaptations. Then head out onto the water to look for signs of raptors and their prime habitats. Lunch and snacks included. Instruction provided; call 708-771-1010 to reserve your spot.
Saturday, August 9 • 9:30 am – 2 pm
**FILMS IN THE FOREST**

Join us for movie nights! Different feature films with a nature connection will be presented along with family friendly activities based on the film. Pack a picnic dinner or grab a bite from food trucks that will be on-site and enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment at scenic preserve venues.

Pre-movie activities start at 6:30 pm. Movie begins at dusk.

**Thursday, June 19**

“Over the Hedge” *Rated PG*
A scheming raccoon fools a mismatched family of forest creatures into helping him repay a debt of food, by invading the new suburban sprawl that popped up while they were hibernating...and learns a lesson about family himself.

**Cummings Square**
536 N. Harlem, River Forest

**Thursday, June 26**

“The Princess Bride” *Rated PG*
A classic fairy tale with swordplay, giants, an evil prince, a beautiful princess and yes, some kissing (as read by a kindly grandfather).

**Caldwell Woods**
6350 W. Devon Ave, Chicago

**Tuesday, July 8**

“WALL-E” *Rated G*
In the distant future, a small waste collecting robot inadvertently embarks on a space journey that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind.

**Eggers Woods**
11201 S. Avenue B, Chicago

**Tuesday, July 15**

“Epic” *Rated PG*
A teenage finds herself transported to a deep forest setting where a battle between the forces of good and evil is taking place. She bands together with a rag-tag group of characters in order to save their world—and ours.

**Whealan Pool**
6200 W. Devon Ave, Chicago

**Tuesday, July 22**

“The Hunger Games” *Rated PG-13*
Katniss Everdeen voluntarily takes her younger sister’s place in the Hunger Games, a televised fight to the death in which two teenagers from each of the twelve Districts of Panem are chosen at random to compete.

**Green Lake Aquatic Center**
1100 River Oaks Drive, Calumet City

**Tuesday, August 5**

“The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” *Rated PG-13*
Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark become targets of the Capitol after their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem.

**Cermak Aquatic Center**
7600 W. Ogden Ave, Lyons

**Thursday, August 14**

“Jens Jensen The Living Green” *Not rated.*
A century ago, a rebellious Dane, Jens Jensen rose from street sweeper to “dean of landscape architects” to pioneering conservationist. His story dramatizes an environmental battle that lasted five decades, culminating in the creation of the nation’s first urban national park.

**Deer Grove, Grove 1**
Quentin & Dundee Roads, Palatine

**FOREST JAMS**

Head out to our summer concert series and participate in group jam sessions, learn about making instruments from natural and recycled materials and enjoy concerts by local musicians.

Pre-activities start at 5:30 pm. Concert runs from 6:30 to 8 pm.

**Tuesday, June 24**

Green Lake Aquatic Center
1100 River Oaks Drive, Calumet City

**Tuesday, July 22**

Cermak Aquatic Center
7600 W. Ogden Ave, Lyons

**Tuesday, August 5**

Dan Ryan Pavilion, Grove 5
87th and Western, Chicago

**FOREST FUN VAN and UIE MOBILE LAB**

Discover the wonders of the Forest Preserves! Take a hike, discover fun facts, explore, build and create! The Forest Fun Van and University of Illinois Mobile Lab bring outdoor fun and nature learning to picnic groves all over the county. Look for us on Saturdays at these locations!

**Saturday, June 28 • 1 – 4 pm**

Schiller Woods West, Grove 6
9228 Irving Park Rd, Schiller Park

**Saturday, July 5 • 1 – 4 pm**

Bunker Hill, Grove 4
6639 W. Harts Rd, Niles

**Saturday, July 26 • 1 – 4 pm**

Rubio Woods, Grove 1
5800 Midlothian Turnpike, Midlothian

**Saturday, August 2 • 1 – 4 pm**

Bemis Woods North, Grove 2
Wolf Rd & 35th St, Westchester

**Saturday, August 9 • 1 – 4 pm**

Dan Ryan Pavilion
87th & Western, Chicago

**Saturday, August 30 • 1 – 4 pm**

Midlothian Meadows, Grove 2
15398 Crawford, Markham
AQUATIC CENTERS

Enjoy fun in the water! Swim, splash or just plain cool off this season at one of the Forest Preserve’s three aquatic centers. From water slides to family play areas to scenic forest preserve views, our aquatic centers offer something for everyone.

All our facilities feature certified lifeguards with first aid and water safety equipment.

Aquatic Centers Opening Weekend: 
Saturday – Monday, May 24 – 26
11 am – 7 pm

Opening Day, Saturday, May 24 is free!

Aquatic centers open for the summer on May 31 and will be open every day until September 1.

Hours are 11 am – 7 pm.

For specific information about individual aquatic centers, visit fpdcc.com/aquatic-centers.

Aquatic Center Rates

Child: Free
   (Ages 3 and under)

Child: $4
   (Ages 4-12)

Adult: $6
   (Ages 13 & up)

Season Pass: $150
   (Up to 4 family members)

Season Pass: $40
   (individual)

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Cermak Family Aquatic Center
7600 W. Ogden Avenue,
west of Harlem Avenue at the Des Plaines River, Lyons
708-447-0715

Whealan Pool Aquatic Center
6200 W. Devon Avenue,
east of Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago
773-775-1666

Green Lake Family Aquatic Center
1100 River Oaks Drive
Calumet City
708-862-1927

LEARN TO SWIM AT WHEALAN AQUATIC CENTER!

Swim lessons for children ages 3 – 12. Lessons taught by American Red Cross trained and certified life guards.

Four-week sessions with eight classes each. Classes held on Mondays and Tuesdays. $64 per child.

Session I: June 9 – July 4
Session II: July 14 – August 8
Times: 8:50 – 9:20 am • 9:30 – 10 am • 10:10 – 10:40 am

Registration begins May 31. Call 773-775-1666 for more information.

HAVE YOUR PARTY WITH US

Water fun in a natural setting makes our aquatic centers the perfect place for summer parties! Call your aquatic center directly to make your reservation.

Rentals include:
   Reserved space for your guests
   Two 10’ x 10’ tents
   Two tables and 20 chairs

Available daily 11:30 am – 2:30 pm and 3:30 – 6:30 pm

Semi-private rental: $174 up to 20 guests
   Additional guests: $6 each

Maximum number of guests per party is 50.

$75 non-refundable reservation fee applies.
Balance is due on the day of your event.

Food for party rentals must be purchased from our on-site concessionaire.
Cake is the only outside food allowed.
Ask for more information when making your reservation.
If you have time, skills and enthusiasm to give, consider volunteering with the Forest Preserves. With nearly 69,000 acres, there are endless opportunities for individuals and groups to get involved. From removing invasive species to picking up litter to monitoring birds and other animals, volunteering is fun and meaningful.

To find out more information about volunteering at a site near you, visit fpdcc.com/volunteer.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County hosts a series of photo meet-ups designed for photographers of all skill levels, from beginners to experts. Whether you’re using an advanced SLR camera, a point-and-shoot or a smart phone, photographing nature can be both rewarding and challenging.

Each month, one of our naturalists will lead a brief tour of a natural area, highlighting interesting plants, scenic vistas and locations frequented by wildlife. Capture images and share tips with fellow photographers.

Saturday, June 28 • 10 am
Bemis Woods South
Ogden and Wolf Roads, Westchester
Meet at the information sign near Grove 6. 
*Hosted by Trailside Museum of Natural History*

Saturday, July 26 • 10 am
Sand Ridge Prairie Nature Preserve
Meet in the Sand Ridge Nature Center parking lot, 15891 Paxton Ave, South Holland.
*Hosted by Sand Ridge Nature Center*

Saturday, August 23 • 10 am
Swallow Cliff Woods South
11918 S LaGrange Rd, Palos Park
*Hosted by the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center*

Our naturalists work hand-in-hand with teachers to bring environmental education into the classroom and school groups into the vast natural classroom and living library of our preserves. Programs may feature almost any aspect of biodiversity or ecology in the region, with an emphasis on the role of people in ecosystems, and the health of the natural world and all who live in and depend on it.

Six unique nature centers represent the geographic and habitat diversity of Cook County. All feature exhibits, and most display live native animals, and include nature trails of varying lengths. Free field trips may be scheduled throughout the year.

Or, let us come to you! Free science and nature programs for individual classrooms feature hands-on activities, and may include real animal and plant specimens and pre- and post-visit classroom handouts. Our naturalists are available for science and career fairs and other special requests, depending on staff availability.

Contact any of our nature centers for more information.

Teachers and youth leaders: sign your kids up for *Cooler in the Forest*, a new field trip opportunity for students and community youth groups.

This engaging experience introduces young people to nature, where they can explore, learn and have fun in outdoor “classrooms.” We teach through adventure recreation, outdoor skills and hands-on learning, and our staff can tailor a program to meet your goals.

For more information, please call 708-771-1010.
ABOUT THE FOREST PRESERVES
OF COOK COUNTY

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is the oldest forest preserve system in the nation, maintaining nearly 69,000 acres of open land for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public. We strive to protect and restore the county’s diverse ecosystems, so all our unique native plants and animals can live and thrive. Each year, millions of people use these lands and facilities to enjoy or study nature, bicycle, hike, fish, cross-country ski, picnic, golf, canoe or simply relax in a large preserve that leaves urban life behind.

Forest Preserves of Cook County
General Headquarters, 536 N. Harlem, River Forest, IL 60305

Toni Preckwinkle, President

Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners

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