

SPRING 2024

# A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



FOREST  
PRESERVES  
of Cook County

*feel free*

[fpdcc.com](http://fpdcc.com)

# Have You Watched Wild & Wonderful?



[tinyurl.com/wildwonderful101](http://tinyurl.com/wildwonderful101)

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



The Forest Preserves of Cook County 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@cookcountyll.gov](mailto:experience.nature@cookcountyll.gov) or at 708-771-1573.



*Make Nature  
Your Venue*



*Photos by Shutter Sam Photography*



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



CAMPING 1-855-YES-CAMP [fpdcc.com/camping](http://fpdcc.com/camping)

INDOOR FACILITIES 773-558-2003 [fpdcc.com/indoor-events](http://fpdcc.com/indoor-events)

# 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

4-9

Seasonal Offerings, Hike the Preserves, Camping, Bird the Preserves



## Northwest Zone

10-15

Crabtree Nature Center, *Spark a Life-Long Hobby*, *Spring Skies Shimmer with Birds*



## North Zone

16-19

River Trail Nature Center



## Central Zone

20-25

Trailside Museum of Natural History, *Watch for These Feathered Friends During Spring*



## Southwest Zone

27-31

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center/Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

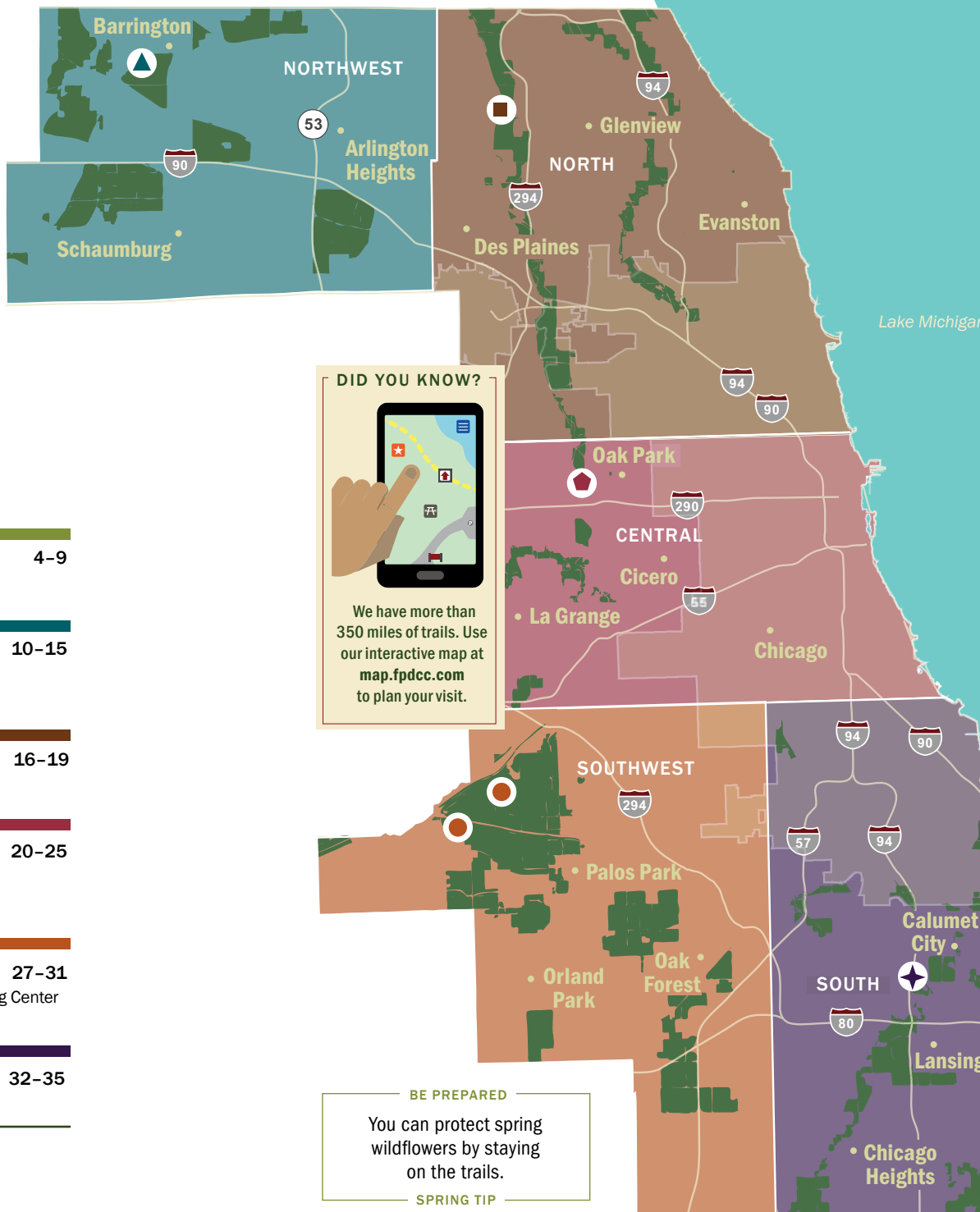


## South Zone

32-35

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*

## AQUATIC CENTERS ■ ◆ ✦

### Cermak Family Aquatic Center

7600 W Ogden Ave, Lyons

### Green Lake Family Aquatic Center

1100 River Oaks Dr, Calumet City

### Whealan Pool Aquatic Center

6200 W Devon Ave, Chicago

*Opens Saturday, May 27*

## BOAT RENTALS ■ ◆ ●

Canoes, kayaks, rowboats or electric motor boats. April-late-October Call ahead for availability. [fpdcc.com/boating](http://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](http://fpdcc.com)

## DISC GOLF ▲

### Rolling Knolls

11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

[fpdcc.com/disc-golf](http://fpdcc.com/disc-golf)

## EQUESTRIAN

Horse riders can enjoy miles of trails throughout the Preserves.

[fpdcc.com/equestrian](http://fpdcc.com/equestrian)

## GO APE ZIPLINE ◆

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

### Bemis Woods-South ●

1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs

*Open April-November*



## JUICED BY SHIC ●

### Swallow Cliff

*Days/hours are weather dependent.*

Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83, west

of La Grange Rd/96th Ave, IL

email: [info@juicedbyshic.com](mailto:info@juicedbyshic.com)

## GOLF

[forestpreservegolf.com](http://forestpreservegolf.com) or call  
800-460-0010.

### Billy Caldwell

6150 Caldwell Ave, Chicago

### Burnham Woods

14201 S Burnham Ave, Burnham

### Chick Evans

6145 Golf Rd, Morton Grove

### Edgebrook

6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

### George W Dunne

16310 S Central Ave, Oak Forest

### Harry H. 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](http://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,  
Maywood

## TENNIS ◆

[oakparktennis.com](http://oakparktennis.com)

544 N Harlem Ave, River Forest

## VOLUNTEER

[fpdcc.com/volunteer](http://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](mailto:info@forestpreserveevents.com).

Learn more at [fpdcc.com/pavilions](http://fpdcc.com/pavilions).

### Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion

8700 S Western Ave, Chicago

### Mathew Bieszczyk Volunteer

### Resource Center

6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

### Rolling Knolls Pavilion

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, [rei.com/events](http://rei.com/events), 877-819-3810

email: [experiences@rei.com](mailto:experiences@rei.com)

## ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ✦ South

# Hike the Preserves

Get some exercise, meet new people, and learn about your local forest preserves with these programs out on the trails.

**Walk & Talk Hikes** are for the curious mind. These hikes are at a slower pace.

**Fitness Hikes** will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation.



## Walk & Talks

### Northwest ▲

#### Quiet Walk\*

Carl R. Hansen Woods  
Sutton Rd/Rte 59, south of Shoe  
Factory Rd, Hoffman Estates  
*Thursday, Apr 25 • 10 am*

### North ■

#### Women in Conservation\*

LaBagh Woods, Grove 4, N Cicero Ave,  
north of W Foster Ave, Chicago  
*Saturday, Mar 2 • 9 am*

#### Camp Pine Woods

W Lake Ave/E Euclid Ave, east  
of N Des Plaines River Rd, Glenview  
*Thursday, Apr 11 • 10 am*

#### Social Club\*

Linne Woods  
Grove 2, W Dempster St, east of Lehigh  
Ave, Morton Grove  
*Thursday, May 16 • 1 pm*

### Central ◆

#### Spring Ephemerals Walk\*

Ages 18 & up.  
Sundown Meadow, S LaGrange Rd,  
north of 67th St, Countryside  
*Sunday, Apr 28 • 11 am*

#### Arie Crown Forest-2 mi.

S LaGrange Rd, south of 67th St,  
Countryside  
*Sunday, May 19 • 10 am*

### South ◆

#### Women's History in Conservation Walk

1.8 mi.  
Plum Creek Meadow  
Burnham Ave, north of 223rd St  
*Saturday, Mar 16 • 10 am*

### Southwest ●

#### Oak Forest Heritage Preserve-East

1.7 mi.  
Fieldcrest Dr, southwest of Crawford  
Ave, Oak Forest  
*Saturday, Apr 13 • 10 am*

#### Spears Woods-2.5 mi.

96th Ave, south of W 87th St,  
Willow Springs  
*Tuesday, Apr 23 • 10 am*

## Fitness Hike

### Central ◆

#### Brezina Woods-7 mi.

N La Grange Rd, south of  
W Cermak Rd, La Grange Park  
*Saturday, Mar 16 • 9:30 am*

### South ◆

#### Burnham Greenway-5 mi.

Eggers Grove  
E 112th St & S Ave E, Chicago  
*Saturday, Apr 13 • 10 am*

### Southwest ●

#### Midlothian Meadows-2.7 mi

Crawford Ave, north of W 159th St,  
Midlothian  
*Saturday, Mar 16 • 10 am*

#### Country Lane Woods-5 mi.

95th St, east of Flavin Rd/Willow  
Springs Rd, Willow Springs  
*Tuesday, Apr 9 • 10 am*



## #birdthepreserves

### BE A BETTER BIRDER

Virtual Via Zoom • *Thursdays*

#### Birding and Technology\*

We'll introduce you to  
technology that can be used to  
enhance your birding experience.

Register at:

[https://forms.gle/  
GcRGRXxaoJYTeW6n9](https://forms.gle/GcRGRXxaoJYTeW6n9)

*Mar 28 • 6 pm*

#### Intermediate Bird ID\*

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

Register at: [https://forms.gle/  
ET19A1pFf6iydW5Q9](https://forms.gle/ET19A1pFf6iydW5Q9)

*Apr 25 • 6 pm*

#### Tips for Learning to Identify Bird Sounds\*

Learn the skills needed to begin  
identifying local bird sounds.

Register at: [https://forms.  
gle/2G7dWiDH7b81Rpdv9](https://forms.gle/2G7dWiDH7b81Rpdv9)

*May 23 • 6 pm*

#### Beginner Field ID\* ●

Take the skills you learned in the  
virtual sessions into the Preserves.  
Bring a chair, as we will be staying  
in one spot. Limited binoculars  
available to borrow.

Register at: [https://forms.  
gle/8dVphNCPihk7CHEAA](https://forms.gle/8dVphNCPihk7CHEAA)

*Saturday, May 4 • 8-10 am*

Maple Lake Boating Center, Wolf Rd,  
south of 95th St, Willow Springs

### ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ◆ South

\*Registration required. Go to  
[fpdcc.com/events](https://fpdcc.com/events) to register.



fpdcc.com/camping • 1-855-YES-CAMP

CAMP REINBERG • CAMP BULLFROG LAKE CAMP SULLIVAN			
RATES: APR-OCT		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

#### 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

Free! ▲ ● ◆

Campground programming for registered campers Saturdays and some Sundays Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Check in with campground staff for topics/times and registration information.

##### Camp Reinberg

##### Camp Bullfrog Lake

##### Camp Sullivan

##### Camp Shabbona Woods

##### Camping 101 ● ▲

Join us for a workshop covering basic camping skills.

All programs 5:30-7 pm

##### Camp Bullfrog Lake

Wednesday, Mar 27

##### Camp Reinberg

Wednesday, Apr 10; Saturday, May 23

##### Teen Shelter Building\* ■

Learn about primitive shelter buildings and build your own. Bring your friends! Ages 12 & up.

##### Camp Dan Beard

Saturday, Apr 27 • 1 pm

##### Outdoor Cooking\* ● ▲

Cooking outdoors is easy and fun! Learn how to prepare food both over a fire and on a stove. Ages 12 & up. Ages 12-17 w/adult.

Fridays • 5:30 pm

Mar 8: Camp Reinberg

Apr 19: Camp Bullfrog Lake

May 10: Camp Sullivan



##### Day Hiking Leadership Training\* ●

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

Saturday, Apr 20 • 11:30 am

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

##### Camping Leadership Immersion Course\* ●

Overnight training course to learn skills needed to plan and lead group camping trips. Covers safety, day-hiking, tent and stove-set up, teambuilding and leadership skills, and educational offerings. After training, gain access to gear library and group site. Ages 18 & up. \$25/person, includes food and camping gear. More information: fpdcc.com.

##### Camp Sullivan

Saturday, Apr 13-Sunday, Apr 14

Saturday, May 4-Sunday, May 5

\*Registration required. For info and registration, contact: [experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov),

#### ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

◆ South

Visit [fpdcc.com/camping](http://fpdcc.com/camping) for seasonal rates.

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



Great blue heron (cropped) by Derek Jordan

**NORTHWEST ZONE**  
**Crabtree Nature Center**  
 3 Stover Rd, Barrington

**Waterfowl Welcome**

Bring your favorite optics as we walk to view our wetland arrivals.

**Sunday, Mar 31 • 10 am–Noon**

**Timberdoodle Walks\***

Learn, then observe the American woodcock courtship display in the darkening sky. Ages 7 & up.

**Friday, Apr 5 • 6:45 pm**

**Friday, Apr 12 • 7 pm**

**Morning Bird Walk**

for World Migratory Bird Day

Celebrate migrating birds on guided bird walks. All birding levels welcome; binoculars available to lend.

**Saturday, May 11 • 8–10 am**

**World Migratory Bird Day Big Sit**

Drop-in for a bird watch from a fixed location.

**Saturday, May 11 • 10 am–Noon**

# NORTHWEST ZONE

**MARCH**

**Woodworking with Invasives\***

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

**Thursday, Mar 14 • 5:30–7:30 pm**

Camp Reinberg,  
 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

**The Energy of Water:  
 A Forest Therapy Walk\***

Join us as we explore the movement of water all around us. Participants will be guided through a grounding exercise, walk, tea ceremony and a water mandala activity.

**Saturday, Mar 16 • 9–11 am**

Rolling Knolls,  
 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

**Spring Nature Camp\***

Learn the significance of spring in Native American culture while participating in various timed activities with Trickster Cultural Center.

**Wednesday–Friday, Mar 27–29  
 9 am–3:30 pm**

Rolling Knolls,  
 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

**Forest Therapy\***

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with nature. Ages 18 & up.

**Thursday, Apr 4 • 11 am–1 pm**

Rolling Knolls,  
 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

**Wilderness Survival 101-Drop in**

This hands-on program demonstrates how to use the natural resources around you.

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 11 am–12:30 pm**

Deer Grove-East, Grove 4,  
 1599 Pepper Tree Dr, Palatine

**Teen Exploration Day: Wilderness Survival 101-Drop-in**

This hands-on program demonstrates how to use the natural resources around you.

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 1–2 pm**

Deer Grove-East, Grove 4,  
 1599 Pepper Tree Dr, Palatine



**Earth Day**

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. Supplies available to check-out.

**Saturday, Apr 20 • 9–11 am**

Busse Lake Boating Center,  
 Grove 25, E Higgins Rd/Rte 72,  
 east of I-290/Hwy 53

**Phone-tography 101\***

Enjoy a morning in the Preserves and learn the basics of photography using a smartphone.

**Thursday, May 2 • 10 am**

Deer Grove, Grove 5, N Quentin Rd,  
 north of W Dundee Rd, Palatine

**Star Party**

Explore astronomy on this family-friendly night in the Preserves. Crafts, stargazing and refreshments included.

**Saturday, May 11 • 7–9 pm**

Deer Grove-East, Grove 3,  
 1599 Pepper Tree Dr, Palatine

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



**EXPLORE MORE**



**PAGES 4–9**



# 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

### THROUGHOUT the SEASON

#### 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

A special program for little naturalists. Tickets on a first come, first served basis starting at 9:30 am. Ages 3–6 w/adult.

Wednesdays, Mar 6, 20; Apr 3, 17; May 1, 15  
10 am

#### Community Science: Frog Monitoring\*

Learn about frog calls, then listen to them on a walk. Ages 10 & up.

Friday, Mar 22 • 7 pm

Friday, May 17 • 8 pm

### MARCH

#### Women Naturalists

Celebrate Women's History Month on a spring stroll discussing inspiring women who impacted our natural world.

Saturday, Mar 2 • 1 pm

#### Buckthorn Busters

Help us improve biodiversity and remove invasive plants. Outdoor work clothing required.

Sunday, Mar 3 • 1–3 pm

#### Star Watch & Walk \*

Star light, star bright, soak in the sounds and stars at Crabtree tonight.

Saturday, Mar 9 • 6 pm

#### Selfie Scavenger Hunt for Teens

Drop in for a fun and unique scavenger hunt while discovering fascinating plants and animals.

Sunday, Mar 10 • Noon–3 pm

#### Crabtree History Table

Experience the past and present of our site through discussion and interaction.

Sunday, Mar 17 • 1 pm

#### Muddy Paws Walk

Let's search the muddy trails to identify what other animals are using them.

Saturday, Mar 23 • 1 pm

#### Micro-Safari, Part II

The microscopic adventure through Crabtree's waters continues.

Saturday, Mar 30 • 1 pm

### APRIL

#### Thursdays at Sully Pond

Bring your own or borrow our optics to observe and record what birds are winging in.

Thursdays in Apr • 8–10 am

#### Prime Real Estate

Watch our stewardship of cavity nesting birds, then observe tree swallows compete for their homes.

Sunday, Apr 7 • 1 pm

Additional Northwest  
Birding Events—page 10

#### Partial Solar Eclipse

Use our scope and sun viewers to watch the eclipse safely.

Monday, Apr 8 • 12:30–3:30 pm

#### Map & Compass Walk

Learn how to use a map and compass, then practice on a 1.5-mile walk.

Saturday, Apr 13 • 1 pm

#### Naturalist's Choice

Come visit to see what we came up with.

Sunday, Apr 14 • 1 pm



#### Earth Day Nature Play

Play, plant, paint and pretend with family-fun activities.

Saturday, Apr 20 • Noon–3 pm

#### Sustainability 101

Drop by to learn about various ways to be more environmentally friendly.

Sunday, Apr 21 • 1 pm

#### Full Moon Walk\*

Walk under the light of the full moon.

Tuesday, Apr 23 • 7:30 pm

#### Micro-Safari, Part III

Our microscopic exploration of the lively waters of Crabtree concludes.

Sunday, Apr 28 • 1 pm

### MAY

#### Relax & Unwind Sunset Walk \*

Join us for a Mental Health Awareness Month walk. Ages 18 & up.

Friday, May 3 • 7:30 pm

#### Touch a Tractor at Crabtree

Interact with some of the important restoration equipment.

Saturday, May 4 • 11 am–2 pm

#### Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

Join us for a walk in the woodland.

Sunday, May 12 • 1 pm

#### Let's Go Fly A Kite!

Bring a kite over to Barrington Road Pond to celebrate Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month.

Saturday, May 18 • 10 am–Noon

#### Garlic Mustard Pull\*

Help us improve our woodlands by removing this invasive species.

Sunday, May 19 • 1–3 pm

#### Insect Architects

Meet some of the most impressive builders and manipulators in the insect world. Ages 6 & up.

Saturday, May 25 • 1 pm

#### April Showers Bring May Flowers

Delight in the sights, scents and stories of spring flowers on a guided walk.

Sunday, May 26 • 1 pm

\*Registration required for events  
with asterisk.

847-381-6592



# Spark a Life-Long Hobby

*Spring Skies  
Shimmer  
with Birds*



Image by John D. Sather, Sandhill crane-adjusted.

Just as a single spark can start a fire, for many individuals a single bird sighting can ignite a passion. For Jessica Becker, a program specialist with the Forest Preserves' Conservation & Experiential Programming Department, her “spark bird”—a term used by birders to describe that special bird sighting—is the sandhill crane.

During a trip to see a sandhill crane migration stop-over, Jessica describes the feeling of witnessing tens of thousands of sandhill cranes with one word: spectacular.

“It kind of felt like you were just part of a much larger world, but it was outside of your human experience,” she says. “Here, you’re just existing as a part of the environment because this is

happening without any human intervention. To me, seeing these thousands of sandhill cranes was a good connection back to the natural world.”

A premiere birding destination in the Midwest, the Forest Preserves of Cook County play host to hundreds of different bird species throughout the year—which means there are hundreds of opportunities to spot your spark bird. Although each season welcomes unique bird species, the spring and fall migrations bring a remarkable array of birds to our 70,000 acres of greenspace.

Today, Jessica uses her passion for birding to help spark others' love for birdwatching and the natural world. This season, consider joining us for a guided

bird walk (often with binoculars available to borrow). We also offer bird education programs covering birding ethics and how you can help birds at home, volunteer opportunities to care for critical bird habitat, and more.



**#birdthepreserves**

Visit our website to download a copy of our birding checklist, find instructions on how to build a bird house, and view a full list of upcoming birding events and programs.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[fpdcc.com/birding](https://fpdcc.com/birding)

## Birding Kit Checklist

Ready to try birding? Here are the essentials you'll need to get started!

**BINOCULARS:** Choosing binoculars is a personal choice, with options for sizes, capabilities and budgets. Jessica recommends purchasing a pair from a birding optics company.

**FIELD GUIDE:** Do you prefer photographs or drawings to help identify birds? How do you want the species to be organized? Stop by your local book store or library to check out options.

### NOTEBOOK AND WRITING

**UTENSIL:** Keep track of your observations and questions about identification, then use your notes when you visit your nearest Forest Preserves nature center to chat with a naturalist.

### OUTDOOR NECESSITIES:

Be prepared to spend time outside with appropriate attire, sunscreen and bug spray, as well as water and a snack.

**OPEN MIND:** As with any new hobby, it can take time to learn to be a birder. Give yourself time and patience—soon you'll recognize a variety of bird species using their coloring, size, song and more!



## NORTH ZONE

*All events take place at the Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, 6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago unless otherwise noted.*

### MARCH

#### Forest Therapy\*

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with the nature. Ages 18 & up.

**Thursday, Mar 7 • 11 am–1 pm**

#### Prehistoric Play Day

Learn about the amazing world of Ice Age Illinois with family-oriented games and activities. Ages 5 & up.

**Saturday, Mar 9 • 11 am–1 pm**

Volunteer Resource Center,  
6100 N Central, Chicago

#### Spring Eggstravaganza-Drop-in

Celebrate the changing season and learn about Cook County's wildlife through crafts, themed walks, refreshments and more.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 1–3 pm**

#### Spring Breakout Adventures-Drop-in

Try a variety of outdoor recreation activities while spending school break in nature.

**Thursday, Mar 28 • 10 am–1 pm**

### APRIL

#### Nature Workshop: Embroidery\*

Learn of the native plants while developing basic embroidery skills. Supplies provided.

**Thursday, Apr 11 • 6–8 pm**

Volunteer Resource Center,  
6100 N Central, Chicago

#### Family Bird Walk\*



Start with a DIY binoculars craft then try it out while on a guided bird walk.

**Thursday, Apr 18 • 9:30 am–11:30 am**

Erickson Woods, Willow Rd, east of I-94/Edens Expy, Winnetka

#### Poetry in the Forest:

##### A Forest Therapy Walk\*

Join us for poetry in motion as we explore the forest through our senses. Participants will receive a journal and poetry by Mary Oliver. We will end the walk with a tea ceremony and poetry reading.

**Saturday, Apr 20 • 9–11 am**

### COMMUNITY POWWOW:

#### Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women

Join us to bring awareness to the obstacles the Native communities have faced historically in seeking justice for these women and their families. Drop-in.

**Saturday, May 4 • Noon–5 pm**

Caldwell Woods Wellness Center  
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

### Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. Litter pick-up supplies available to check-out.

**Saturday, Apr 20 • 9–11 am**

### Story Trail\*

In honor of Arab American Heritage Month, experience a story unfold along a short trail. A craft is available to take home upon story trail completion.

**Thursday, Apr 25 • 10 am–1 pm**

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

### MAY

#### Adult Game Night

A night of outdoor games, trivia, and nature play. BYOB (no glass). Ages 21 & up.

**Thursday, May 9 • 6–8 pm**

#### A Symphony of Nature:

##### A Forest Therapy Walk\*

Join us as we gather with the healing sounds of singing bowls in the forest and explore the sounds of nature all around us. We will end with a tea ceremony and a final singing bowl session.

**Thursday, May 16 • 6–8 pm**



### Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon\*

Join the second oldest continual canoe race in the United States! Live music and refreshments for sale. Register: [canoemarathon.com](http://canoemarathon.com).

**Sunday, May 19 • 8 am**

Dam No. 2 Woods, E Des Plaines River Rd, south of E Euclid Ave/W Lake Ave, Mt. Prospect



### Archery 101

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

**Thursday, May 23 • 1–3 pm**

*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



### Maple Syrup Festival

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a special day of activities including crafts, games, tree tapping and maple syrup history. Call for more information.

Sunday, Mar 17 • 11 am–3 pm

### THROUGHOUT the SPRING

#### What's On the Menu?

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

Saturdays and Sundays • 3 pm

#### Small Serendipity

Nature stories, crafts and activities. Ages 3–6 w/adult.

Tuesdays, Mar 26; Apr 9, 23;  
May 14, 28 • 10 am

### Wildlife Connections

Stop by the visitor center to learn about reptiles, mammals and birds from the residents of Misericordia-Heart of Mercy. All ages.

Tuesdays • 10:30 am–Noon

### Volunteer Workdays\*

Help us work to make River Trail even better. Ages 10 & up; under 15 w/adult.

Saturdays, Apr 20, May 18 • 10 am–Noon

### MARCH

#### Sap's Rising\*

Walk in the sugar maple forest as winter comes to an end and learn about the sweet history of maple syrup making.

Saturdays, Mar 2, 9, 16

10:30 am or 1:30 pm

Sundays, Mar 3, 10

10:30 am or 1:30 pm

#### Bucket Bug Hunt

Walk through our sugar bush to learn about early spring insects.

Sunday, Mar 24 • 1:30 pm

#### The Unburied Treasure Hunt

Pick up a treasure map then decode the clues onsite.

Sunday, Mar 31 • 11 am–2 pm

### APRIL

#### Build a Beehouse Workshop\*

Support your gardens by building a beehouse for local native pollinators.

Sunday, Apr 7 • 1 pm

#### GPS Scavenger Hunt\*

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

Sunday, Apr 14 • 11 am, 12:30 pm or 2 pm

#### Conservation@Home: No Mow May Talk

Learn how delaying your spring clean-up can help backyard conservation.

Sunday, Apr 21 • 1:30 pm

#### Nature at Night\*

Explore the world of nature after the sun sets. \$5/person. Registration and payment required by 4/24.

Friday, Apr 26 • 7:30 pm

#### Spring Stroll

A walk to highlight the signs of spring.

Sunday, Apr 28 • 1:30 pm

### MAY

#### Frog Frenzy

Learn how to dress, act and live as a frog.

Sunday, May 5 • 1:30 pm

#### Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 11

Birding Basics\* • 10 am–Noon

Learn the basics of bird watching.

Ages 8 & up.

Raptor Encounter • 1:30–2:30 pm

Get up close with live birds of prey.



#### Wildflower Walk\*

Learn about spring woodland wildflowers on a casual walk.

Sunday, May 12 • 1:30 pm

#### Night Hike\*

An evening walk to learn about nocturnal animals at River Trail. \$5/person. Registration and payment required by 5/15.

Friday, May 17 • 7:30 pm

#### Spring Stroll

A walk to highlight the signs of spring.

Sunday, May 19 • 1:30 pm

#### Animal Encounter

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

Sunday & Monday, May 26 & 27 • 1:30 pm

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

847-824-8360



# CENTRAL ZONE

## Celebrate Spring Fest

Celebrate the vernal equinox and the arrival of spring by painting a bird house, learning about seasonal changes, building and playing with natural materials, and other kid-friendly activities.

**Wednesday, Mar 20 • 11 am–2 pm**

Cummings Square  
536 N Harlem, River Forest

## MARCH

### Woodworking with Invasives\*

Build your own walking stick using buckthorn. Please bring your own work gloves. Ages 12 & up.

**Friday, Mar 1 • 5:30–7:30 pm**

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave,  
River Forest

### Women in Conservation Walk

Join us for a 1.2-mile walk and discussion about women who have made significant contributions in the fields of conservation, environmental activism and science.

**Wednesday, Mar 6 • 10 am**

Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7,  
Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd,  
Western Springs

### Women's Walk

In celebration of Women's Heritage Month, join us as we highlight conservation leader Isabel Bassett Wasson and her work and discoveries at Thatcher Woods and around the country.

**Saturday, Mar 9 • 10 am**

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave,  
River Forest

## Accessibility Trail Outing

Join us on a 1.7-mile paved trail with resting points throughout. Perfect for those who use wheelchairs or have limited mobility.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 11 am**

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

## Truckin' Into Spring

In partnership with Go Ape Chicago, enjoy the Treetop Nets, a nature obstacle course, and more. Food trucks and vendors will be onsite.

**Sunday, Mar 24 • 11 am–2 pm**

Bemis Woods-South, Ogden Ave,  
west of Wolf Rd, Western Springs

## Spring Break-OUT Adventure

Enjoy time out of school with activities including archery, nature play, hikes, art, and other fun. Drop-in.

**Wednesday, Mar 27 • 10 am–1 pm**

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave,  
River Forest

# TRASH BASH!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trash Bash

Make spring cleaning more sustainable! Our event partners will be collecting electronics, prescription drugs, books, musical instruments, bikes, clothing and more. The first 50 donors receive a free "Don't be Trashy" t-shirt.

**Saturday, Apr 6 • 10 am–2 pm**

Miller Meadow-South, 1st Ave,  
south of Roosevelt Rd, Maywood

## APRIL

### Teen Exploration Day:

#### Service-Learning Hours

High school students: learn why it's important to keep natural spaces free of trash. Help pick up litter and earn community service hours for school. Ages 14–19.

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 10 am–1 pm**

Schiller Woods-East, Grove 9, W Irving  
Park Rd, west of N Cumberland Ave,  
Chicago

### Creative Sustainability Workshop

Make chemical-free cleaning supplies, lavender pouches, and native seed bombs. Ages 10 & up.

**Thursday, Apr 18 • 5–7 pm**

Possum Hollow Woods, W 31st St,  
west of S La Grange Rd, Westchester

### Earth Day Cleanup

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. Supplies provided for check-out.

**Friday, Apr 19 • 3–5 pm**

Jerome Huppert Woods, N Thatcher Ave,  
south of W Fullerton Ave, River Grove

**Saturday, Apr 20 • Noon–2 pm**

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

## MAY

### Printmaking Workshop\*

Learn basic printmaking techniques using natural materials. Supplies provided. Bring items you wish to decorate.

**Friday, May 10 • 5–7 pm**

Evans Field, W Bloomingdale Ave  
& Thatcher Ave, River Grove



### Nature Play Day

Help connect your little one with nature during open nature play time.

**Wednesday, May 15 • 11 am–2 pm**

Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7, Ogden  
Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Western Springs

### Nature Wellness Walk

Reconnect with nature during relaxing mindfulness and meditative practices. Register at [go.illinois.edu/cookcountyevents](http://go.illinois.edu/cookcountyevents).

**Saturday, May 18 • 10 am–Noon**

Thatcher Glen Pond, 738 Thatcher  
Ave, River Forest

### Foster Family Pond Paddle\*

Foster families, connect with other foster families while kayaking on the pond! Instruction and equipment provided.

**Thursday, May 23 • 5:30–7:30 pm**

Thatcher Glen Pond, 738 Thatcher Ave,  
River Forest

### Book Swap

Bring in your gently used books and leave with some new-to-you books! Books can be of any genre and reading levels. Refreshments provided.

**Thursday, May 30 • 4–6 pm**

Twenty-Sixth Street Woods-West,  
26th St, east of S 25th Ave  
La Grange Park

## EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

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

# Watch for These Feathered Friends During Spring

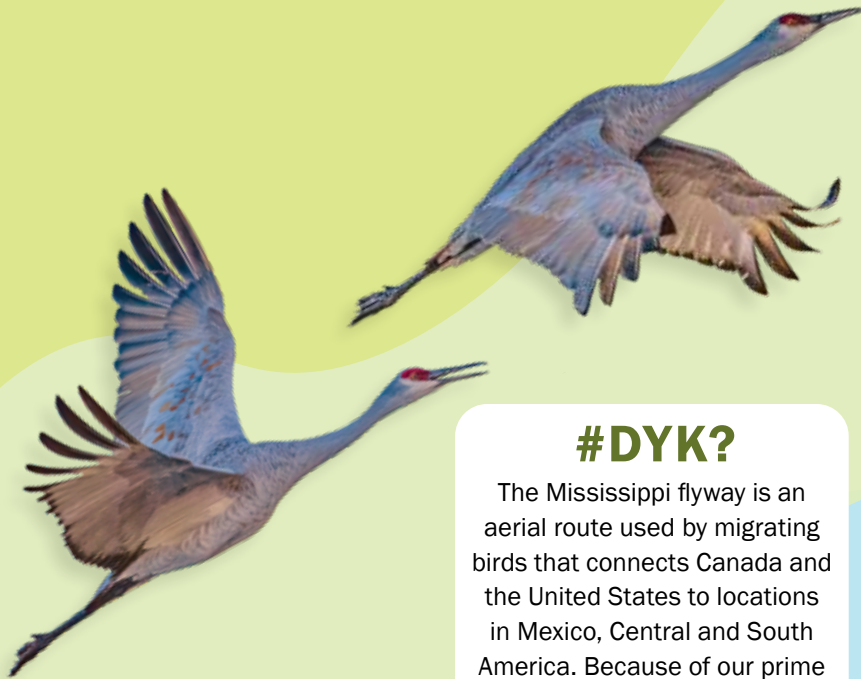
As a stop along the Mississippi Flyway, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's healthy habitats provide prime locations for both migrating birds and resident species to find safe spots to rest and refuel. Be sure to watch for these species during a springtime birding excursion!

## 🏠 COOK COUNTY LOCALS

Commonly spotted this season, here are some of our spring residents.

## ☀️ OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS

A common sighting during spring, these birds are just visiting.



**Sandhill Crane**  
(*Antigone canadensis*)

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Wetlands and grasslands

**FUN FACT:**  
This large bird mates for life and can remain with its partner for decades.

## #DYK?

The Mississippi flyway is an aerial route used by migrating birds that connects Canada and the United States to locations in Mexico, Central and South America. Because of our prime location along this route, the Forest Preserves are a birding destination in spring and fall, and welcome nearly 300 different bird species throughout any given year.

Learn more about birding in the Preserves at [fpdcc.com/birding](https://fpdcc.com/birding).



**American Kestrel**  
(*Falco sparverius*)

**FUN FACT:**  
This bird of prey is the smallest falcon in North America.

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Grasslands



**Yellow-rumped Warbler**  
(*Setophaga coronata*)

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Forests, grasslands and wetlands

**FUN FACT:**  
Both males and females show stunning patches of vibrant yellow feathers.



**Baltimore Oriole**  
(*Icterus galbula*)

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Forests

**FUN FACT:**  
With a sweet tooth, this songbird enjoys fruits and flower nectar.



**Bufflehead**  
(*Bucephala albeola*)

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Open water

**FUN FACT:**  
This tiny duck nests in old holes made by woodpeckers.



**Wood Duck**  
(*Aix sponsa*)

**WHERE TO FIND ME:**  
Wetlands and open water

**FUN FACT:**  
This duck nests in existing tree cavities or in elevated human-made nest boxes.

# 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

### SPECIAL EVENT Spring Festival

Celebrate springtime at Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve! Enjoy interactive programs, kids' tree climb, guided wildflower walks, bird banding, kid's nature crafts, gardening info and much more!

*Sunday, May 5 • Noon–3 pm*

### THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

#### Wellness Walks\*

Mindful and meditative guided nature walk. Ages 18 & up.

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

*Saturdays, Mar 2, 16; Apr 6, 20; May 4, 18 1 pm*

#### Senior Fitness Walks\*

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

*Wednesdays, Mar 6, 20; Apr 3, 17; May 1, 15 • 9 am*

#### Birdhouse Building Contest

Build a creative, functional birdhouse. We'll hang it up where visitors will vote on their favorite. More information at fpdcc.com.

*Entries accepted Mar 15–May 15*

#### “Bone” Appétit-Drop In

Learn about our outdoor resident animals during feeding time.

*Sundays, Mar 17, May 19 • 3 pm*

#### Thursdays In the Field-Drop In

Join IL Ext. Master Naturalists for fun nature- and inquiry-based activities

*Thursdays • 2:30–4:30 pm*

Apr 18: Spring is Sprung

May 16: In a Child's Garden

#### Morning Bird Walks\*

*Saturdays, Apr 27, May 18 • 8 am*

### MARCH

#### “Mysteries of Animal Migration” Talk\*

Explore what scientists know about animal migration. Ages 18 & up.

*Sunday, Mar 3 • 2 pm*

#### Zoo Adventure Passport! (ZAP!): Conservation Science Adventures

Explore through play-based learning and discovery. In collaboration with Brookfield Zoo.

*Saturday, Mar 9 • 1–2:30 pm*

#### Maple Tree Tapping Walk\*

Learn the history of tapping and tap a maple tree. Taste fresh sap and maple syrup. Family program.

*Sun, Mar 10 • 10 am or 2 pm*

#### Marzanna Craft for Kids-in Polish\*

Poznaj Słowiańską tradycję witania wiosny i stwórz własną “Marzannę”. Wstęp wolny, rejestracja pod numerem 708-366-6530. Program dla dzieci do lat 12 w towarzystwie opiekuna.

*Saturday, Mar 16 • 1 pm*

#### Teen Exploration Day:

##### The Botany of Zelda\*

Inspired by the Nintendo game, learn how the fictional plants of Hyrule Forest connect to our native plants. Ages 12–17.

*Thursday, Mar 21 • 1 pm*

### APRIL

#### Woodcock Walk at Wolf Road Prairie\*

Witness the amazing spring courtship flight of the male woodcock bird.

*Friday, Apr 5 • 7 pm*

Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, 31st St, west of Wolf Rd

#### Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam

Make a simple musical instrument or bring your own and join the jam!

*Sunday, Apr 7 • 1–3 pm*

Thatcher Woods, 8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

#### Solar Eclipse Viewing

Learn about a partial solar eclipse and view the eclipse through a special solar telescope and eclipse glasses (weather permitting).

*Monday, Apr 8 • 1:30–2:30 pm*

#### Bird Painting Workshop Step-by-Step: Goldfinch\*

All skill levels welcome. Materials provided. \$5/person. Ages 15 & up.

*Friday, Apr 12 • 1–3 pm*

#### Bone Appétit-in Spanish

Únase a nosotros durante la hora de comer para aprender sobre los animales embajadores de Trailside. Sin registracion necesario.

*Sunday, Apr 14 • 3 pm*

#### Celebrate Earth Day Activities-Drop In

Plant a tree, make your own bird feeder, pick up litter, and more. Family program.

*Saturday, Apr 20 • 10 am–Noon*

#### Nature Book Club:

##### “An Immense World” by Ed Yong\*

Join a lively discussion of this book about animal senses. In partnership with Forest Park Public Library. Ages 18 & up.

*Thursday, Apr 25 • 7 pm*

### MAY

#### Nature Story Trail: “Stick and Stone” by Beth Ferry

Follow a short trail and read a posted children's nature story. Then pick up an activity bag with a craft and suggested outdoor activities.

*Friday, May 10–Monday, May 27 • 9 am–5 pm*

#### Teen Exploration Day: Volunteer Day\*

Help remove invasive garlic mustard. Supplies provided. Earn Service-Learning hours. Ages 15 & up.

*Saturday, May 11 • 10 am*

#### Spring Nature Walk\*

*Sunday, May 12 • 10:30 am*

#### Wellness Walk for Toddlers\*

Short, calming nature discovery walk. Ages 2–4 w/adult.

*Tuesday, May 21 • 9:30 am*

#### Cicada-Palooza-Drop In

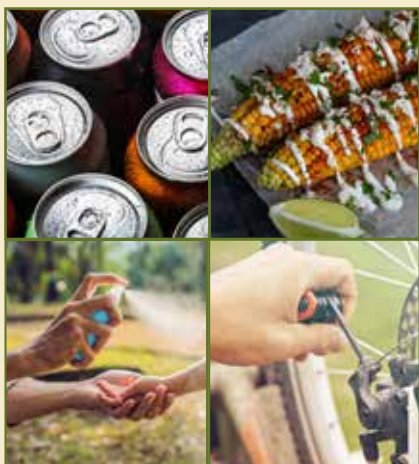
Learn about periodical (17 year) cicadas! Insect discovery walks, live cicada viewing and more. Family program.

*Saturday, May 25 • 10:30–Noon*

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

708-366-6530





### Become a Concessionaire

in the Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Applications now available  
[fpdcc.com/permits/concessions](http://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](http://fpdcc.com/permits/concessions)

## SOUTHWEST ZONE

### THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

#### Bird Walks

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

**Thursday, Mar 14; Saturday, Mar 23, 8–10 am**

McGinnis Slough, S La Grange Rd, south of W 135th St, Orland Park



#### Nature Hike and Journaling

Hike and learn while enjoying the fun of drawing and writing. Create a journal or bring your own.

**Thursday, Mar 14 • 11 am–1 pm**

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

#### Weaving Workshop

Create a small wall hanging art piece using natural materials. Supplies, instruction provided. Ages 10 & up, ages 10–17 w/adult.

**Thursday, Mar 14 • 5:30–7:30 pm**

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

#### Waterfowl Watch\*

Join us as we peer through a spotting scope and watch for migratory waterfowl. Ages 14 & up.

**Wednesday, Mar 27 • 10 am**

McGinnis Slough, S La Grange Rd, south of W 135th St, Orland Park

#### Photography Walk

Grab your camera and explore Paw Paw Woods Nature Preserve, one of the highest quality natural areas in the state.

**Friday, Mar 29 • 10 am**

Maple Lake-East, Mountain Bike Staging Area, 95th St, west of Willow Springs Rd/Flavin Rd, Willow Springs

#### Arab American Heritage Walk

Take a 1.5-mile looped walk around Tomahawk Slough, stopping to read and learn about the Arab American community and their invaluable contributions to our country.

**Wednesday, Apr 3 • 4–6 pm**

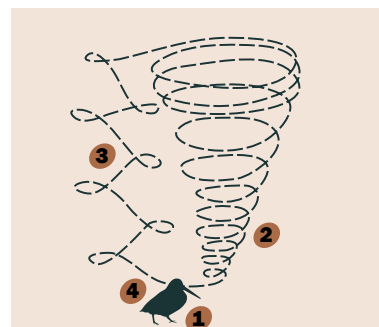
Wolf Road Woods, Wolf Rd, south of 95th St, Willow Springs

#### Arab American Heritage Month

Learn and explore contributions from the Arab American community.

**Saturday, Apr 6 • 11 am–1 pm**

Elizabeth A. Conkey Forest-South, W 135th St, west of Central Ave, Palos Heights



#### Woodcock Watch

Join us as we listen and watch the magical courtship display of the male woodcock.

**Saturday, Apr 6 • 7 pm**

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

#### Fishing Derby

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

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 8 am**

Papoose Lake, McCarthy Rd, west of S La Grange Rd, Palos Park

#### Book Swap

Bring in gently used books and leave with some new-to-you books! Any genre and reading level; nature-themed books encouraged. Snacks & refreshments provided.

**Saturday, May 4 • 10 am–1 pm**

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

#### Archery

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

**Wednesday, May 29 • 4–6 pm**

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

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

#### EXPLORE MORE



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## Restore

We fund restoration projects in the Preserves

Will you partner with us?



[forestpreservefoundation.org](http://forestpreservefoundation.org)

# 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

## 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, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1 • 10 am**

### R.I.P. Stewardship

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

**Saturdays, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11  
10 am–Noon**

### Sunrise Walks

Join us for a “before hours” walk to experience the dawning of a new day.

**Sunday, Mar 10 • 6:45 am**

**Sunday, Apr 14 • 5:45 am**

**Sunday, May 12 • 5:15 am**



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

Seniors Enjoying Nature Inside/Outside Rain or Shine! Ages 55 & up.

**Thursdays, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9 • 10 am**

### Mental Health Tune-Ups

Help raise awareness of the importance of mental health while benefiting from time spent in nature.

**Sundays, Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19 • Noon**

### Nature's Art Box

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

**Wednesdays, Mar 20, Apr 24, May 15  
10:30 am**

### Yoga

All-levels indoor yoga class with certified instructor, Maura. Ages 18 & up.

**Sundays, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 19 • 10–11 am**

### Cub Scout Adventure Series

Programs will address content required to achieve varying levels of nature-related cub scout adventures.

**Sundays • 2–3:30 pm**

Mar 24: Wolf Level

Apr 28: Bear Level

May 26: Webelos Level

### Early Morning Bird Walk



Join us in search of migrating birds. Bring binoculars; limited pairs to lend.

**Saturdays, Apr 27, May 4, May 11, May 18  
8:30 am**

## MARCH

### Ambassador Animals

Learn what, why and how staff feed the animal ambassadors at the nature center.

**Saturday, Mar 2 • 1–2:30 pm**

### National Girl Scout Birthday

Enjoy an evening walk through the woods. Open to all levels of Girl Scout Troops.

**Tuesday, Mar 12 • 7–8:30 pm**

### Women's Wilderness Walk

Celebrate Women's History Month with a guided walk and learn about women who helped shape the conservation field.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 10 am**

### Penumbral Lunar Eclipse

Watch this celestial phenomenon unfold into the wee hours of the morning.

**Monday, Mar 25 • 11:45 pm–3 am**

### Spring Break Feeding Frenzy

Learn what, why and how staff feed the animal ambassadors at the nature center.

**Wednesday, Mar 27 • 11 am**

## APRIL

### Arab American Heritage Walk

Celebrate Arab American Heritage Month by participating in a guided walk to learn more about the culture and history and its impact on our country.

**Sunday, Apr 7 • 2 pm**

### Spectacular Partial Solar Eclipse

Watch this rare natural phenomenon here! Telescopes ready for viewing.

**Monday, Apr 8 • 1–3 pm**

### International Bat Appreciation Walk

Join us for a folktale recited by a librarian from the La Grange Park Library as we walk and discuss the importance of these misunderstood flying mammals.

**Wednesday, Apr 17 • 6 pm**

### Earth Day Celebration

Art activities, scavenger hunts, food chain demonstrations, and free plant giveaways will delight visitors.

**Saturday, Apr 20 • 11 am–1 pm**

### Moon Walk

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

**Tuesday, Apr 23 • 9:15 pm**

### Pond Exploration

Search a pond for invertebrates, amphibians, and other aquatic organisms.

**Saturday, Apr 27 • 1:30–3 pm**

## MAY

### Spring Sensory Walk

Enjoy a leisurely walk and appreciate the sights, smells and sounds of springtime in nature.

**Saturday, May 4 • 1:30–3 pm**

### Dark Sky Walk

Enjoy an evening walk through our woods and get a close-up view of the night sky.

**Tuesday, May 7 • 9 pm**

### Frog Talk

Learn why frogs communicate while walking along wetlands.

**Friday, May 10 • 7:30–9 pm**

### Teens and Turtles: Teen Exploration Day

Teens will explore the world of turtles. Ages 13 & up.

**Saturday, May 18 • 1:30 pm**

### Nature IS Accessible!

Visitors of all abilities are invited to celebrate nature through accessible activities. Drop in.

**Wednesday, May 22 • 10 am–Noon**

*Registration required for all programs unless noted.*

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

# 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* SPRING

### Spring Birding

Join us for a guided walk to learn how to identify birds and appreciate their ecological significance. Binoculars available for loan.

**Wednesdays, Apr 24, May 1, 8, 15;  
Saturdays, May 4, 18; Sundays,  
Apr 28, May 12, 19 • 8:30 am**



### Ecological Restoration Weekend\*

Enjoy the outdoors. Put your muscles to work as you help restore habitat by removing invasive plants. Tools provided. Ages 10 & up.

**Saturdays & Sundays, Mar 30 & Mar 31,  
Apr 27 & Apr 28, May 25 & May 26  
9:30–11:30 am**

## MARCH

### Signs of Spring\*

How do plants and animals respond to the longer days? Join us for a walk looking for signs of spring's arrival.

**Saturday, Mar 16 • 1 pm**

### Life Under a Log\*

Enjoy a short walk and investigate the unseen microhabitat that sustains a great diversity of organisms.

**Sunday, Mar 17 • 1 pm**

### World Water Day: Water Policy For Healthy Ecosystems (Facebook Live)

Celebrate World Water Day by focusing on how healthy aquatic ecosystems will benefit all. Enjoy the live stream on Sagawau's Facebook page.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 1 pm**

### Artist as Naturalist\*

Celebrate Women's History Month by learning how artists made scientific research accessible to society.

**Sunday, Mar 24 • 1 pm**

### Waterfowl Watch\*

Join us as we peer through a spotting scope and watch for migratory waterfowl. Ages 14 & up.

**Wednesday, Mar 27 • 10 am**

McGinnis Slough, S La Grange Rd,  
south of W 135th St, Orland Park

## APRIL

### Woodcock Watch\*

Join us for an evening on the prairie to enjoy male woodcock's aerial sky dance. Ages 10 & up.

**Thursday, Apr 4 • 7 pm**

### Head in the Clouds (Facebook Live)

Want to know more about clouds? Learn all about cloud science. Tune in to Sagawau's Facebook page.

**Saturday, Apr 6 • 1 pm**

### Animal Track Hunt\*

Whose tracks are in the mud? Join us for the hunt and learn about tracks along the trails.

**Sunday, Apr 7 • 1 pm**

### ENTICE Workshop: The Wonderful World of Lichens\*

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, explore the world of lichens by learning about this symbiotic partnership. Learn ways to identify lichens and how lichens can be incorporated into your classroom. PD hours available. Register at [enticeworkshops.com](http://enticeworkshops.com).

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 9 am–3 pm**

### Accessible Wildflower Walk\*

This leisurely walk will highlight wildflowers along a paved driveway.

**Sunday, Apr 14 • 1 pm**

### Wildflower Walk\*

Enjoy a hike to look for wildflowers while learning how to identify these ephemeral beauties.

**Saturday, Apr 20; Sunday, May 12 • 1 pm**

### Fantastic Ferns\*

Join us for a discussion and short walk to investigate this fascinating group of vascular plants. Ages 18 & up.

**Sunday, Apr 21 • 1 pm**

### Ecological Restoration: Garlic Mustard Pull

Celebrate Earth Day by welcoming back native plants and wildlife by pulling invasive garlic mustard.

**Monday, Apr 22 • 9:30–11:30 am**

## MAY

### Book Discussion: Conversations with Birds\*

Enjoy a shared love of reading and birds as we discuss this book by Priyanka Kumar.

**Saturday, May 4 • 1 pm**

### Bird Banding

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

**Sun, May 5 • 10 am–Noon**

### World Migratory Bird Day

Celebrate migratory birds and watch bird banding demonstrations while learning how insects affect bird populations.

**Saturday, May 11 • 9 am–2 pm**



Periodical Cicada (cropped), by Fidencio Marbella

### Welcome Back, Cicadas!

Welcome brood 13 of periodical cicadas. We will search for their emergence holes and learn how to identify good cicada trees.

**Saturday, May 18 • 1–3 pm**

### Periodical Cicadas: Special Exhibit

Periodical cicadas return to Northeastern Illinois. This special exhibit will help answer your buzzing questions about periodical cicadas.

**Daily, May 19–June 30**

*\*Registration required for events  
with asterisk.*

630-257-2045



# SOUTH ZONE

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

## Bird Walks

Look for birds on a guided walk.

**Saturdays, Mar 30, May 25; Thursdays,  
Apr 18, May 16 • 8–10 am**

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

**Saturday, Apr 27 • 8–10 am**

Burnham Prairie, E 139th St & S  
Manistee Ave, Burnham

**Wednesdays in Apr and May • 8–9 am**

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

## BE A BETTER BIRDER

events—page 7

## Open Nature Play Day

Enjoy the Dan Ryan Woods Nature Play  
space while helping your children connect  
with nature. Enjoy stories, art, and  
exploration each time. Ages 3–10  
w/adult.

**Wednesday, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8,  
10 am–1 pm**

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

## Spring Ephemeral Wildflower Walk

Check the website for a walk near you!

## MARCH

### Wellness in the Woods: Nature as Your Stage

Warm up with a quick walk on the trail  
then get down with dance.

**Saturday, Mar 9 • 10 am–Noon**

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

### Wellness in the Woods: Bike Ride—~16 mi.

Bring your own bike and helmet and join  
us on a guided ride while learning about  
who Marshall “Major” Taylor was and his  
connection to the Forest Preserves on the  
trail named in his honor.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 8 am**

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

### Spring Breakout Adventure

Explore, discover, and create! Spend your  
spring break outside with several outdoor  
recreation activities.

**Friday, Mar 29 • 11 am–2pm**

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

## APRIL

### Wellness in the Woods: Bike Ride—~5 mi.

Bring your own bike and helmet and join  
us on a guided ride.

**Thursday, Apr 4 • 5 pm**

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

### Crafternoon

Let nature inspire art! Try your hand  
at different crafts suitable for people  
of all abilities.

**Thursday, Apr 11 • 11 am–1 pm**

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

## Earth Day Birthday

You can have your cake and eat  
it too! Celebrate planet Earth, play  
party games and better  
the environment.

**Saturday Apr 20 • 11 am–2 pm**

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

## Yoga\*

**Saturdays, Apr 13, 27 • 10:30–11:30 am**

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

### Night Hike: Stars and Stories

Join in and listen to the story “Under the  
Drinking Gourd” and learn the significance  
of why reading the stars was important  
for survival.

**Thursday, Apr 25 • 6:30–8:30 pm**

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

## MAY

### Zumba in the Woods\*

**Saturdays, May 11, 25 • 10:30 am–1:30 pm**

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

### Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Trivia Walk

Enjoy a self-guided walk while learning  
about the role Asian Americans and  
Pacific Islanders play in conservation.

**Saturday, May 4 • 10 am–1 pm**

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

### Teen Exploration Day: Crafternoon

Try your hand at a variety of arts and crafts.

**Thursday, May 9 • 3–5 pm**

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

### Chicago River Day\*

Celebrate the 32nd anniversary of Chicago  
River Day. Do your part to clean and  
restore our waterways and the land  
around it. More information and  
registration: [chicagoriver.org](http://chicagoriver.org)

**Saturday, May 11 • 9 am–Noon**

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



### Nature Block Party

Join us for a day of celebration and  
exploration as we honor the incredible  
diversity of life at Eggers Grove.

**Saturday, May 20 • 11 am–3 pm**

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

### I Spy with My Five Senses

Enjoy a scavenger hunt that uses your  
five senses. Ages 5–13.

**Thursday, May 23 • 3–6 pm**

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

*\*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

### SPECIAL EVENT



#### Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day with themed games, a self-guided litter cleanup and more.

**Saturday, Apr 20 • 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, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4 • 1:30 pm**

##### Sand Ridge Service Days\*

Join us each month as we care for the Sand Ridge Campus with a variety of activities! Earn service-learning hours. All ages.

**Sundays • 1–3 pm**

Mar 3, 10: Litter Picking

Apr 14, 28: Garlic Mustard Pull

May 5, 19: Garden Weeding at Green Lake

##### Wee Wonders\*

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

**Wednesdays • 10 am**

Mar 13: Gold Hunt

Apr 10: Butterflies

May 8: Nature in Bloom

##### Tuesdays are for the Birds\*

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

**Tuesdays, Apr 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14  
8 am**

#### MARCH

##### Starry Night Walk\*

Join us for a guided walk and night sky observations as we admire the stars and learn about astronomy.

**Friday, Mar 8 • 5:30–7:30 pm**

##### Restoration & S'mores!\*

Help restore our woodlands by cutting down invasive species and having a brush pile burn. Then enjoy s'mores and light snacks. Ages 12 & up.

**Saturday, Mar 16 • 10 am–Noon**

##### Painting & Papercrafts\*

Celebrate spring with arts and crafts inspired by the changing season. Ages 18 & up, or ages 13–17 w/adult.

**Saturday, Mar 23 • 1–3 pm**

#### APRIL

##### Animal Origami\*

Observe bird feeder activity as we make origami animals such as bunnies, insects and birds, including your own favorite animal!

**Saturday, Apr 13 • 9–10 am**

##### Frog Survey Night Walk\*

Come be a community scientist for an evening as we listen to and document our local frogs. Space is limited. Ages 12 & up.

**Friday, Apr 26 • 7–9 pm**

##### Wildflower Walk\*

Come along for a guided walk to explore spring ephemerals in bloom.

**Saturday, Apr 27 • Noon–2 pm**

#### MAY

##### Woodworking with Invasives\*

Repurpose invasive buckthorn into a personalized walking stick. Equipment provided. Ages 17 & up, or ages 10–16 w/adult.

**Tuesday, May 7 • 6–8 pm**

#### World Migratory Bird Day\*

Join us for activities dedicated to our feathered neighbors!

**Saturday, May 11**

Bird Walk: 8 am

Little Sit: 10 am

Bird Feeder Craft: 1 pm

##### Mother's Day Art Fair

Come see some amazing art inspired by Mother Earth and mother figures alike. There will be great conversation and food onsite.

**Sunday, May 12 • Noon–4 pm**

##### Wildcrafting Throughout History\*

Join us on a guided walk to learn about ways people have sustainably and ethically lived off the land throughout history.

**Tuesday, May 14 • 1:30 pm**

##### Nature Noises\*

Relax and enjoy the sounds of nature as we sit around a campfire, tell stories, enjoy s'mores, and take a walk to see what the trails have to offer your eyes and ears.

**Friday, May 17 • 6–8 pm**

##### Family Campout\*

Intro to camping for families. Includes meals, all camping gear and outdoor fun. \$75/family (group up to 6). Email [sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov](mailto:sandridge.naturecenter@cookcountyl.gov). Registration required.

##### Camp Shabbona Woods

15810 S Torrence Ave, South Holland

**Saturday, May 25–Sunday, May 26,  
4 pm–11 am**

*\*Registration required for events  
with asterisk.*

708-868-0606





NEWTS  
New Volunteer  
Workday

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

## Northwest

Explore beautiful Deer Grove while pulling harmful weeds. Garlic mustard shades out spring wildflowers, reducing biodiversity. Make a difference for nature and meet new people at your first stewardship day. All supplies and training provided.

**Saturday, May 4 • 9-11 am**

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

## SIGN UP TODAY!

Beginners welcome; registration required: [fpdcc.com/volunteer](https://fpdcc.com/volunteer)



feel free

[fpdcc.com](https://fpdcc.com)



Are you  
16-22 &  
looking  
for a  
**SUMMER  
JOB?**

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Youth Outdoor  
Ambassador  
program.

Learn more:  
[fpdcc.com/jobs/](https://fpdcc.com/jobs/)







# 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/](https://fpdcc.com/make-your-gathering-green/)**

