

FALL 2023

A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



feel free

fpdcc.com

Have You Watched Wild & Wonderful?



tinyurl.com/wildwonderful101

The Wild & Wonderful video series teaches young children and people of all ages about our native plants and wildlife.



The FPCC is committed to providing equal, integrated participation for individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Nature Center of your program choice 72 hours in advance to request reasonable accommodations and to obtain more information about site accessibility. To obtain information about accommodations for specific camping and outdoor recreation activities throughout the Forest Preserves, please contact us at experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov or at 708-386-4042.



Fall is the perfect time to visit the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Throughout our nearly 70,000 acres, visitors will be treated to dazzling colors in our forest canopy, an array of native and migrating birds, stunning late-blooming wildflowers, and cooler temperatures to enjoy while exploring.

If you're looking for a way to give back to your community, consider volunteering in the Forest Preserves this season. This year marks the 30th anniversary of National Public Lands Day—celebrated annually on the fourth Saturday in September—and what better way to honor our natural lands than by helping to restore them to good health. Find information about volunteering at fpdcc.com/volunteer. And if you're new to volunteering, consider attending a new volunteer workday in October to learn about invasive plant species and seed collecting. Find details on page 6.

Throughout this guide, you'll also find plenty of fun and relaxing programs and events this autumn. You can join our naturalists and programming teams for guided fall color walks and bird migration hikes, pumpkin decorating, Halloween and fall festivities, and so much more.

Whether you're a long-time visitor or a first-time explorer, you can create your own adventure in your Forest Preserves.

I hope to see you in the Preserves!



Toni Preckwinkle

President,
Forest Preserves of Cook County



feel free

fpdcc.com

How to use this Guide:

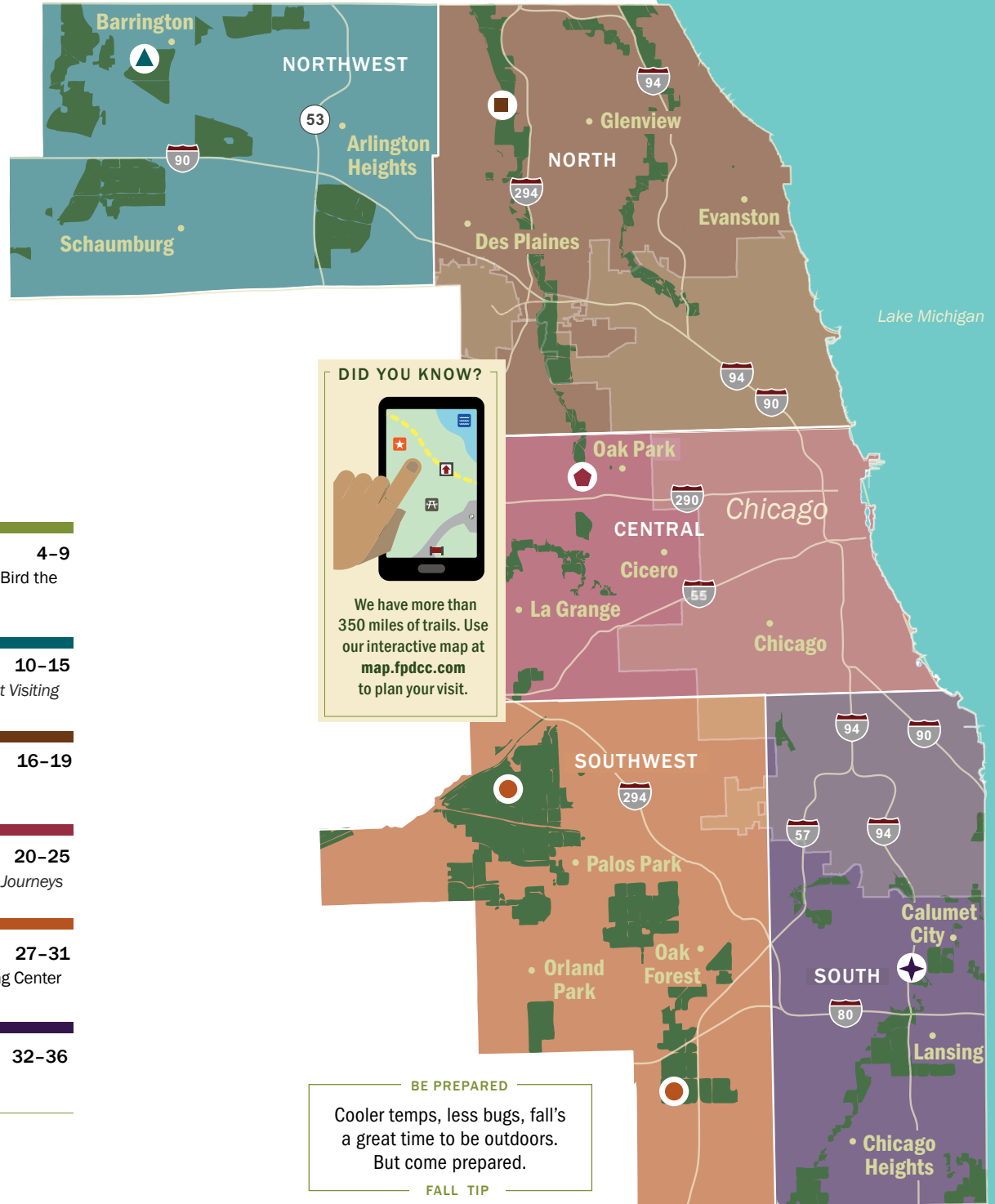
Whether you're looking for boat rentals, ziplining, disc golf or fun and educational events or programs at nature centers and sites throughout the County, this guide will help you create your own adventure in the Forest Preserves.

By using the designated zone colors and shapes below, find events and amenities close to home, or explore nearly 70,000 acres of wild and wonderful.

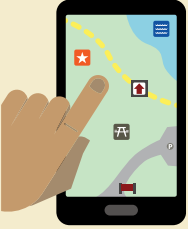
Come by yourself, or with your family and friends; there's no better place to feel free.

<hr style="border: 2px solid #76923c;"/>	
Seasonal Offerings	4-9
Fall Offerings, Hike the Preserves, Volunteer Opportunities, Camping, Bird the Preserves	
<hr style="border: 2px solid #007a7a;"/>	
 Northwest Zone	10-15
Crabtree Nature Center, <i>Celebrate Public Lands Via Volunteerism—or Just Visiting</i>	
<hr style="border: 2px solid #8b4513;"/>	
 North Zone	16-19
River Trail Nature Center	
<hr style="border: 2px solid #a52a2a;"/>	
 Central Zone	20-25
Trailside Museum of Natural History, <i>Migrating Monarchs Make Amazing Journeys</i>	
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Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center/Sagawau Environmental Learning Center	
<hr style="border: 2px solid #4b0082;"/>	
 South Zone	32-36
Sand Ridge Nature Center	

Entrance to Nature Centers is free; some programs and zone-based activities require a small fee.



DID YOU KNOW?



We have more than 350 miles of trails. Use our interactive map at map.fpdcc.com to plan your visit.

BE PREPARED

Cooler temps, less bugs, fall's a great time to be outdoors. But come prepared.

FALL TIP

Seasonal Offerings

throughout Cook County

BOAT RENTALS ■ ◆ ●

Canoes, kayaks, rowboats or electric motor boats. April-late-October—call ahead for availability. fpdcc.com/boating.

Busse Lake Boating Center

E Higgins Rd, east of I-290, Elk Grove Village, 224-415-6554

Maple Lake Boating Center

Wolf Rd, south of 95th St, Willow Springs, 708-506-0227

Skokie Lagoons (Tower Road Entrance)*

Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr, Northfield, 847-414-5883

Tampier Lake Boating Center

W 131st St west of S Wolf Rd, Orland Park, 708-830-5194

*Canoes and kayaks only

CONSERVATION@HOME

A partnership with University of Illinois Extension certifies Forest Preserves Friendly gardens. fpdcc.com

DISC GOLF ▲

Rolling Knolls

11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin fpdcc.com/disc-golf

EQUESTRIAN

Horse riders can enjoy miles of trails throughout the Preserves. fpdcc.com/equestrian

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Permits on sale now

2024 Indoor Pavilion Permits go on sale August 15

Permits for 2024 go on sale November 15, 2023

GO APE ZIP LINE ◆

Navigate obstacles and ziplines, throw axes, and take on a jungle gym nets course in the forest canopy. Details & reservations: goape.com.

Bemis Woods-South

1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs
Open April-November



JUICED BY SHIC ●

Swallow Cliff

Days/hours are weather dependent.

708-827-5344

Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west of La Grange Rd/96th Ave, IL 60464

GOLF ▲ ■ ◆ ● ✦

forestpreservegolf.com or call 800-460-0010.

Billy Caldwell

6150 Caldwell Ave, Chicago

Burnham Woods

Burnham Ave & 142nd St, Burnham

Chick Evans

6145 Golf Rd, Morton Grove

Edgebrook

6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

George W Dunne

16310 S Central Ave, Oak Forest

Harry Semrow Driving Range

1150 E Golf Rd, Des Plaines

Highland Woods

2775 Ela Rd, Hoffman Estates

Indian Boundary

8600 W Forest Preserve Ave, Chicago

Joe Louis

13100 S Halsted St, Riverdale

Meadowlark

11599 31st St, Hinsdale

River Oaks

1 Park Ave, Calumet City

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS ▲ ■ ●

Membership info: fpdcc.com/dogs

Beck Lake

East River Rd & Central Rd, Des Plaines

Bremen Grove

Oak Park Ave, south of 159th St, Tinley Park

Miller Meadow-South

1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd, Forest Park

TENNIS ◆

oakparktennis.com

544 N Harlem Ave, River Forest

VOLUNTEER

fpdcc.com/volunteer



PAVILION RENTALS ▲ ■ ◆ ● ✦

Host your next event with us. Our five affordably priced rental pavilions are ideal venues for weddings, family reunions, birthday parties and much more. Choose from restored historic buildings or new energy-efficient facilities—all located in beautiful natural areas.

Reserve your space: Call 773-558-2003 or email info@forestpreserveevents.com. Learn more at fpdcc.com/pavilions.

Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion

8700 S Western Ave, Chicago

Mathew Bieszczyk Volunteer

Resource Center

6100 N Central, Chicago

Rolling Knolls

11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Swallow Cliff Pavilion

IL Rt 83 & US Rt 45, Palos Park

Thatcher Woods Pavilion

8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

PARTNERS CLASSES & EVENTS

Northwest Passage, info@nwpassage.com

REI, rei.com/learn

Trailbound Trips, trailboundtrips.com

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ✦ South

**NEW
VOLUNTEER
WORKDAYS!**

Volunteer Opportunities

If you've thought about volunteering but were not sure how to get started, this is a perfect time.



Chicago

Southwest Zone

Help remove invasive shrubs that crowd out native wildflowers. Staff will guide you in ecological restoration, providing instruction on using hand tools to cut woody plants and place them in a brush pile burn. Equipment, refreshments provided.

Sunday, Oct 8 • 9 am–Noon

Hidden Pond Woods-West-96th Ave, north of W 95th St

Central Zone

Learn about native plants and how to collect their seeds. Staff will explain ecological stewardship and how you can make a difference for plants and animals. Collected seeds will later be spread in degraded forest preserve areas to restore the land.

Saturday, Oct 15 • 10 am–12:30 pm

Salt Creek Resource Management
500 Ogden Ave, Western Springs

Hike the Preserves

Fitness Hikes are for those looking to get some exercise outdoors. Fitness hikes will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation.

Walk & Talk Hikes are for the curious mind who want to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. These hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation.

Walk & Talks

Northwest Zone ▲

Sunset Walk in Spanish*

Busse Lake Boating Center
E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village

Thursday, Sept 28 • 5:30 pm

North Zone ■

Know Your Preserves*

Camp Pine Woods-W Lake Ave/
E Euclid Ave, east of N Des Plaines
River Rd, Glenview

Thursday, Oct 5 • 10 am

National Take a Hike Day*

Linne Woods
W Dempster St, east of Lehigh Ave,
Morton Grove

Friday, Nov 17 • 10 am

Central Zone ◆

Theodore Stone Forest-2 mi.

67th St, east of La Grange Rd,
Hodgkins

Wednesday, Nov 1 • 10 am

Southwest Zone ●

Black Partridge Woods -2 mi.

31st St, west of Wolf Rd

Wednesday, Sept 13 • 10 am

Orland Grassland-South-1.6 mi.

104th Ave, south of 179th St

Saturday, Sept 16 • 10 am

Willow Springs Woods-2.5 mi.

Willow Springs Rd, southeast of S
Archer Ave

Wednesday, Oct 11 • 10 am

Red Gate Woods-2.5 mi.

S Archer Ave, northeast of 107th St

Tuesday, Nov 28 • 10 am

South Zone ◆

Plum Creek Meadow

Burnham Ave, north of 223rd St

Saturday, Nov 18 • 10 am

Fitness Hike

Northwest Zone ▲

Deer Grove West*

W Dundee Rd, east of Northwest Hwy,
Palatine

Thursday, Sept 14 • 10 am

Central Zone ◆

Sunset Bridge Meadow-6 mi.

North Ave, east of N 1st Ave River
Grove

Wednesday, Sept 20 • 9 am

Brezina Woods-6 mi.

N La Grange Rd, south of W Cermak Rd

Saturday, Nov 18 • 9 am

Southwest ●

Orland Grassland-5 mi

W 167th St, west of S La Grange Rd

Saturday, Oct 21 • 10 am

South Zone ◆

Vollmer Road Grove-3.6 mi

Vollmer Rd, west of Crawford Ave

Saturday, Sept 16 • 10 am

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ◆ South

SIGN UP TODAY!

Beginners welcome; registration required: fpdcc.com/volunteer



Camp Reinberg • Camp Bullfrog Lake • Camp Sullivan			
RATES: APR-OCT			
Type	Capacity	COOK COUNTY RESIDENT Thurs-Sat	NON-RESIDENT Thurs-Sat
Tent/RV Electric	6	\$52	\$62
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$37	\$47
Small Cabin	8	\$85	\$95
Large Cabin	10	\$129	\$143
Small Bunkhouse	16	\$173	\$184
Large Bunkhouse	36	\$264	\$273

Camp Dan Beard • Camp Shabbona			
RATES: APR-OCT			
Type	Capacity	COOK COUNTY RESIDENT Sun-Sat	NON-RESIDENT Sun-Sat
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$37	\$47
Small Cabin	8	\$84	\$95
Large Cabin	10	\$106	\$116
Group Site Pricing	30-60	\$22/tent	\$32/tent

Visit fpdcc.com/camping for Nov-Mar rates.
Register at experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

Contact campgrounds for information and group site availability. 1-855-YES-CAMP.

CAMPGROUNDS



Camp Reinberg

1801 N Quentin Rd
Palatine

Camp Bullfrog Lake

9600 Wolf Rd
Willow Springs

Camp Sullivan

14630 Oak Park Ave
Oak Forest



Camp Dan Beard

200 Portwine Rd
Northbrook

Camp Shabbona Woods

15810 S Torrence Ave
South Holland
Closed Oct 31-Mar 31



CAMPGROUNDS OFFERINGS

Camping 101 ▲ ■ ● ◆

Join us for a workshop covering basic camping skills. All programs.

5:30-7 pm

Camp Reinberg
Wednesday, Oct 11

Camp Dan Beard
Wednesdays, Sept 13 & Nov 8

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Wednesday, Oct 25

Camp Sullivan
Wednesday, Sept 27



Day Hiking Leadership Training* ◆

For teachers/youth educators! DHLT gives you all the tools to take groups out into the preserves for the day.

Bemis Woods-North-Wolf Rd, south of 31st St

Saturday, Nov 4 • 11:30 am

Party for the Preserves ●

Join us for live music, food trucks and a night hike to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Live music from 6-8 pm, night hike immediately following.

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Saturday, Sept 23 • 5:30-9:30 pm

Camping Without Limits ●

In partnership with Adaptive Adventures, join an overnight event geared for individuals with physical disabilities, their families and friends.

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Saturday, Sept 30-Sunday, Oct 1
3 pm-10 am

Map and Compass 101: ● Teen Exploration Day*

Bring your friends to compete in an orienteering competition. Prizes will be awarded.

Camp Sullivan
Saturday, Oct 21 • 12:30-3:30 pm

For programming at Camp Shabbona Woods, visit page 35.

ZONE KEY





#birdthepreserves

Fall Migratory Bird BioBlitz

Help biologists understand bird populations and species diversity in our area by joining the Fall Migratory Bird BioBlitz! During the BioBlitz, log all the birds you spot at Brookfield Zoo or in the Forest Preserves of Cook County on iNaturalist for a chance to win prizes. Learn more on iNaturalist.org-Brookfield Zoo Bird SAFETY Challenge

October 14–October 21



*Registration required. Go to fpdcc.com/events to register.



Become a Concessionaire

in the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Applications now available fpdcc.com/permits/concessions

Conviértase en u concesionario

con el Forest Preserves de Cook County

Las solicitudes se pueden completar visitándonos en fpdcc.com/permits/concessions

Northwest Zone



SEPTEMBER

Dagwaag (Fall) Camp*

Presented by Trickster Cultural Center, participate in activities and discover the significance of harvest season in Native American culture. To register, September 2023 Dagwaag Fall TCC ANA Camp (salsalabs.org)

Thursday & Friday, Sept 21 & 22 • 4–7 pm

Rolling Knolls–11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

OCTOBER



Teen Exploration Day: Pumpkin Carving*

Carve a pumpkin while surrounded by the natural beauty within the Forest Preserves. Supplies provided.

Thursday, Oct 26 • 4 pm

Rolling Knolls
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

NOVEMBER

Woodworking with Invasives*

Repurpose the common European buckthorn into something new. Equipment provided. Ages 10 & up. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Thursday, Nov 16 • 5 pm

Camp Reinberg–1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

*Unless otherwise noted, to register, call 773-758-8899.

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

Crabtree, NATURE CENTER

3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills, 847-381-6592

Building: 9 am - 5 pm, closed Fridays, Grounds: 8 am - 5 pm daily, Free Admission



Art in Nature

Celebrate creativity and color as all ages are invited to try different media and techniques to create art. Sculpt, paint and draw to bring out your inner artist.

Sunday, Sept 10 • 11 am-3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Naturalist Choice

Come visit and see what we came up with.

Sundays, Sept 3, 17 • 1 pm

Saturdays, Oct 7, Nov 25 • 1 pm

Sundays, Oct 15; Nov 5, 12 • 1 pm

SEPTEMBER

Must See Mustelids

Learn about members of the mustelid family that call Cook County home.

Outdoor presentation. Ages 6 & up.

Saturday, Sept 2 • 1 pm

Prairie Wildflower Walk

Enjoy a late summer walk through Phantom Prairie to see what's blooming.

Monday, Sept 4 • 1 pm

Little Houses on the Prairie Scavenger Hunt

Can you find all the tiny houses along the Bur Edge Trail?

Sunday, Sept 16 • 11 am-3 pm

Party for the Preserves

Spend some time outdoors to celebrate your preserve system. We will have a variety of programming.

Saturday, Sept 23 • Noon-3 pm

Why Did the Woolly Bear Cross the Road?

Take a short walk and learn how these big fuzzy caterpillars are preparing for winter.

Ages 3 & up.

Saturday, Sept 30 • 1 pm

OCTOBER

Bees, Wasps & Hornets

These insects can be plentiful, and at times "pesky." Join this presentation to learn about them.

Sunday, Oct 1 • 1 pm

Close Encounters of the Tree Kind

Oak trees tower high along the Giant's Hollow Trail. Learn about what makes them special.

Sunday, Oct 8 • 1 pm



Teen Exploration Day: Volunteer Stewardship*

Earn your service hours while helping the environment.

Ages 13-17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, Nov 19 • 1-3 pm

Mammal Comparison: Chicagoland and South Korea

Join us for a presentation comparing mammals found in Cook County with some of the mammals found in South Korea.

Saturday, Oct 14 • 1 pm

Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt

Find all the hidden pumpkins on our Giants Hollow Trail during this fun scavenger hunt. Costumes encouraged but not required.

Sunday, Oct 22 • 10 am-2 pm

Jack O'Lantern Trail*

Enjoy a night walk on our trails lit with carved pumpkins. Register for a time slot.

Saturday, Oct 28 • 6-9 pm

Hoarders

Let's take a stroll through the woods and watch squirrels and chipmunks busily stocking their larders for survival through winter.

Sunday, Oct 29 • 1 pm

NOVEMBER

Plants in the Military

Humans have many uses for plants, and on Veterans Day, we will observe how they were used in the military.

Saturday, Nov 11 • 1 pm

Restoration Stewardship Day

Put on some gloves and join us to remove invasive species. Tools and eye protection provided. Ages 8 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, Nov 18 • 9 am-Noon

Deer at Dusk*

Find out more about whitetail deer and what unique survival adaptations they have on a guided walk. 8 years & up.

Monday, Nov 20 • 4 pm

Fitness Hike

Join us for a fast paced 3-mile hike through all three of Crabtree's habitats. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Nov 26 • 10 am

*Registration required, call 847-381-6592 to register.



Image: Orland Grassland, Chris Gill, Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 2.0

Forest Preserves Don't Need Your Pumpkin or Yard Waste!

Local residents should not dump leaves, yard clippings, fallen branches or any yard waste into the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Instead, your yard waste belongs:

In your yard: Beneficial native insects spend the winter in the ground, under leaf litter and even in the stems of dead plant material—improving the soil and providing food for birds.

In your compost bin: Set up a compost bin or pay for a composting service in your area. It reduces rat issues, methane gas, and protects the preserves.

In a commercial composting facility: Ask your city, town or village if they have a composting program.

Using a lawn service? Ask them what happens to your yard waste and let them know that the Forest Preserves doesn't need it.



Do you have pumpkin waste but not compost bins? Take them here: scarce.org/pumpkins/

Not convinced? People caught dumping pumpkins (or anything) in the Forest Preserves can be fined up to \$750. If it costs the Forest Preserves (tax payers) more to remove it, you will be charged more.

celebrate Public Lands via Volunteerism —Or Just Visiting

The nearly 70,000 acres of the Forest Preserves of Cook County are a vital cog in the region's overall ecosystem, preserving myriad habitats. As the 30th anniversary of National Public Lands Day arrives on September 23, the Forest Preserves encourages residents to celebrate them by paying a visit, perhaps during a Party for the Preserves event, or by participating in volunteer efforts that help to preserve these amazing lands.

“Our public lands need stewardship in order to be healthy and thrive—especially in an urban area—where there are many threats to our preserves, from invasive species to past land uses to pollution,” says Rebecca Collings, senior resource ecologist. Contractors with machinery handle larger-scale efforts, she says, but “volunteers play a crucial role in specialized work such as hand-pulling invasive species, understanding site needs, and connecting communities to nature.”



*“...volunteers play
a crucial role”*

Rebecca Collings, Senior Ecologist

Images: Top-Voyager boat at Party for the Preserves, Camp Bullfrog. Bottom-Volunteers at Deer Grove, photo by Anne Stake.

Continued on page 36

North Zone



4th Annual Fall Nature Fest: Party for the Preserves

Celebrate National Public Lands Day. Enjoy food, drinks, games, Jesse White Tumblers, animal ambassadors and much more. For more information, visit commissionerdeggen.com/fallnaturefest/.

Saturday, Sept 23 • Noon–3 pm

LaBagh Woods–Groves 1–4, N Cicero Ave, north of W Foster Ave, Chicago

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Wellness in the Woods: Martial Arts in Nature*

Join Fonseca Martial Arts and connect to your mind, body, soul and nature with this ancient practice, then enjoy a guided walk.

Wednesdays, Sept 13 & Oct 11

9–9:30 am: Parents and Tots

9:45–10:15 am: Intro to Karate

for Seniors

Bunker Hill–Grove 1, W Harts Rd, southwest of W Touhy Ave, Niles



SEPTEMBER

Pedal the Preserves*

Ride Illinois will lead a safety talk before we take off for a fun, casual, family-friendly bike. Loaner bikes available.

Sunday, Sept 17 • Noon–2 pm

Tower Road Boat Launch–Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr

Without Limits: Recreation for All!

Individuals with physical disabilities and their friends and families are invited to explore nature through adaptive cycling and rock wall climbing.

Thursday, Sept 21 • 3–6 pm

Bunker Hill–Grove 1, W Harts Rd, southwest of W Touhy Ave, Niles

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Adaptive Adventures.

Community Powwow

Join us to celebrate Native American culture while recognizing the theme “Every Child Matters.” Enjoy traditional Powwow, native food, and listen to stories of culture from the area. Attendees are encouraged to wear orange. For group registration or information, email JRoy@stbenedict.com.

Saturday, Sept 30 • Noon–4 pm

Bunker Hill–Grove 1, W Harts Rd, southwest of W Touhy Ave, Niles

Nurtured by Nature*

Discover the physical, emotional and mental health benefits of nature through meditation, yoga and guided sensory hikes. Register at bit.ly/josinawalks.

Sunday, Oct 1 • 11 am–2 pm

Harms Woods–Central–Harms Rd, south of Old Orchard Rd

Forest Therapy Walk*

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with the nature and the Preserves. Led by a Certified Forest Therapy guide. Ages 18 & up.

Thursday, Oct 12 • 1 pm

Dam No. 1 Woods–East–Grove 2, Dundee Rd, east of Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling

Fall Paddle Festival

Participate in a canoe trip, fishing, archery, Dia de los Muertos-themed pumpkin painting, nature play, and Bach-to-Rock music. Rain date Sunday, Oct 22.

Saturday, Oct 14 • Noon–4 pm

Tower Road Boat Launch–Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr



Pumpkinpalooza*

Family-friendly activities including pumpkin painting and bowling, ring toss, leaf rubbings, fall-themed obstacle course, and more. In partnership with Jerome Witte, My Town Realty Group.

Saturday, Oct 21 • 1–4 pm

Bunker Hill–Grove 1, W Harts Rd, southwest of W Touhy Ave, Niles



NOVEMBER

Stars, Stories, & S'mores

Listen to storytelling, take a night hike, make a s'more, view stars, and more.

Saturday, Nov 4 • 5–8 pm

LaBagh Woods–Grove 2, N Cicero Ave, north of W Foster Ave, Chicago

Forest Therapy Walk*

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with the nature and the Preserves. Certified Forest Therapy guide. Ages 18 & up.

Thursday, Nov 9 • 1 pm

Bunker Hill–Grove 2, W Harts Rd, southwest of W Touhy Ave, Niles

Woodworking with Invasives*

Repurpose the common European buckthorn into something new. Equipment provided. Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Nov 30 • 5 pm

Mathew Bieszczat Volunteer Resource Center–6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

**Unless otherwise noted, to register, call 773-758-8899.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

River Trail

NATURE CENTER

3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, 847-824-8360

Building: 9 am - 5 pm, closed Fridays. Grounds: 8 am - 5 pm daily, Free Admission



Fall Festival

Celebrate the season with a special day of autumn fun, entertainment, beekeeping demonstrations, pumpkin painting, honey sales, activities and more!

Admission is free; there may be small fees for some activities and food.

Sunday, Oct 15 • 10 am-3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Wildlife Connections

Stop by the visitor center to learn about reptiles, mammals and birds from the residents of Misericordia-Heart of Mercy.
Tuesdays • 10:30 am-Noon

Small Serendipity

Nature stories, crafts and activities for children ages 3-6 w/adult.
Wednesdays, Sept 6, 20; Oct 25; Nov 15, 29 • 10 am

SEPTEMBER

Animal Encounter

Join our staff for an up-close look at one of our animals.
Sunday and Monday, Sept 3 & 4 • 1:30 pm

River Trail Nightlife: Night Hike*

Learn about nocturnal animals and more on a guided hike. \$3/person. Registration required by 9/19. Ages 6 & up.
Friday, Sept 8 • 7 pm

Herbal Tea Party

Walk our gardens to learn about native plants then sample different infused teas made from them.
Sunday, Sept 10 • 11 am-2 pm

National Clean Up Day

Help care for our natural world by joining us and making River Trail and the surrounding preserves cleaner. Pick up supplies onsite.
Saturday, Sept 16 • 9 am-3 pm



Bye, Bye Birdie

Learn about fall bird migration while on a casual bird walk.
Sunday, Sept 17 • 1:30 pm

Birds of Prey

Meet one of our raptors and learn what makes these winged hunters so unique.
Sunday, Sept 24 • 1:30 pm

OCTOBER

Creatures of the Night

Experience some creepy, spooky, and nocturnal animals of the Forest Preserves.
Sunday, Oct 1 • 1:30 pm

Not Your Typical Pumpkin Party*

Why should the kids have all the fun? An adults-only pumpkin decorating night. \$25/person. Materials & refreshments provided. Registration required by 9/30. Ages 21 & up.
Saturday, Oct 7 • 6 pm

Fall Walk*

Spectacular fall colors to view while enjoying a casual walk in the woods.
Sunday & Monday, Oct 8 & 9 • 10:30 am or 1:30 pm

Fall Photography*

Enjoy a guided walk to view and photograph seasonal nature. For all levels and camera types. Registration required by 10/19. Ages 13 & up.
Saturday, Oct 22 • 10 am-Noon

The Return of Scary Stories*

Enjoy some spooky storytelling around the campfire. \$3/person. Registration required by 10/25. Ages 8 & up.
Saturday, Oct 28 • 8 pm

The Un-haunted Forest*

Bring the children for a magical hike through the forest. \$3/child. Registration required by 10/27.
Sunday, Oct 29 • 10:30 am or 1:30 pm

NOVEMBER

GPS Scavenger Hunt*

Learn about and participate in a technology-inspired scavenger hunt. Call to reserve an hourly time.
Sunday, Nov 5 • 11 am, 12:30 pm or 2 pm

Changing Seasons

Learn how local nature adjusts to the changing seasons and prepares for winter.
Sunday, Nov 12 • 1:30 pm

Owl Prowl*

A guided hike on our trail to search for local owls. Registration required by 11/15. Ages 8 & up.
Friday, Nov 17 • 5 pm or 7 pm

Nocturnal Hunters - Owls

Learn about the different attributes that make owls unique and fascinating.
Sunday, Nov 19 • 1:30 pm

Winter Bird Feeding

Learn some basic winter bird feeding tips including which birds will visit your feeders this winter.
Sunday, Nov 26 • 1:30 pm

**Registration required at least 2 days in advance of the events marked with asterisk.*

847-824-8360

Central Zone

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Forest Therapy Walk*

Forest therapy opens the gateway for creativity and a deepened relationship with self and the natural world. Led by certified Forest Therapy Guide.

Saturday, Sept 30 • 10 am

Thatcher Woods–Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest

Saturday, Oct 21 • 10 am

Schiller Woods–West–Grove 2, W Irving Park Rd, east of Des Plaines River Rd, Schiller Park

Story Trail

Experience a story unfold along a short, looped trail. A craft is available to take home after you complete the story trail.

Wednesdays, Sept 6, Nov 8 • 10 am–1 pm

Wednesday, Oct 4 • 10 am–1 pm
(en Español)

Bemis Woods–South–Grove 7, Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Proviso Township

SEPTEMBER

History & Photography Walk

Grab your camera and take a guided walk, stopping along the way to discuss the history of the site and to snap some pictures. Cameras not required.

Friday, Sept 1 • 9 am

Chicago Portage National Historic Hike S Harlem Ave, south of 47th St, Lyons

Silver Creek Prairie Walk*

Learn about Forest Preserves restoration efforts, goals, and ways you can get involved on this walk. Ages 12 & up.

Saturday, Sept 16 • 10 am

Silver Creek Family Picnic Area N 1st Ave, north of Chicago Ave, Melrose Park

Autumnal Equinox Program

Join the American Indian Center of Chicago to learn about the Autumnal Equinox.

Saturday, Sept 23 • 10:30 am–Noon

Schiller Woods–West–Grove 2, W Irving Park Rd, east of Des Plaines River Rd, Schiller Park

Theodore Stone Nature Walk*

Join us for a walk through the unusual dolomite prairie to see the late-blooming wildflowers. Ages 16 & up.

Sunday, Sept 24 • 10 am

Theodore Stone Forest–67th St, east of S La Grange Rd, Hodgkins

OCTOBER

Indigenous Peoples' Day Festival

In partnership with the American Indian Center of Chicago, join us to celebrate Native American culture with a mini-Powwow. Make corn husk dolls & bracelets, listen to drumming, explore the Serpent Mounds, enjoy Native food & art vendors.

Saturday, Oct 7 • 11 am–4 pm

Schiller Woods–East–W Irving Park Rd, west of N Cumberland Ave, Chicago



Faire at the Square–Drop in

Enjoy this “creative-reuse carnival” with themed games made from re-purposed materials! Win prizes, learn about nature, and more.

Friday, Sept 8 • 4–7 pm

Cummings Square
536 N Harlem, River Forest



Without Limits: Adventure for All

Individuals with physical disabilities and their friends and families can explore nature through adaptive cycling and rock wall climbing. In partnership with Adaptive Adventures.

Thursday, Oct 19 • 2–5 pm

Miller Meadow–South–Grove 6, 1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd, Maywood

Halloween Hoot and Howl

Join our partners the River Forest Public Library and the River Forest Park District for an evening of slightly spooky family fun featuring live music, pumpkin painting, kid's crafts, fire-roasted marshmallows and more. Free.

Friday, Oct 6 • 5–7 pm

Keystone Park–430 Keystone Ave, River Forest

Stars, Spooky Stories, & S'mores

Join a family-friendly evening with a cozy fire, s'mores, a “spooky” story trail, star gazing, pumpkin painting and more. Costumes encouraged!

Friday, Oct 27 • 4–7 pm

Thatcher Woods–Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest



NOVEMBER

Teen Exploration Day: Knitting in Nature

Learn about the basics of knitting and simple techniques through a tutorial led by staff. Supplies provided. Ages 13 & up.

Wednesday, Nov 15 • 5–7pm

Thatcher Woods Pavilion–Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest

Archery

Attend this session to learn the basics of archery. Ages 10 & up; equipment provided.

Tuesday, Nov 21 • 1–3 pm

Brookfield Woods–31st St, west of 1st Ave, Brookfield

**Registration required. To register or for information on any Central Zone programs please call 312-533-5751 unless otherwise noted.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9



Migrating Monarchs

Make Amazing Journeys

Each fall, monarch butterflies travel thousands of miles—including through Cook County—as they head south for the winter

As the season slowly transitions into fall, the amazing monarch butterfly will soon start its 3,000-mile expedition to wintering grounds in Mexico.

This complex migration began several generations back. The monarchs that spend winter in the mountains of Mexico start heading north towards Canada in early spring. This generation of butterflies typically just reaches the United States before mating and laying eggs on young milkweed plants before dying.

The next generation will continue the journey north, following sprouting and blooming milkweed plants. It isn't until the third generation of migrating monarchs that Cook County begins welcoming these fluttering travelers in June and July.

Want to learn more about monarch butterflies and how to support their journey from Mexico to Canada and back? Attend the Migrating Monarchs Celebration at Thatcher Woods on September 9.

Learn more: fpdcc.com/events

Help migrating monarchs by including milkweed plants in home or community gardens!

Adult monarch butterflies can feed on the nectar of many flowers, but they lay their eggs exclusively on milkweed in our area.

TRAILSIDE

Museum of Natural History

738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest, 708-366-6530

Building: 9 am – 5 pm, closed Fridays, Grounds: 8 am – 5 pm daily, Free Admission

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Bone Appetit

Join us during feeding time to learn about our ambassador animals.

Sundays, Sept 17, Oct 22, Nov 19 • 3 pm

Thursdays in the Field - Drop-in

Connect to nature through fun themed activities for adults and kids. Hosted by Univ of IL Extension volunteers.

2:30–4:30 pm

Thursday, Sept 21: Celebrating Indigenous Plant Knowledge

Thursday, Oct 19: Soil and Geology



Fall Bird Walks*

Take a guided bird walk to see both resident and migratory birds. All welcome, binoculars available to loan.

Sundays, Sept 24, Oct 29 • 8 am

Nature Story Trail “Its Fall” by Linda Glaser

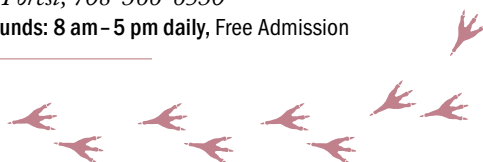
Experience a story unfold along a short, looped trail. A craft is available to take home afterwards to continue your adventures. Available daily.

Friday, Sept 29–Monday, Oct 23
9 am–5 pm

Autumn Nature Walks*

Families, join us for a guided walk as the autumn color intensifies.

Saturday, Sept 30; Sunday, Oct 8 • 10 am



SEPTEMBER

International Culture Awareness Day*

Learn about the important members of nature’s clean-up crew! Meet our turkey vulture and make a cute vulture craft.

Saturday, Sept 2 • 10 am

Autumnal Equinox Walk*

Celebrate the first day of autumn with a walk.

Saturday, Sept 23 • 10 am

OCTOBER

Bird painting Step-by-Step: Screech Owl*

Sketch and paint. For both beginners and more experienced artists. All materials provided. \$5/person.

Friday, Oct 13 • Noon–3 pm

Seed Collecting at Wolf Road Prairie*

Collect prairie seeds with us and learn about the story of the prairie. Ages: 12 & up.

Saturday Oct 14 • 10 am

Wolf Road Prairie–31st St, west
of Wolf Rd, Cook County

National Reptile Awareness Day*

Learn about local reptiles and meet some scaly Animal Ambassadors.

Saturday, Oct 21 • 1 pm

Fall Color Walk, in Polish*

Take a guided walk in the woods in celebration of Polish American Heritage Month.

Sunday, Oct 22 • 10 am

NOVEMBER

Lunch with the Raptors*

Learn about the birds of prey ambassador animals as they enjoy their lunch!

Sunday, Nov 12 • 1:30 pm

Annual Turkey Trot Hike*

Walk off that extra helping of turkey and stuffing on this annual post-holiday hike.

Friday, Nov 24 • 1:30 pm

Feed the Birds*

Learn about the best bird foods, feeders and landscape elements to benefit our resident winter birds.

Sunday Nov 26 • 11 am

Thatcher Woods Pavilion

8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

SPECIAL EVENT

Migrating Monarchs Celebration

Travel and trace the butterfly’s migration route through fun activities, kid’s crafts and more. Learn how you can help monarchs and other pollinators!

Saturday, Sept 9 • Noon–3 pm

Wellness Walks in Thatcher Woods*

Enjoy a mindful and meditative guided nature walk. Led by Roberta Janssen, Univ of IL Extension volunteer. Ages 18 & up.

Saturdays, Sept 2; Oct 7, 14; Nov 4, 11;
Sunday, Sept 10 • 1 pm

Senior Fitness Walks*

Join other seniors for a moderately paced, 1-mile fitness walk. Led by Roberta Janssen, Univ of IL Extension volunteer.

Wednesdays, Sept 6, 13; Oct 11, 18;
Nov 8, 15 • 1 pm

Salsa Dance: Party for the Preserve

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with a Salsa Dance Party. Enjoy bilingual hikes and family activities. Programa ofrecido en Espanol.

Saturday, Sept 23 • 11 am–2 pm

Makin’ Music Bluegrass Jam

Make a simple musical instrument or bring your own and join the jam by playing or listening.

Sunday, Nov 5 • 1–3 pm

Evening Film, “Monty and Rose”

View a screening of “Monty and Rose,” the true story of a pair of endangered piping plovers who beat the odds to nest successfully at Chicago’s Montrose beach. Meet and chat with the filmmaker Bob Dolgen. Ages 18 & up.

Wednesday, Nov 15 • 6–9 pm

*Registration required at least 2 days in advance
of the events marked with asterisk. 708-366-6530



Southwest Zone

SEPTEMBER

Teen Exploration Day: Archery

Designed for teens ages 13–19. Receive instruction from certified staff and try your hand at archery. Call 312-415-2970 for more information.

Thursday, Sept 7 • 4:30–7 pm

Breman Grove–Oak Park Ave, south of 159th St, Tinley Park

A River Thru History–Des Plaines Valley Rendezvous

Celebrates the history of when explorers and voyageurs paddled waterways, and trappers and hunters lived near the river systems.

Event site: ariverthruhistory.com.

Saturday, Sept 9 • 10 am–4 pm

Sunday, Sept 10 • 10 am–5 pm

Columbia Woods–Willow Springs Rd & Corcoran Rd, Willow Springs

Pedal the Preserves: I&M Bicycle Trail*

Ride Illinois will lead a safety talk before we take off for a fun, casual, family-friendly bike ride. Loaner bikes available.

Sunday, Sept 10 • Noon–2 pm

John Husar I&M Parking Lot–Willow Blvd, north of Archer Ave, Willow Springs

Archery

Attend this session to learn the basics of archery. Ages 10 & up; equipment provided.

Wednesday, Sept 14 • 4–6 pm

Cherry Hill Woods–S Willow Springs Rd, north of McCarthy Rd

“Check Out” Nature

Explore nature by checking out some of our gear: field guides, binoculars, scavenger hunts and litter pick-up materials. We'll be on site to answer questions, give trail recommendations, maps and more.

Sunday, Sept 17 • 10 am–Noon

Swallow Cliff Woods–North–Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west of La Grange Rd/96th Ave

OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, chat with Advocate Health Care to learn more about breast cancer.

Tuesday, Oct 10 • 4–6 pm

Swallow Cliff Woods–North–Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west of La Grange Rd/96th Ave

Fishing Derby

Join the Village of Palos Park and the Forest Preserves for a family-fun day of fishing.

Saturday, Oct 14 • 8 am

Horsetail Lake–104th Ave, north of McCarthy Rd

Fall Color Walk

Look for the changing colors on a 3.4-mile walk. Color scavenger hunts for the little ones provided.

Saturday, Oct 21 • 10 am

Palos Park Woods–Kean Ave, south of Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83

Spooky Shuffle 5k/10k*

In partnership with the Village of Palos Park, this 5k/10k trail race takes you through the forest preserves. Visit palo-spark.org to register.

Sunday, Oct 22 • 9 am

Swallow Cliff Woods–South
S La Grange Rd, south of 119th St

NOVEMBER



Crafternoon

Let nature inspire your creativity. Join in on various nature-themed arts and crafts projects.

Saturday, Nov 11 • 1–3 pm

Swallow Cliff Woods Pavilion
Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west of La Grange Rd/96th Ave



National Take a Hike Day

Celebrate National Take a Hike Day by hitting the trail with a naturalist on a 5-mile hike.

Friday, Nov 17 • 10 am

Country Lane Woods–95th St, east of Flavin Rd/Willow Springs Rd
Palos Park

**Registration required. For more information, unless otherwise noted, please call 312-533-5751.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center

9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs, 708-839-6897
Building: 9 am – 5 pm, closed Fridays, Grounds: 8 am – 5 pm daily, Free Admission



Art Fair

Join us for the Annual Arts and Craft Fair! Art of all styles will be sold by artists inspired by nature.

Sunday, Oct 1 • 9 am–3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

I am a Scientist

Ignite your child's sense of wonder and curiosity as we explore, experiment and make discoveries. Ages 4 & up w/adult.

Wednesdays • 10 am

Sept 6: Lepidopterist
Oct 4: Dendrologist
Nov 1: Arachnologist

R.I.P. Stewardship

Join us as we Remove Invasive Plants. Tools, gloves and snacks provided. Ages 18 & up or 17 w/guardian.

Saturdays, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11
10 am–Noon

Cub Scout Adventure Series

Scouts are invited to attend.

Sundays • 2:30–4 pm

Sept 24: Wolf-Paws on the Path
Oct 29: Bear-Fur, Feathers, and Ferns
Nov 26: Webelos-Into the Wild

Moon Walk

Walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world.

Friday, Sept 29 • 7 pm

Saturday, Oct 28; Monday, Nov 27 • 6:30 pm

Yoga In the Woods

Enjoy an all-levels yoga class with certified instructor, Maura. Then enjoy a self-guided walk. Ages 18 & up.

Sundays, Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 19
10–11 am



S.E.N.I.O.R.S.

Seniors Enjoying Nature Inside/Outside Rain or Shine! Join us for a nature-inspired adventure for seniors. Ages 55 & up.

Thursdays, Sept 7, Oct 12, Nov 9
10 am

SEPTEMBER

"The World of Monty and Rose" and "The Magic Stump" Film Screenings*

Join us for a viewing of two documentary films: "The World of Monty and Rose" and "The Magic Stump."

Wednesdays, Sept 20*, 27 • 6–7:30 pm

Fire for the Forest

Learn about the benefits of prescribed burns on a 1-mile walk.

Saturday, Sept 2 • 10–11:30 am

Dark Sky Walk

Walk in the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place during the darkest night of the month.

Thursday, Sept 14 • 8:30 pm

Resident Raptors

Learn about our ambassador raptors.

Saturday, Sept 16 • 1–2:30 pm

Nocturnal Sights and Sounds

Experience nature at nighttime.

Friday, Sept 22 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Nature Open Mic Night

Perform songs and poetry or relax and enjoy the live performances while overlooking the slough at sunset.

Thursday, Sept 28 • 4:30–6:30 pm

World Mental Health Day

Let the healing powers of nature help ease your mind and stimulate your senses on this fall color walk.

Tuesday, Oct 10 • 1 pm

Spectacular Partial Solar Eclipse

Watch this rare natural phenomenon here!

Saturday, Oct 14 • 10:15 am–1:15 pm

Fall Color Walk

Learn why trees drop their leaves and the cause of leaf color change.

Saturday, Oct 21 • 1–2:30 pm

Evening at a Nature Center: Teen Exploration Day

Observe the ambassador animals, hike a trail, and warm up by a fire with hot chocolate. Ages 13 & up.

Friday, Oct 27 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Día de los Muertos

In celebration of Día de los Muertos, stop inside to learn about Mesoamerican tradition and view our altar dedicated to extinct and endangered animals.

Monday, Oct 30–Thursday, Nov 2

Birds in Autumn

Visit the bird feeding stations and hike along a nature trail to observe birds during the fall season.

Saturday, Nov 4 • 1–2:30 pm

Folktale Under the New Moon

Join us for a "scary" folktale recited by a LaGrange Park Library librarian during a walk under the darkest day of the month. Then enjoy a bonfire. Ages 9 & up.

Monday, Nov 13 • 6–8 pm

Thankful for the Dark

Enjoy a nocturnal walk followed by relaxing time by a fire.

Friday, Nov 17 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Nature Lens

Use your camera to observe nature on a guided photography walk. All levels and camera types. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Nov 25 • 10 am

Registration required for all programs unless noted.

708-839-6897 or stop by in person to register.

Denotes Spanish bilingual program, Programa ofrecido en Español

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

12545 W 111th St, Lemont, 630-257-2045
Building: 9 am–4 pm, Grounds: 8 am–4 pm daily, Free Admission

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Ecological Restoration Weekend*

Enjoy the fresh air and put your muscles to work as you help restore habitat. Tools and safety gear available for loan.

Saturdays & Sundays • 9:30–11:30 am
Sept 30, Oct 28 & 29, Nov 25 & 26

Parks for Pollinators

Participate in a month-long photography challenge. Find pollinators on flowers and upload the photo to iNaturalist. Kick-off Labor Day weekend with this nationwide campaign with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Daily throughout September starting Friday, Sep 1–Saturday, Sept 30, 8 am–4 pm

Dolomite Prairie Hike*

Enjoy a hike through Sagawau's dolomite prairie. Rough terrain.
Ages 14 & up.

Saturday, Sept 9 • 10 am

Naturalist Choice

Drop-in for a look at what is happening in nature now.

Sunday, Sept 10; Saturday, Oct 7 • 10 am

Sweeping the Prairie*

What kind of invertebrates can we find in the prairie and why is it important to know? Sweep net through the prairie and along the side from an accessible path to find out. Family program.

Saturday, Sept 16 • 1 pm



Fall Fungi*

Explore two major divisions of the fungi kingdom with a talk followed by a short walk. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Sept 17 • 1 pm

Bilingual Bird Migration Walk*: Party for the Preserves

On a one-hour, leisurely walk on Sagawau's grassy trails, discuss where birds migrate to and where they overwinter.

Saturday, Sept 23 • 8:30 am

Caminata bilingüe sobre la migración de aves

Durante una hora, caminaremos por los senderos de Sagawau para discutir donde las aves migran y en donde invernan las aves de nuestra región.

Sábado 23 de Septiembre • 8:30 am

OCTOBER

Autumn Prairie Walk*

Walk with a naturalist around the prairie, enjoy the blooming flowers with the sea of grass. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Oct 1 • 1 pm

Red Gate Woods*

Enjoy an indoor presentation by former Argonne scientist, Dave Dolak. Afterwards, drive to Red Gate Woods for a guided walk to the site of the world's first nuclear reactor. Ages 16 & up.

Sunday, Oct 8 • 10 am–2 pm

Geopalooza: Adventures in Geoscience Innovation

Join naturalists as they discuss three innovations in earth science, and how they can help us understand our local geoscience.

Saturday, Oct 14 • 1 pm
Virtual on Facebook Live

Fall Color Walk*

Enjoy a leisurely nature walk to see the fall colors. Family program.

Sunday, Oct 15; Saturday Oct 21 • 1 pm

"The Magic Stump" Film Screening*

"The Magic Stump" tells the story of an Illinois tree stump that's attracted a phenomenal variety of wintering raptors through the years. Join us for this documentary short.

Sunday Oct 22 • 1 pm



ENTICE workshop: Coyote Track*

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, this workshop will focus on coyote ecology and behavior related to data collected from radio-collared coyotes. CDPU's available. Register at enticeworkshops.com.

Saturday, Nov 4 • 9 am–3 pm

NOVEMBER

"Monty and Rose 2: The World of Monty and Rose" Film Screening*

This one-hour documentary chronicles the lives of Chicago's beloved pair of piping plovers over five years and is a follow-up to a 2019 documentary short.

Sunday, Nov 5 • 1 pm

Book Discussion: "Braiding Sweetgrass"

Join us for a book discussion about "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Saturday, Nov 11 • 10 am

Queen Quest*

Where do bumble bee queens overwinter? Join us on a search for dormant queens.

Saturday, Nov 11 • 1 pm

Fossil Quarry Tour*

Learn about Chicago's ancient history through indoor fossil presentations followed by a visit to the fossil reserve quarry.

Sunday, Nov 12 • 1 pm

Geology of the Sag Valley*

Come along for a tour of the Sag Valley to observe and interpret its geologic formations. Participants will drive their own vehicles to each location. Ages 16 & up.

Saturday, Nov 18 • 9 am–1 pm

The Smokey Bear Effect*

Come learn about America's history of wildfire management and how a little bear influenced the whole nation.

Sunday, Nov 19 • 1 pm

**Registration required for events with asterisk.*

630-257-2045

South Zone



THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Bird Walk:

Join a naturalist as we explore this preserve while looking for local birds.

Wednesdays in Sept and Oct • 8 am

Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center – S Western Ave and W 87th St, Chicago

Saturday, Sept 9 • 8 am

Thursday, Oct 12 • 8 am

Saturday, Nov 4 • 8 am

Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E, Chicago

Mingle in the Morning: Senior Walking Club

Meet and mingle with members of the community who have a shared interest in health, wellness and the outdoors.

Wednesday, Sept 6 • 7 am

Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center
S Western Ave & 87th St, Chicago

Wednesday, Sept 13 • 7 am

Sauk Trail Woods-Central
Forest Preserve Dr, south of W 26th
St, South Chicago Heights

Wednesday, Sept 20 • 7 am

(Programa ofrecido en Español)

Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E,
Chicago

BE A BETTER BIRDER SERIES

Birding and Technology*

Join us as a representative from the Forest Preserves introduces you to technology that can be used to enhance your birding experience.

Register at
birding-technology.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, Sept 28 • 6 pm

Virtual Via Zoom

Intermediate Bird ID*

Step up your birding game by learning how to identify the complexities of birds.

Register at Inter-bird-id.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, Oct 26 • 6 pm

Virtual via Zoom

Tips for Learning to Identify Bird Songs*

Webinar teaching skills to begin to learn to identify local bird songs.
Register at Birdsounds.eventbrite.com.

Thursday, Nov 16 • 6 pm

Virtual Via Zoom

SEPTEMBER

Archery

Receive instruction from certified staff and try your hand at archery. Ages 10 & up. Junior archery for kids under 10.

Thursday, Sept 14 • 4:30-7 pm

Dan Ryan Woods-Central – Grove 5,
S Western Ave, south of W 83rd St,
Chicago

Bike Ride: Party for the Preserves

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with nature-based activities and bike ride. Divvy bikes provided; limited supply.

Saturday, Sept 23 • 10 am-Noon

Beaubien Woods – W Doty Ave S,
southeast of E 130th St & S Ellis Ave,
Chicago



Hispanic Heritage Month Paddling Celebration*

Bring the celebration outdoors with a paddle in the Calumet region. Free; all ages.

Saturday, Sept 30 • 10 am-1 pm

Powderhorn Lake – S Brainard Ave,
east of S Burnham Ave/S Ave O,
Burnham

OCTOBER

Owl Prowl*

Join a naturalist for an evening walk while searching for owls.

Thursdays, Oct 5, 19 • 6:30 pm

Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E,
Chicago

Accessible Bird Sit

Join a naturalist and discover how many bird species can be seen from a sit spot.

Wednesday, Oct 11 • 8-9 am

Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center – S
Western Ave and W 87th St, Chicago

Trunk or Treat

Sponsored by the East Side Chamber of Commerce. Enjoy a family-friendly Halloween event, complete with plenty of candy.

Sunday, Oct 29 • Noon-5 pm

Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E,
Chicago

NOVEMBER

Dia de Los Muertos Night Hike

Celebrate the history of Dia de los Muertos on a guided hike.

Thursday, Nov 2 • 6:30-8 pm

Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E,
Chicago



National Native American Heritage Month History Walk

Take a stroll and learn the origin of the name Sauk Woods. Walk is 3.4 miles on a paved loop.

Friday, Nov 3 • 4 pm

Sauk Trail Woods-Central – Forest
Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St, South
Chicago Heights

Stars, Stories and Smores

Join us for s'mores by the fire, storytelling, astronomy and more.

Friday, Nov 10 • 5-8 pm

Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion – S Western
Ave, south of W 83rd St, Chicago

National Take a Hike Day

Celebrate National Take a Hike Day with an evening stroll. Walk is 3.4 miles on a paved loop.

Friday, Nov 17 • 4 pm

Sauk Trail Woods-Central – Forest
Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St South,
Chicago Heights

The Sand Ridge Campus

is located in the South Zone. Turn the page and learn about the new campus. You may explore everything that makes the Calumet Region special at Sand Ridge Campus.

**Registration required. Please call 312-415-2970, unless otherwise noted.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4-9

Sand Ridge

NATURE CENTER

15891 Paxton, South Holland, 708-868-0606

Building: 9 am - 5 pm, Exhibit room closed Fridays, Grounds: 8 am - 5 pm daily
Free Admission



Archaeology Day

Pay homage to the Calumet Region's Native American cultural history while investigating the artifacts that help tell their stories. Activities include archaeology displays, a mock archaeology dig, and more.

Saturday, Sept 9 • 10 am-2 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Walk*

Venture out on our scenic trails for a 3- to 4-mile hike.

Saturdays, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4 • 1:30 pm

Tuesdays are for Birds

Join us as we seek out fall migrants. Binoculars available for loan.

Tuesdays, Sept 5, 12, 19, 26; Oct 3, 10 8 am

Wee Wonders*

Preschoolers, with an adult, are invited to learn about nature through music, movement, stories and artmaking.

Wednesdays • 10 am

Sept 13: Cacao, Mexico's Gift

Oct 11: Oaks

Nov 8: Bats

Teen Exploration Day: Chess Night*

Come learn the game of chess, help construct a board and play a match. Spanish speakers welcome! Ages 13-18
Thursdays, Sept 14, Nov 2 • 6-8:30 pm

Afro-Brazilian Martial Arts

Learn the different aspects of Capoeira (Afro-Brazilian martial arts) on a basic level and in a safe environment. We will incorporate movement, music, rituals and history into this art form.

Saturdays, Sept 16, 30; Oct 14; Nov 11 5:30-7 pm

SEPTEMBER

Sunset Stroll and S'mores*

Ages 18 & up or ages 13-17 w/ adult.

Friday, Sept 22 • 6-8 pm

The Great (Tiny) Pumpkin Hunt

Celebrate fall as you discover pumpkins on a fun scavenger hunt. After the hunt, take home your own pumpkin (while supplies last).

Saturday, Sept 23 • 10 am-2 pm

OCTOBER

Fishing 101*

Saturday, Oct 7 • 9 am-Noon

Green Lake-Torrence Ave, north of 159th St/River Oaks Dr, Calumet City

Family Fun Day!

Bring the whole family to spend time outside and have fun with activities, a nature scavenger hunt and more.

Saturday, Oct 14 • 10 am-2 pm

Restoration and S'mores!*

Get your conservation blood pumping as we do some invasive brush removal along the nature center trails. We will have a brush pile burn and s'mores, weather permitting. Ages 10 & up.

Saturday, Oct 21 • 10 am-Noon

Oak Walk*

Learn about our oaks and their importance while taking a leisurely stroll.

Sunday, Oct 22 • 1:30-3 pm

Who, Who, Who's Afraid of the Woods?*

Join us for a short walk along some of our trails in search of "not-so-spooky" Sand Ridge residents; owls, bats and more.

Saturday, Oct 28 * 6-7:30 pm

NOVEMBER

Autumnal Artmaking

Get inspired by the colors of the season as we paint tree cookies and make art with fallen leaves. All ages.

Sunday, Nov 5 * Noon-2 pm

Meet Our Birds

Learn about our flighted ambassador animals and discover their unique adaptations.

Sunday, Nov 12 • 1:30 pm

Sand Ridge Heritage Day

Join us as we explore the heritage of the Calumet Region with guided walks, regional activities and displays.

Saturday, Nov 18 • 10 am-2 pm



Walk Off That Turkey*

Rustle through the fallen leaves on a guided 1-mile fitness walk.

Friday, Nov 24 • 1-2 pm

Sounds Natural: Forest Edition!

Listen to the hypnotic digital sounds of nature by DJ Q and Bennie while roasting s'mores and hotdogs over a campfire. Register to camp overnight at 855-YES-CAMP.

Saturdays, Sept 30; Oct 14 • 4-8 pm

Camp Shabbona Woods, 15810 S Torrence Ave, Calumet City

Hip-Hop Olympics

Medals awarded to winners of professionally juried competitive MC'ing, DJ'ing, Dance, Visual Art, Knowledge and Quintathlon categories.

Saturday, October 21 • 10 am-5 pm

Camp Shabbona Woods, 15810 S Torrence Ave, Calumet City

**Registration required for events with asterisk.*

708-868-0606



Image: Seed collecting at Spring Creek.

Celebrate Public Lands, continued from page 15.

People of all ages can get involved, led by site stewards who work hand-in-work-glove with the resource management team. Their efforts are especially needed to preserve fragile habitats like prairie and oak savannas that evolved over thousands of years but are rapidly disappearing.

“It’s very peaceful and meditative.”

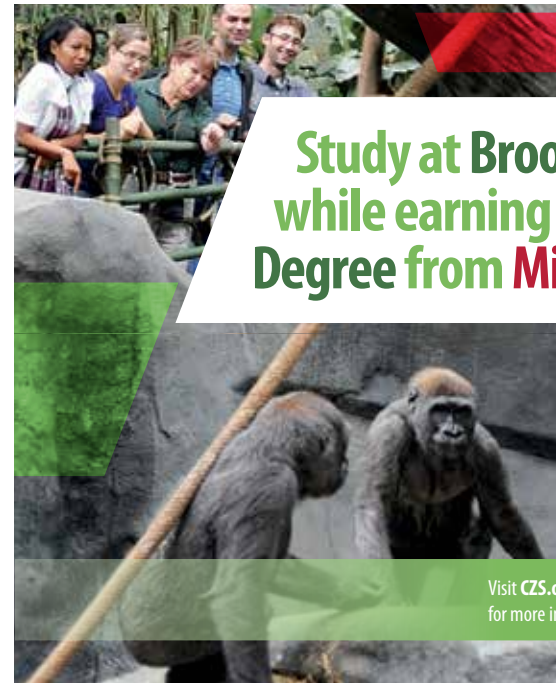
Emily Russell
Stewardship Program Coordinator

“We have really high-quality habitat that’s supporting endangered plants and animals,” says Emily Russell, stewardship program coordinator. “They need volunteer stewardship, especially with the pressures of climate change and introduced weedy species that can start taking over natural areas and choke out native plants.”

In the fall, this usually means collecting seeds of native plants and spreading them to areas cleared of invasive brush. With trained and certified leaders on hand, volunteers need no experience. “It’s very peaceful and meditative. You can just listen to the birds; you’re touching the plants; it’s a nice way to connect with the site, with the land,” Russell says.

Volunteers also can get involved through the Adopt-a-Site program, where a family or group visits throughout the year to pick up litter, as well as the Trail Watch program to create a welcoming environment.

“Volunteers are incredibly valuable,” Collings adds. “They become advocates for the site and help us become better stewards because we can be in more places. But not everyone has to become a volunteer. The Forest Preserves belong to the people of Cook County, and we want everyone to be able to appreciate and enjoy these incredible public lands. If they want to also help, that’s great, too.”



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