

FALL 2024

A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



FOREST
PRESERVES
of Cook County

feel free

fpdcc.com



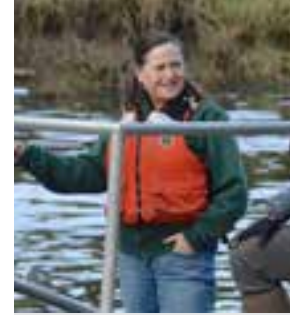
Explore Even More in Nature

Plan A Visit to Brookfield Zoo Chicago or the Chicago Botanic Garden!



Looking for *free* admission days?

Visit fpdcc.com to learn about free admission opportunities at both the Zoo and the Garden, ranging from free days for all, tickets through Commissioners' offices, library and museum pass programs, and more.



There are so many reasons autumn in nature is amazing: cooler temperatures, fewer “nuisance” bugs, fall bird migration... The list goes on and on. But one of the most spectacular aspects of fall in the Forest Preserves of Cook County is the color that takes hold amongst our tree canopies and natural areas.

Did you know you can find some of our top recommendations to see fantastic fall color by using our Fall Color filter on our web map? Simply visit map.fpdcc.com from your desktop or phone and select Fall Color. You'll be directed to a curated list of our staff's top-rated fall color hot spots.

If fall color isn't reason enough to spend time exploring the Preserves this season, we also have an incredible slate of special events and programs. This guide has information on festivals and “spooky” Halloween happenings, peaceful art programs wellness or nature education walks, and so much more.

We hope to see you in the Preserves!

Eileen Figel

Interim General Superintendent
Forest Preserves of Cook County



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 t 708.386.4042 or at experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.



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.

Seasonal Offerings

4-11

Fall Offerings, Hike the Preserves, Bird the Preserves, Volunteer Opportunities, Camping



Northwest Zone

12-17

Crabtree Nature Center, *Fall is the Perfect Time to Ride the Volunteer Bus*



North Zone

18-21

River Trail Nature Center



Central Zone

22-29

Trailside Museum of Natural History, *Create Your Own Trail Adventure*, Teen Exploration Days



Southwest Zone

30-35

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center/Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

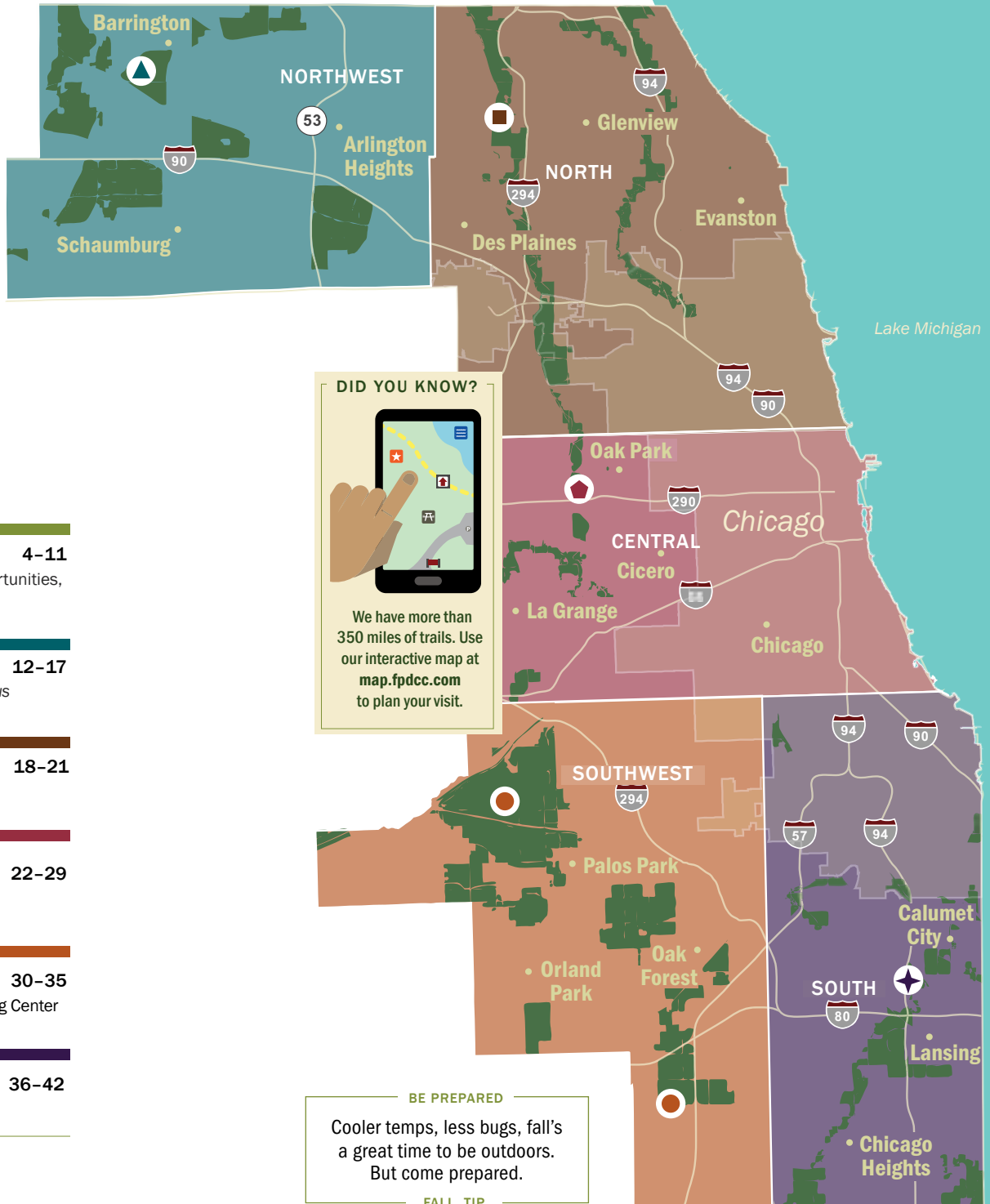


South Zone

36-42

Sand Ridge Nature Center

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



Seasonal Offerings

throughout Cook County

BOAT RENTALS

Canoes, kayaks, rowboats or electric motor boats. April–October 31—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

2024 Permits on sale now

— SAVE THE DATE —

2025 Indoor Pavilion Permits go on sale August 15

Permits for 2025 go on sale November 15, 2024

GO APE ZIP LINE

Navigate obstacles and ziplines, throw axes, and take on a jungle gym nets course in the forest canopy. Closes November 30. Details & reservations: goape.com.

Bemis Woods-South

1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs
Open April–November



JUICED BY SHIC

Swallow Cliff Woods-North

Days/hours are weather dependent.

juicedbyshic.com

Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west of La Grange Rd/96th Ave, Palos Park

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

REI, tinyurl.com/rei-palos24, 773.819.3810
email: experiences@rei.com

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ✦ South

Hike the Preserves

Walk & Talks

Walk & Talk Hikes are for the curious mind who wants to know more about the Forest Preserves and natural areas. Enjoy these walks, led at a

slower pace with frequent stops, to listen to interesting interpretation about the surrounding nature.

■ North Zone

History of the Preserves

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

Sunday, Nov 3 • 1:30 pm

History of the Preserves

Deer Grove-East, Grove 4, W Dundee
Rd, west of N Hicks Rd, Palatine

Saturday, Nov 9 • 1:30 pm

◆ Central Zone

Arie Crown Forest-2 mi.

S LaGrange Rd, south of 67th St,
Countryside

Friday, Nov 1 • 10 am

● Southwest Zone

Oak Forest Heritage Preserve-1.6 mi.

Fieldcrest Dr, southwest of
Crawford Ave, Oak Forest

Saturday, Sept 21 • 10 am

Spears Woods-3 mi.

96th Ave, south of W 87th St,
Willow Springs

Friday, Nov 22 • 10 am

◆ South Zone

Kickapoo Woods-1 mi.

Halsted St, south of W 144th St,
Riverdale

Saturday, Oct 12 • 10 am

Plum Creek Meadow-2 mi.

Burnham Ave, north of 223rd St,
Chicago Heights

Saturday, Nov 16 • 10 am

Fitness Hike

Fitness hikes, faster paced with little to no interpretation stops, are for those looking for outdoor exercise.

◆ Central Zone

Cermak Woods-4.5 mi.

7600 W Ogden Ave, Lyons

Saturday, Nov 23 • 10 am

Brezina Woods-5 mi.

N La Grange Rd, south of
W Cermak Rd, La Grange Park

Wednesday, Nov 6 • 10 am

● Southwest Zone

Orland Grassland-5 mi.

W 167th St, west of S La Grange Rd,
Orland Park

Saturday, Oct 12 • 10 am

Pioneer Woods-6.5 mi.

107th St, east of S Willow Springs Rd/
Flavin Rd, Willow Springs

Tuesday, Nov 26 • 10 am



#birdthepreserves

BE A BETTER BIRDER

Thursdays • 6 pm

Sept 5: Backyard Bird Feeding

Discover how to make your yard and home bird friendly. Learn about bird feeders, types of foods, garden opportunities and more.

Register at: tinyurl.com/bdcs4j6b

Sept 26: Birding and Technology*

Join us and discover how technology can be used to enhance your birding experience.

Register at: tinyurl.com/34rnj387

Oct 24: Intermediate Bird ID*

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

Register at: tinyurl.com/3c3d3fpu

Nov 21: Identifying Bird Songs*

Learn how to identify local bird songs.

Register at: tinyurl.com/2xkysy2k

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ◆ South

*Registration required.



**BROOKFIELD ZOO
CHICAGO**
CONNECT • CARE • CONSERVE

KOALAS!

HERE FOR A LIMITED TIME
**DOWN UNDER.
UP CLOSE.**



Volunteer Opportunities

NEWTS SERIES

Stewardship Days for New Volunteers

Beginners welcome! Learn how to collect seeds of beneficial native plants. It's a peaceful and calming activity that helps restore your spirit and the land.

◆ Southwest

Sunday, Aug 25 • 9 am–Noon

Swallow Cliff Woods-South,
S La Grange Rd, south of 119th St,
Palos Park

◆ South

Saturday, Sept 7 • 9 am–Noon

Exact location will be provided upon registration.

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

◆ Central

Saturday, Oct 5 • 10 am–Noon

Salt Creek Resource Management,
500 Ogden Ave, Western Springs

Learn more and sign up:

fpdcc.com/volunteer.

Registration required.



◆ South

Tree Trimming, Love and Care*

Prune and mulch trees in the picnic grove alongside experienced staff and volunteers.

Friday, Sept 20 • 9 am–Noon

Dan Ryan Woods-Central, Grove 3,
S Western Ave, south of W 83rd St,
Chicago

▲ Northwest

Community Litter Cleanup*

Make a positive impact on the environment with other volunteers. Comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes, and a water bottle recommended.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 9:30 am–Noon

Busse Lake Boating Center,
E Higgins Rd/Rte 72, east of I-290/
Hwy 53, Elk Grove Village

**Registration required:*

volunteer-fpdcc.givepulse.com.



**CAMP REINBERG • CAMP BULLFROG LAKE
CAMP SULLIVAN**

RATES: NOV-MAR		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Type	Capacity	Thurs-Sat	Thurs-Sat
Tent/RV Electric	6	\$54	\$64
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$38	\$49
Small Cabin	8	\$88	\$98
Large Cabin	10	\$133	\$148
Small Bunkhouse	16	\$179	\$190
Large Bunkhouse	36	\$273	\$282

CAMP DAN BEARD • CAMP SHABBONA

RATES: APR-OCT		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Type	Capacity	Sun-Sat	Sun-Sat
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$38	\$49
Small Cabin	8	\$87	\$98
Large Cabin	10	\$110	\$120
Group Site Pricing			
	30-60	\$23/tent	\$33/tent

CAMP GROUNDS

- ▲ ● 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

Visit fpdcc.com/camping for Nov-Mar rates. Contact campgrounds for information and group site availability. 1-855-YES-CAMP.

▲ ● ◆ Free!

Campground programming for registered campers Saturdays, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Check in with campground staff for topics/times of offerings.

- Camp Reinberg
- Camp Bullfrog Lake
- Camp Sullivan
- Camp Shabbona Woods

CAMP GROUNDS OFFERINGS

▲ ● Camping 101

1.5-hour long workshop covering basic camping skills. All ages.

Wednesdays • 5:30-7 pm

Camp Reinberg
Sept 18

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Oct 9

Camp Sullivan
Nov 6

◆ Day Hiking Leadership Training*

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

Saturday, Oct 26 • 11:30 am

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

● Party for the Preserves

Join us for live music, food vendors and a night hike to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Paddle on the lake from 4-6 pm, listen to live music at sunset, night hike immediately following.

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Saturday, Sept 28 • 5-9 pm

Teen Exploration Days*

Multiple events with great outdoor activities. Adult supervision required. Ages 13 & up. More info on page 26.

● Kayaking

Join us to learn paddling techniques and enjoy an afternoon on Bullfrog Lake.

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Sunday, Sept 15 • 1-3 pm

■ Bonfire

Join us for a spooky night in the woods. Enjoy a bonfire with s'mores, listen to scary stories and search for bats on a night hike.

Camp Dan Beard
Friday, Oct 18 • 7-9:30 pm

● Rock Climbing

Come and test your nerves by climbing our rock wall.

Camp Sullivan
Saturday, Nov 23 • 1-3 pm

*Registration required for events with an asterisk. Please register at experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

ZONE KEY

- ▲ Northwest
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- ◆ South

LIGHTSCAPE

Tickets on sale now for a holiday favorite!

NOVEMBER 15 – JANUARY 5

An illuminated trail for enchanting winter nights
created just for the Chicago Botanic Garden

chicagobotanic.org/lightscape



Northwest Zone



THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Story Trail*

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by experiencing a story unfold along a short trail. A craft is available to take home upon completion.

**Thursdays, Sept 19 & 26; Oct 3 & 10,
1-2:30 pm**

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd,
Elgin



SEPTEMBER

Forest Therapy*

Immerse yourself in nature, fostering mindfulness and wellness with a certified guide. Ages 16 & up. Registration: thatforestfeeling.com/register

Tuesday, Sept 10 • 10 am-Noon

Deer Grove-West, W Dundee Rd,
east of Northwest Hwy, Barrington

Dagwaag (Fall) Nature Camp

Learn the significance of harvest season in Native American culture while participating in various activities. Presented by Trickster Cultural Center. All ages.

**Thursday-Saturday, Sept 19-21,
Noon-3 pm**

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd,
Elgin

**Unless otherwise noted, to register,
call 773.758.8899.*

Pedal the Preserves*

Learn basics, simple maintenance, and safe riding skills then explore the trail. Family-friendly. Loaner bikes upon request to first 15 registrants. Presented with Ride Illinois.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 10 am

Carl R. Hansen Woods, Grove 1,
Sutton Rd/Route 59,
south of Shoe Factory Rd,
Schaumburg

One Voyage 5K Run & Walk*

Help get youth from the Chicagoland area into the outdoors by participating in run fun for the entire family. Register: chicagovoyagers.org/onevoyage

Sunday, Sept 22 • Race starts at 8 am

Busse Woods-Central, Grove 4,
E Higgins Rd/Rte 72, east of I-290/
Hwy 53, Elk Grove Village

OCTOBER

Teen Exploration Day: Fishing 101*

Come out for an afternoon of aquatic education and casting lessons. Ages 12 & up.

Thursday, Oct 10 • 3:30-5:30 pm

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd,
Elgin

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4-11

Crabtree, NATURE CENTER

3 Stover Rd, Barrington, 847.381.6592

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

Starting November 1, Building 9 am–4 pm, grounds close at 4 pm.

THROUGHOUT *the* FALL

Explore Nature Play

Build forts and climb a spider web as you explore a 3-acre nature play area.

Open every day

Wee Wandering Wednesdays

Read a story, make a craft, and go on an adventure. Ages 3-6 w/ adult; siblings welcome. Tickets on a first come, first served basis starting at 9:30 am.

Wednesdays, Oct 16 & 30, Nov 6 & 20, 10 am

Senior Naturalists*

Discover the natural world with a themed activity. Ages 55 & up.

Thursdays, Oct 17, Nov 14 • 10 am

Restoration Workday*

Help protect our natural areas by collecting seeds or removing invasive species. Equipment provided. Ages 8 & up w/adult. Earn service hours.

Saturdays, Sept 14, Oct 19, Nov 23;
Sunday, Nov 17 • 10 am–Noon

Art in Nature

Come observe artists at work. Art activities for both kids and adults. Music, dance and artwork for sale.

Saturday, Sept 7 • 11 am–3 pm

SEPTEMBER

Art in the Prairie*

Go on a walk and create nature-inspired art. Supplies provided.

Sunday, Sept 15 • 1 pm

Fall Equinox Walk*

Celebrate the coming equinox with a 1.5-mile walk.

Friday, Sept 20 • 7 pm

Solar Day-Drop in

View our nearest star with NW Suburban Astronomers.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 11 am–4 pm



Party for the Preserves: Litter Clean-up

Drop in anytime and pick up supplies for a litter cleanup to celebrate National Public Lands Day.

Saturday, Sept 21–Saturday, Sept 28
9 am–4 pm

Hoarders

Come watch animals stocking up their larders for winter. All ages.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 1 pm

We are All Connected Todos estamos conectados

Join us for a guided bilingual nature walk exploring how all of nature is interconnected, including us. Únase a nosotros por una caminata bilingüe y guiada por la naturaleza para explorar como todo en la naturaleza está conectado, incluso a nosotros.

Sunday, Sept 29 • 1 pm

Domingo, 29 de septiembre a la 1 pm

OCTOBER

Autumn Voyagers

Learn and observe who moves when winter approaches.

Sunday, Oct 6 • 1 pm

How to do Nothing for Overwintering Pollinators

Find out best practices that support native pollinators.

Saturday, Oct 12 • 1 pm

Indigenous Environmentalists Walk

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, enjoy a self-guided walk and learn about indigenous naturalists.

Sunday, Oct 13; Monday, Oct 14,
10 am–4 pm

Evening Jack O'Lantern Ramble*

Join us for a self-guided walk on our candlelit pumpkin trails.

Friday, Oct 18 • 6–9 pm

Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt

Find all the hidden pumpkins during a fun self-guided scavenger hunt. Costumes encouraged. Drop in.

Sunday, Oct 20 • 10 am–2 pm

Fall Art*

Let the fall color be your inspiration as you paint and create leaf art. Ages 3–7 w/adult.

Sunday, Oct 27 • 1 pm

NOVEMBER

Waterfowl Watch

Get to know the ducks and geese on Crabtree Lake.

Saturday, Nov 2 • 10 am

Prescribed Fire

Come learn how prescribed fires help manage ecosystems.

Sunday, Nov 10 • 1 pm

Plants in the Military

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

Monday, Nov 11 • 1 pm

Pride Night*

Walk candlelit trails and enjoy a hot cocoa bar and s'mores at a bonfire. LGBTQ2S+ people and allies are welcome. Presented with the Kenneth Young Center. Ages 18 & up.

Friday, Nov 15 • 6–9 pm

Owl Prowl*

WHoo's calling out in the dark of night? Listen for owls. Ages 10 & up.

Friday, Nov 22 • 7 pm

Knock, Knock! Who's there?

Our native woodpeckers, that's who! Learn about their adaptations, make your own feeder, and go on a binocular hunt.

Sunday, Nov 24 • 1 pm

**Registration required for events with an asterisk. Please call 847.381.6592 for more information and registration.*



Fall is the Perfect Time to Ride the Volunteer Bus

The Forest Preserves offers a free transportation option for schools, community groups and nonprofits looking to experience nature and give back. The Volunteer Voyager program provides a bus to pick up and return your group for a litter clean-up or ecological stewardship day!

“We don’t want transportation to be a barrier to participating in volunteering in the Forest Preserves,” says Emily Russell, a volunteer program coordinator with the Forest Preserves. “Volunteering allows you to experience the forest preserves in a more intimate way. You are walking in areas you wouldn’t normally walk, and you notice things as you engage with the land.”

Litter cleanups are self-guided and can be undertaken by all ages at almost any forest preserve. Russell says that fall is the perfect time, given cooling weather, fewer bugs and the beauty of the season.

Alicia Quintero, a Spanish teacher at Walter Payton College Prep in Chicago, relished the opportunity last May to take her homeroom students to a litter cleanup on their annual community service “Sweetness Day.” Many had never visited the Forest Preserves before.

“They were so enamored of the beauty,” Quintero says. “It was just very peaceful. That’s something they took away, that there are these oases in the city. They saw people

riding bikes, walking and enjoying nature. This generation, these kids, probably do not spend 10 minutes without their phones.”

Greta Kringle, a science teacher and former volunteer coordinator at Eric Solorio Academy High School in Chicago, takes her students to the Forest Preserves for environmental stewardship. They spend a Saturday learning about invasive plant species and then helping to remove them.

“It’s a great way to get students playing. They’re finding weird bugs; they’re making observations. Another big thing is not science-related at all—it’s students having to depend on each other, and work with each other

in a way that’s hard to recreate in the classroom,” she says.

The upcoming months are the best time of year to volunteer for ecological restoration, with opportunities for seed collecting in the fall and brush clearing all winter long. Spring brings wildflowers, migrating birds and wet soil, so the brush clearing ends for the season.

Image: Students from Eric Solorio Academy High School at Arie Crown Forest.

NORTH ZONE



SEPTEMBER

Weekly Caldwell Wood Wellness Center Programming

An exciting new program will take place every Thursday! Check fpdcc.com for weekly offerings including time, age appropriateness, and other details. For more info, call 773.758.8899 or email experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Thursdays beginning Oct 3

Caldwell Woods Wellness Center,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

Fall Nature Fest

Enjoy food, drinks, games, Jesse White Tumblers, animal ambassadors, and free give-a-ways. tinyurl.com/LaBagh24.

Saturday, Sept 14 • Noon-3pm

LaBagh Woods, Groves 1-4,
W Foster Ave, N Cicero Ave, Chicago

Full Moon Paddle*

Join an exclusive after-hours moonlit paddle through the Skokie Lagoons. Ages 8 & up. Register: chicagoriver.org/events.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 6:30-10 pm

Tower Road Boat Launch, Tower Rd,
West of Forestway Dr, Northfield

Teen Exploration Day: Paleontology Mystery*

Learn the science behind the study of fossils. Participate in a simulated fossil hunt to shed light on a 12,000-year-old mystery. Ages 12 & up.

Thursday, Sept 19 • 4-6 pm

Caldwell Woods, Grove 1,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

Story Trail*

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, experience a story unfold along a short trail. A craft is available to take home upon story trail completion.

Thursdays, Sept 19, 26 • 9:30-11 am

Catherine Chevalier Woods,
Grove 1, N East River Rd, north of W Foster Ave, Chicago

Community Powwow

'Every Child Matters' at this traditional Powwow. Enjoy Native food and listen to cultural stories. Attendees are encouraged to wear orange. For group registration or information, email JRoy@stbenedict.com.

Saturday, Sept 28 • Noon-4 pm

Caldwell Woods, Grove 1,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

OCTOBER

Pumpkinpalooza*

Pumpkin painting, bowling, ring toss, leaf rubbing, fall-themed obstacle course, and more. Supplies limited. Presented with Jerome Witte, My Town Realty Group.

Saturday, Oct 5 • 10 am-1 pm

Caldwell Woods, Grove 1,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

Nurtured by Nature

Join yoga, meditation, art therapy and more at this nature-centered day of wellness. For more information go to: bit.ly/nurturedbynature2024

Sunday, Oct 6 • 1-3 pm

Harms Woods-Central, Grove 5,
Harms Rd, south of Old Orchard Rd,
Glenview



Fall Paddle Festival

Participate in a canoe trip, fishing, archery, pumpkin painting, nature play and music.

Saturday, Oct 19 • 10 am-1 pm

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

Fall Color Excursion

Explore the North Branch Trail and experience the changing colors of local species. Accessible to paved trail.

Thursday, Oct 24 • 10 am-Noon

Caldwell Woods, Grove 1, 6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago



NOVEMBER

Stars, Stories & S'mores

Listen to storytelling, take a night walk, make a s'more, view stars, and more. Presented with Haugan Elementary School and the American Indian Health Services.

Saturday, Nov 2 • 5-8 pm

LaBagh Woods, Grove 2, W Foster Ave,
N Cicero Ave, Chicago

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4-11

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
Starting November 1, Building 9 am–4 pm, grounds close at 4 pm.



Fall Festival

Celebrate the season with a special day of autumn fun. Entertainment, beekeeping demonstrations, animal encounters, pumpkin painting, honey sales, activities and more! Admission is free; there may be small fees for some activities and food available to purchase.

Sunday, Oct 20 • 10 am–3pm

THROUGHOUT *the* FALL

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 and crafts. Children ages 3–6 w/adult.

Tuesdays, Sept 3, 17; Oct 8; Nov 5, 19 • 10 am

What's On The Menu?

Join us at feeding time to learn about our outdoor ambassador animals and their habits.

Saturdays & Sundays • 3 pm

River Trail Workdays*

Help us work to make River Trail even better. Ages 10 & up. Children under 15 w/adult. Register by 9/11 & 11/7.

Saturdays, Sept 14, Nov 9 • 10 am–Noon

River Trail Nightlife*

Register three days in advance of event.

Ages 8 & up. Cost: \$5/person.

Night Walk

Friday, Sept 20 • 7 pm

Scary Stories

Saturday, Oct 26 • 8 pm

Owl Prowl (free)

Friday, Nov 15 • 5 or 7 pm

SEPTEMBER

Animal Encounter

Join our staff for an up-close look at one of our ambassador animals.

Sunday & Monday, Sept 1 & 2 • 1:30 pm

Conservation@Home: Herbal Tea Party

Walk our gardens to learn about native plants then sample different infused teas made from them.

Sunday, Sept 8 • 11 am–2 pm



National Clean Up Day

Join us at River Trail and the surrounding preserves and clean up our natural world. Pick up supplies onsite. All ages.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 9 am–3 pm

Interesting Insects

Look for all the different insects we can find in the fall season.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 1:30 pm

Party for the Preserves

Celebrate the Forest Preserves of Cook County on National Public Lands Day.

Saturday, Sept 28 • 10:30 am–2:30 pm

Fall Flower Walks: **10:30 am & 1:30 pm**

Activities & Crafts: **11 am–2 pm**

Birds of Prey

Meet one of our raptors and learn what makes these winged hunters so unique.

Sunday, Sept 29 • 1:30 pm

OCTOBER

Nature Detective

What happened here?! Learn how to look for clues to figure out nature's mysteries.

Sunday, Oct 6 • 1:30 pm

Phone Photography*

Enjoy a guided walk to photograph and view seasonal nature. For all levels and phone camera types. Register by 10/9. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Oct 12 • 10 am–Noon

Fall Walk*

Spectacular fall colors to view while enjoying a casual walk in the woods.

Sunday, Oct 13 • 10:30 am or 1:30 pm

The Un-haunted Forest*

Come in costume for a magical walk. Cost: \$5/child. Register by 10/24.

Sunday, Oct 27 • 10:30 am or 1:30 pm

NOVEMBER

GPS Scavenger Hunt*

Learn about and participate in a technology-inspired scavenger hunt.

Sunday, Nov 3 • 11 am, 12:30 pm or 2 pm

Seeds and Stewardship

Learn about seed dispersal techniques and spend time collecting native seeds. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Nov 9 • Noon

Sugar Shack Time Machine*

Travel through time as we open our sugar shack and learn about the history of maple syrup.

Register by 11/7.

Sunday, Nov 10 • 1:30 pm

Nocturnal Hunters: Owls

Learn about the different attributes that make owls unique and fascinating.

Sunday, Nov 17 • 1:30 pm

Changing Seasons

Don't be a turkey. Learn how nature adapts to the changing seasons and prepares for winter.

Sunday, Nov 24 • 1:30 pm

**Registration required for events marked with asterisk. For more information or registration, call*

847.824.8360

CENTRAL ZONE

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON



Bird Walks*

Register: chicagobirdalliance.org/upcoming-events.

Thursdays, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21 • 8 am
Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7,
Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Oak Brook

Celebrate Native American Culture Series

Presented by the
American Indian Center.

**Food is Medicine: A Small Taste
of Native America**

Friday, Sept 20 • 11 am–Noon
Thatcher Woods Pavilion,
Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave,
River Forest

Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration
Saturday, Oct 12 • 10 am–Noon
Schiller Woods-East, Grove 10,
W Irving Park Rd,
west of N Cumberland Ave, Chicago

**Mnidoons Giizis Oohg
(Little Spirit Moon)**
Thursday, Nov 21 • 10:30 am–Noon
Schiller Woods-East, Grove 10,
W Irving Park Rd,
west of N Cumberland Ave, Chicago

SEPTEMBER

Nature Play Day

Bring your little one for open nature play time!

Wednesday, Sept 11 • 10 am–1 pm
Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7,
Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Oak Brook

Faire at the Square

Enjoy our “creative-reuse carnival.”
Ice cream truck on-site. Drop in.

Friday, Sept 13 • 4–7 pm
Cummings Square, 536 N Harlem,
River Forest

Chicago Portage Day

Celebrate this National Historic Site through demonstrations, site tours, games and more.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 10 am–3 pm
Chicago Portage National Historic Site,
S Harlem Ave, south of 47th St, Lyons

Salsa Dance: Party for the Preserve

Enjoy music, dance instruction, food trucks, walks, yoga & more. Programa ofrecido en Español.

Saturday, Sept 28 • 11 am–2 pm
Thatcher Woods, Chicago Ave,
west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest

OCTOBER

Forest Therapy*

Foster mindfulness and wellness with a certified guide. Ages 16 & up. Register: thatforestfeeling.com/register.

Tuesday, Oct 8 • 1–3 pm
Thatcher Woods, Chicago Ave,
west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest

ADA Trail Walk

Join Opportunity Knocks on a 1.7-mile guided walk. Wheelchair accessible.

Wednesday, Oct 2 • 10 am
Miller Meadow-South, Grove 5,
1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd,
Maywood

Connecting Newcomers to Nature*

Learn how nature helps refugees and immigrants heal from trauma. Register: swills@reachinchicago.org.

Friday, Oct 11 • 1–3:30 pm
Thatcher Woods Pavilion,
Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave,
River Forest

Access Adventure Multi-Sport Day*

Enjoy cycling and climbing, specially designed for individuals with a primary physical disability or visual impairment. Register: tinyurl.com/adaptivemm.

Thursday, Oct 17 • 10 am–Noon
Miller Meadow-South, Grove 6,
1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd,
Maywood

Nature Navigator

Join us for outdoor learning experiences led by refugee youth leaders from Refugee Education & Adventure Challenge.

Saturday, Oct 26 • 11 am–3 pm
Thatcher Woods Pavilion,
Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave,
River Forest



Spooky Stories & S'mores

Families can trick-or-treat through activity stations. Costumes encouraged!

Sunday, Oct 27 • 2–5 pm
Thatcher Woods Pavilion,
Chicago Ave, west of Thatcher Ave,
River Forest



NOVEMBER

Archery

Learn the basics of archery. Equipment provided. Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Nov 14 • 1–3 pm
Brookfield Woods, 31st St,
west of 1st Ave, Brookfield

Weaving Workshop

Create a small wall hanging using natural materials. Supplies provided. Ages 10 & up.

Wednesday, Nov 20 • 5:30–7:30 pm
Thatcher Woods, Chicago Ave,
west of Thatcher Ave, River Forest

**Registration required for events with an asterisk. Please call 312.533.5751 for more information or registration, unless otherwise noted.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–11

Create Your Own Trail Adventure

There are more than 350 miles of trails throughout the Forest Preserves of Cook County. And their uses are as diverse as the people of Cook County, from an outdoor workout to a source of inspiration to a place to be with friends and family.

Find your nearest trail or a new place to explore with our interactive web map: map.fpdcc.com.

BE MINDFUL

Find a nice spot on the journey to stop and soak in the view. Try meditating or sitting quietly while basking in the environment. You can bring a notebook to journal about your observations and thoughts.

CONNECT TO CREATIVE INSPIRATION

With lush canopies, stunning flowers, captivating wildlife and serene landscapes, it's no wonder Bob Ross focused on nature. Whether you paint, write, make music or any other artistic endeavor—or want to start—let the landscapes along the trail inspire you!

SPEND TIME WITH A DOG

Forest Preserves trails are the perfect place for on-leash dogs get in a good workout. With so many new smells and sights, a walk in nature will work their brains, and all those miles will work their legs!

BRING YOUNG EXPLORERS

Kids are constantly learning, and there is no better classroom than nature. Take a walk in the woods with your kids and talk about what you're seeing, hearing, smelling and feeling. Consider a trail at a nature center to discuss their findings with a naturalist.

GET PHYSICAL

Whether it's walking, running, biking or hiking: active outdoor recreation is good for us! You don't have to even break a sweat. Research has shown that a walk in nature has health benefits, including reducing blood glucose levels.

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,

Starting November 1, Building 9 am–4 pm, grounds close at 4 pm. Free Admission

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Bone Appetit

Join us during feeding time to learn about Trailside's outdoor animal ambassadors.

Saturdays, Sept 14, Oct 26 (in Spanish), Nov 23 • 3 pm

Thursdays in the Field

Drop in to connect to nature through fun themed activities.

Native Seed Explorers

Thursday, Sept 19 • 2:30–4:30 pm

Night Fliers-Bats & Owls

Thursday, Oct 17 • 2:30–4:30 pm



Fall Bird Walks*

Join a guided bird walk led the Chicago Bird Alliance. Binoculars available to loan.

Saturdays, Sept 21, Oct 5, Nov 9 • 8 am

Autumn Nature Walks*

Join us for a guided walk as the autumn color intensifies. Family program.

Sundays, Sept 29, Oct 13 • 10 am

SEPTEMBER

Silver Creek Prairie Walk*

Learn about restoration efforts, goals, and ways you can get involved. Ages 12 & up.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 10 am

Silver Creek Prairie, N 1st Ave, north of Chicago Ave, Melrose Park

Autumnal Equinox Accessible Walk*

Join us for a talk about the equinox on a short, guided nature walk on a paved trail.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 10 am

OCTOBER

Halloween Hoot and Howl

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

Friday, Oct 4 • 5–7 pm

Keystone Park, Keystone Ave, River Forest

Seed Collecting*

Collect prairie seed while learning about the significance and history of Wolf Road Prairie. Ages 12 & up.

Saturday, Oct 12 • 1 pm

Wolf Road Prairie, 31st St, west of Wolf Rd, Westchester

Bird painting Step-by-Step: Red-Bellied Woodpecker*

For beginners and intermediate artists. All materials provided. \$5/person. Ages 18 & up.

Tuesday, Oct 15 • 10 am–1 pm

Nature Book Club: "The Nature of Oaks"*

Discuss this timely and important book by Doug Tallamy. Register: fppl.org

Thursday, Oct 17 • 7 pm

Forest Park Library, 7555 Jackson Blvd, Forest Park

Fall Color Walk*

Join us for a guided walk in the woods to celebrate Polish American Heritage Month. In Polish. Family program.

Saturday, Oct 19 • 10 am



Intro to Orienteering*

Learn the basics of finding your way with maps and baseplate compasses. Ages 8 & up.

Saturday, Oct 26 • 1 pm

NOVEMBER

Nature Story Trail

Walk a short trail while reading "Thanks to the Animals" by Allen Sockabasin of the Passamaquoddy Nation. Afterwards, stop in to pick up a take-home craft and activities!

Friday, Nov 1-Monday, Dec 2 • 9 am–4 pm

Lunch with the Raptors*

Learn about Trailside's outdoor birds of prey as they enjoy their lunch! Family program.

Saturday, Nov 9 • 1 pm

Teen Exploration Day: Stewardship

Help protect our natural areas by collecting seeds or removing invasive species. Equipment provided. Register: bit.ly/3z6U2aZ.

Sunday, Nov 17 • 9 am–Noon

Annual Turkey Trot Walk*

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

Friday, Nov 29 • 1:30 pm

Feed the Birds*

Learn about bird foods, feeders, and landscape elements that benefit birds. Make a bird feeder. Ages 14 & up.

Saturday Nov 30 • 11 am

THATCHER WOODS PAVILION

8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

Senior Fitness Walks

Join other seniors for moderately paced 1-mile fitness walks.

Wednesdays, Sept 4, 18; Oct 2, 16; Nov 6, 20 • 9 am

Wellness Walks in Thatcher Woods*

Enjoy a mindful and meditative guided nature walk to feel refreshed in body and soul. Ages 18 & up.

Saturdays Sept 7, 21; Oct 5, 19; Nov 2, 16 • 1 pm



Migrating Monarchs Celebration

Learn about the migration route to Mexico and how you can help monarchs and other pollinators! See how monarchs are raised, tagged for tracking, and watch butterflies being released. Fun activities, kid's crafts, traditional/indigenous celebrations, and educational displays.

Saturday, Sept 7 • Noon–3 pm

Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam

Join the jam or just listen! Make a simple musical instrument from repurposed invasive plants or bring your own instrument. All ages.

Sunday, Nov 3 • 1–3 pm

*Registration required at least 2 days in advance of the events marked with asterisk. 708.366.6530

TEEN

exploration

DAYS



Multiple events with great outdoor activities. Adult supervision required. Ages 13 & up.

● Kayaking

Join us to learn paddling techniques and enjoy an afternoon on Bullfrog Lake.

Sunday, Sept 15 • 1-3 pm

Camp Bullfrog Lake
9600 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs

▲ Paleontology Mystery*

Learn the science behind the study of fossils. Participate in a simulated fossil hunt to shed light on a 12,000-year-old mystery. Ages 12 & up.

Thursday, Sept 19 • 4-6 pm

Caldwell Woods, Grove 1,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

● Crafternoon*

Use nature to inspire art and try your hand at a variety of arts and crafts. Ages 13-19.

Thursday, Sept 19 • 4:30-7 pm

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



▲ Fishing 101*

Come out for an afternoon of aquatic education and casting lessons. Ages 12 & up.

Thursday, Oct 10 • 3:30-5:30 pm

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd,
Elgin

▲ Bonfire

Join us for a spooky night in the woods. Enjoy a bonfire with s'mores, listen to scary stories and search for bats on a night hike.

Friday, Oct 18 • 7-9:30 pm

Camp Dan Beard,
200 Portwine Rd, Northbrook

◆ Stewardship

Help protect our natural areas by collecting seeds or removing invasive species. Equipment provided.
Register: bit.ly/3z6U2aZ.

Sunday, Nov 17 • 9 am-Noon

Trailside Museum of Natural History,
738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest



● Rock Climbing

Come and test your nerves by climbing our rock wall.

Saturday, Nov 23 • 1-3 pm

Camp Sullivan,
14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

**Registration required. For more information and to register, email Experience.Nature@cookcountyil.gov*

For programs without an asterisk, register at Experience.Camping@cookcountyil.gov

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

★ South



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





SOUTHWEST ZONE

SEPTEMBER

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. For more information, go to ariverthruhistory.com.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 10 am–5 pm

Sunday, Sept 15 • 10 am–4 pm

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

Pedal the Preserves: I&M Bicycle Trail*

Join for a family friendly ride and learn about safety, techniques and tips. Helmets and loaner bikes available. Presented with Ride Illinois.

Sunday, Sept 15 • 10 am–Noon

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

Archery

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

Wednesday, Sept 18 • 5–7 pm

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

Teen Exploration Day: Crafternoon

Use nature to inspire art and try your hand at a variety of arts and crafts. Ages 13–19.

Thursday, Sept 19 • 4:30–7 pm

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

“Check Out” Nature

Explore nature by checking out some of our gear. We will answer questions, give trail recommendations, maps and more.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 10:30 am–12:30 pm

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



OCTOBER

Fishing Derby

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

Saturday, Oct 5 • 8 am

Horsetail Lake, 104th Ave, north of McCarthy Rd, Palos Park

Awe of Nature

Presented with The Nature Conservancy.

Saturday, Oct 5 • 11 am–3 pm

Midlothian Meadows, Crawford Ave, north of W 159th St, Midlothian

Breast Cancer Awareness

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, stop by our table and become educated about Breast Cancer, gain resources, and more. Presented by Advocate Health Care.

Tuesday, Oct 8 • 4–6 pm

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

Fall Color Walk-3.4 mi.

Travel through beautiful, wooded preserves as we look for the changing colors of the fall season. Perfect for families.

Saturday, Oct 19 • 1 pm

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

Spooky Shuffle 5k/10k*

The 5k/10k trail race takes you through the pristine Sag Valley Trail System, Presented with the Village of Palos Park. Register palospark.org.

Sunday, Oct 20 • 9 am

Swallow Cliff Woods-South, S La Grange Rd, south of 119th St, Palos Park

NOVEMBER

Woodworking with Invasives*

Build your own walking stick using buckthorn, an invasive species. Ages 12 & up.

Saturday, Nov 9 • 1–3 pm

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



National Take a Hike Day

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

Sunday, Nov 17 • 10 am

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



**Registration required. For more information, unless otherwise noted, please call 312.533.5751.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–11

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

Starting November 1, Building 9 am–4 pm, grounds close at 4 pm.

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

I am a Scientist

Ignite your child's sense of wonder and curiosity as we explore, experiment & make discoveries in the natural world. Ages 4–5 w/adult.

Wednesdays, Sept 4, Oct 2 & Nov 6 • 10 am

Sunrise Hikes

Come join us for a “before hours” hike to experience the dawning of a new day.

Sundays

Sept 8 & Nov 10 • 6 am;

Oct 13 • 6:30 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 12, Oct 10 & Nov 14
10 am

Little Red Rocks

Perform or listen to music and poetry during an open-mic night at sunset.

Thursdays, Sept 19 & Nov 7 • 5–7 pm

R.I.P. Stewardship

Join us as we Remove Invasive Plants with bow saws or loppers. Equipment provided. Ages 17 yrs. & up.

Saturdays, Sept 14, Oct 12 & Nov 9
10 am–Noon

Forest Therapy

Immerse yourself in nature, fostering mindfulness and wellness with a certified guide. Ages 21 & up.

Sunday, Sept 15, Saturdays, Oct 19 & Nov 16 • 1–2:30 pm

Nature's Art Box

Come join us for a nature-based art activity. Ages 3–6 w/adult.

Tuesdays, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 26
10:30 am

Yoga

Enjoy an indoor all-levels yoga class with certified instructor. Ages 18 & up.

Sundays, Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 24
10 am–11 am

Moon Walk

Let the full moon be our guide as we walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world.

Thursday, Oct 17 • 8:15 pm;

Friday, Nov 15 • 7:45 pm

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Drop in to celebrate the conclusion of this special month by making traditional artwork for display on our Día de los Muertos altar.

Monday, Oct 19 • 1–3:30 pm

SEPTEMBER

Astronomy & Technology

Learn about various apps used to raise awareness of the impact of light pollution on nocturnal wildlife.

Thursday, Sept 5 • 8:30 pm

Partial Lunar Eclipse

A partial total lunar eclipse will be a sight to see!

Tuesday, Sept 17 • 7:30–11 pm

Party for the Preserves: Go Green

Celebrate National Public Lands Day by enjoying a nature walk and learning about the importance of green spaces.

Saturday, Sept 28 • 1 pm

OCTOBER

Qigong Under the Dark Sky

Learn Qigong, a series of slow flowing movements and deep measured breaths, then walk in an Urban Night Sky Place.

Thursday, Oct 3 • 7:30–9 pm



Annual Arts and Crafts Fair

We're celebrating our 59th Annual Arts and Craft Fair! Art, of all styles, will be sold by artists inspired by nature. Outdoor Event.

Sunday, Oct 6 • 9 am–3 pm

Beats in the Forests

Join Solidarity Studios to record forest sounds to use for making hip-hop beats. Beatmakers of all levels are welcome.

Sunday, Oct 13 • 2–5 pm

Project Feeder Watch

Learn how to identify, count, and report bird species findings to help scientists interpret how birds are adapting to environmental change.

Saturday, Oct 26 • 10 am

NOVEMBER

Dark Sky Walk

Walk in an Urban Night Sky Place during the darkest night of the month.

Friday, Nov 1 • 6:30 pm

Fall Color Walk

Join a guided walk.

Sunday, Nov 3 • 1 pm

Little Schoolhouse on the Prairie

Step back in time and discover the cultural and ecological histories of Mt. Forest Island and prairie conservation.

Sunday, Nov 17 • 1 pm

Qigong & Sound

Join a certified instructor through a series of slow flowing movements, deep measured breaths, and soothing sounds while in a chair or standing. Ages 18 & up.

Tuesday, Nov 19 • 10 am

Fire for the Forest-1 mi. walk

Learn about the benefits of prescribed burns.

Saturday, Nov 23 • 10–11:30 am

**Registration required for all programs unless noted. Please visit in person or call*

708.839.6897

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



Photo by Ralph Chichester

THROUGHOUT *the FALL*

Ecological Restoration Weekend*

Enjoy the fresh air and put your muscles to work by helping to restore habitat. Equipment provided.

**Saturdays & Sundays, Sept 28 & 29;
Oct 26 & 27; Nov 30 • 9:30–11:30 am**

Naturalist Choice

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

Sunday, Nov 3 & Saturday, Nov 16 • 1pm

SEPTEMBER

“The Passenger Pigeon’s Flight to Extinction” Film Screening*

Join author Joel Greenberg to view and discuss this film as we struggle to maintain the biodiversity and other conditions necessary for human well-being.

Sunday, Sept 1 • 1 pm

Songs of Summer*

Enjoy the summer chorus of insects while learning about songs of crickets, katydids and cicadas.

Friday, Sept 6 • 7 pm

Hummingbird Sit

Spend some time in our hummingbird garden for a Q&A with staff.

Saturday, Sept 7 • 10 am

Monarch Migration*

Monarch butterflies are headed to Mexico. Learn how monarchs make this journey and how to support their migration.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 1 pm

The Tale of 2 Prairies*

Walk through a Dolomite Prairie and visit the Blenz restored prairie. Ages 14 & up.

Sunday, Sept 15 • 10 am

Drop in Bird Banding

Banding at Sagawau is in its 27th year. See birds up close while learning about this scientific method.

Sunday, Sept 22 • 10 am–Noon

OCTOBER

Oak Ecology*

Walk under ancient oaks to learn about their natural history and why they are a keystone species.

Saturday, Oct 5 • 1 pm

Quarries: Stories of Ancient Reef Discovery*

Celebrate Earth Science Week: Earth Science Everywhere by looking into the history of quarries and how it led to a greater understanding of fossilized coral reefs.

Saturday, Oct 12 • 1 pm

Red Gate Woods*

Former Argonne scientist, Dave Dolak, will give a presentation. Then visit the site of the world’s first nuclear reactor on a guided walk. Ages 16 & up.

Sunday, Oct 13 • 11 am–2 pm

Fall Color Walk*

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

Saturday, Oct 19 • 1 pm

NOVEMBER

Galls: Insect Home-builders*

For gall-building insects, home is where you make it. Join us for a survey of these cryptic insects.

Saturday, Nov 2 • 1 pm

Sagawau Bird Stories*

Are you curious about birds? Enjoy the stories of common and rare birds found at Sagawau and in the Lemont area.

Thursday, Nov 7 • 7 pm

Book Discussion: “Ignition” by M.R. O’Connor

Celebrate National Native American Heritage Month by exploring cultural views on fire including Pawnee traditions.

Saturday, Nov 9 • 10 am

Fossils Quarry Tour*

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

Sunday, Nov 10 • 1 pm

Full Moon Nature Walk*

Enjoy a night walk on Sagawau trails.

Friday, Nov 15 • 7:30 pm

Introducing Slime Molds*

Is it slime or mold? Come learn about these fascinating and relatively overlooked organisms. Indoor talk with short walk. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Nov 17 • 1 pm

Winter Bird Feeding*

Join us for a discussion on attracting birds to your yard using feeders and plantings.

Saturday, Nov 23 • 1 pm

Owls: Who are your neighbors?*

Learn about this group of nocturnal birds through an indoor presentation and discussion.

Sunday, Nov 24 • 1 pm

**Registration required for all programs with an asterisk. For more information or registration, call*

630.257.2045

SOUTH ZONE

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Bird Walks

Saturday, Sept 7 • 8:30 am

Friday, Oct 11 • 8:30 am

Saturday, Nov 2 • 8:30 am

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

Open Nature Play Day

Bring your little one for open nature play time and help your children connect with nature. Enjoy stories, art and exploration.

Wednesdays, Sept 11, Nov 6 • 10 am–1 pm

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



Skate Party

Come out and bring your best skating skills and routines, or just roll along to the music.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 6–8 pm

Dan Ryan Woods, Grove 15, W 83rd St, east of S Western Ave, Chicago

Book Swap

Bring in gently used books and leave with some new-to-you books! Any genre and reading level; nature-themed, large print, braille, and audio books encouraged.

Wednesday, Sept 18 • 4–7 pm

Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, S Western Ave & W 87th St, Chicago

Latino Conservation Week: Paddle and Clean-up

Help keep the forest clean and paddle the Calumet Region. All ages.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 10 am–2 pm

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

Party for the Preserves: Bike Ride

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

Saturday, Sept 28 • 10 am–1 pm

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

Hispanic Heritage Month Paddling Celebration

Bring the celebration outdoors to the Calumet region and paddle at Powderhorn Lake. All ages.

Sunday, Sept 29 • 10 am–2 pm

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

OCTOBER

Archery

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

Thursday, Oct 3 • 4–6 pm

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

Awe of Nature

Join The Nature Conservancy as they connect people to nature through environmental engagement and community partners.

Saturday, Oct 5 • 11 am–3 pm

Midlothian Meadows, Crawford Ave, North of west 159th St, Midlothian

Night of Nature Play

Experience nature play at night and discover what glows in the dark.

Wednesday, Oct 9 • 6–8 pm

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

Owl Prowl*

Join an evening walk.

Thursdays, Oct 10, 17 • 6:30 pm

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

Conservation@Home Seed Swap & Plant Exchange

Native plant presentation followed by seed and plant sharing. Bring a mug, warm beverages provided.

Wednesday, Oct 16 • 4–7 pm

Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Western Ave and 87th St, Chicago

Dan Ryan Music Jam

Make music with the community and listen to local talent.

Saturday, Oct 26 • Noon–3 pm

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



Trunk or Treat

Sponsored by the Forest Preserves and East Side Chamber of Commerce. All ages Halloween event, complete with plenty of candy.

Sunday, Oct 27 • Noon–5 pm

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



Día de Los Muertos Artmaking and Night Hike

Celebrate the history of Día de los Muertos with artmaking and a night hike.

Friday, Nov 1 • 4–8 pm

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

Stars, Stories and Smores

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

Friday, Nov 8 • 5–8 pm

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

National Native American Heritage Month History Walk

Take a stroll on a 3.4-mile paved loop and learn the origin of the name Sauk Woods.

Friday, Nov 15 • 4 pm

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

**Registration required. Please call 312.415.2970, unless otherwise noted.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–11

Sand Ridge

NATURE CENTER

15891 Paxton Ave, South Holland, 708.868.0606

Building: 9 am – 5 pm, Exhibit room closed Fridays, Grounds: 8 am – 5 pm daily,
Free Admission. Starting November 1, Building 9 am–4 pm, grounds close at 4 pm.



Archaeology Day

Learn about Calumet Region's cultural history. Activities include archaeology displays, a mock archaeology dig and more.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 10 am–2 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* FALL

The Sounds Natural Series

Enjoy art activities, food, music and workshops. If interested in camping overnight, call 708.868.0606.

Saturday, Sept 14 • 4–8:30 pm

Saturday, Oct 12 • 4–8:30 pm

Tuesdays are for the Birds!

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

Tuesdays, Sept 3, 10, 17, 24; Oct 1 & 8 • 8 am

Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Walk*

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

Saturdays, Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2 • 1:30 pm

Meet Our Birds

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

Sundays, Sept 8, Oct 13, Nov 10 • 1:30 pm

Wee Wonders*

Learn about nature through music, movement, stories and artmaking. Ages 2–5 w/adult.

Wednesdays • 10 am

Sept 11-Gardening

Oct 9-Changing Colors

Nov 13-Bats

Teen Exploration Days at Sand Ridge*

Join us after hours each month for fun activities. Spanish speakers welcome! Ages 13–18.

Thursdays, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 7 • 6–8 pm

SEPTEMBER

Fall Color Ramble-Bilingual*

Come witness the wonderful ephemeral color changes that nature has to offer! 1.5-mile walk, rain or shine. Programa ofrecido en Español.

Saturday, Sept 21 • 1:30 pm

Family Fun Day!

Bring the whole family to spend time outside and have fun with cooperative games, scavenger hunts and more!

Saturday, Oct 12 • 10 am–2 pm

Party for the Preserves

Join us for drop-in activities that help us to be better stewards of the land. Earn service-learning hours.

Saturday, Sept 26 • 10 am–2 pm

OCTOBER

Creative Reuse Collage*

Create a collage inspired by nature using repurposed materials. Light refreshments provided. All ages.

Sunday, Oct 20 • Noon–2 pm

The Great Sand Ridge (Tiny) Pumpkin Hunt

Discover hidden pumpkins on a fun scavenger hunt. Take home your own pumpkin after finding them all. While supplies last. Costumes encouraged!

Saturday, Oct 26 • 10 am–2 pm

Fall Fungi Walk*

Learn mushroom ID basics and sketch specimens on a guided walk. Ages 18 & up or 13–17 w/adult.

Sunday, Oct 27 • 2–4 pm

NOVEMBER

Forest Therapy*

Immerse yourself in nature, fostering mindfulness and wellness with a certified guide. Ages 16 & up. Register: thatforestfeeling.com/register.

Saturday, Nov 2 • 10 am–Noon

Owl-o-ween Prowl*

Join us for a not-so-spooky night! Learn about and search for these amazing predators of the night. Candy provided; costumes encouraged!

Saturday, Nov 2 • 6–8 pm



Sand Ridge: Calumet Heritage Day

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

Saturday, Nov 23 • 10 am–2 pm

Walk off that Turkey

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

Friday, Nov 29 • 1–2 pm

We're 'Owl' Ears!

Join us for an early morning walk as we keep our eyes and ears open for signs of owls!

Saturday, Nov 30 • 6–7 am

**Registration required for events with asterisk.*

708.868.0606



Host your special day surrounded by 70,000 acres of wild and wonderful.
Book a Forest Preserves campground or indoor facility for your event.



We Restore
NATURE
Restores Us

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Your support is appreciated!



CAMPING 1-855-YES-CAMP fpdcc.com/camping

INDOOR FACILITIES 773-558-2003 fpdcc.com/indoor-events



Make Your Gathering Green

The Forest Preserves of Cook County is home for native plants and animals, big and small. You can help protect the Preserves by making your gathering green! Follow the link below to learn about a list of actions you can take on, whether you are using the Preserves for a reunion, birthday or even a small picnic.

fpdcc.com/make-your-gathering-green/

