

SUMMER 2024

A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



FOREST
PRESERVES
of Cook County

feel free

fpdcc.com

Explore Cook County's Great Outside

With 70,000 acres of forest preserves, parks, shorelines, ziplines, hiking trails, biking trails, kayaking, campsites and more, suburban Cook County is made for getting outside.

Find your adventure at
outsidechicago.com



OUTSIDE CHICAGO

Cook County
TOURISM ALIVE



In the Forest Preserves of Cook County, we firmly believe that nature is for everyone. No matter your age, background, or physical capacity, we are committed to helping every resident in Cook County experience the benefits of spending time outdoors.

Throughout the season, the Forest Preserves has a variety of programming dedicated to welcoming diverse populations. But we aren't doing this work alone; we are partnering with various communities and building connections and opportunities from those who know best.

In this guide, you'll find a number of offerings in different languages, opportunities for adaptive recreation, and a robust celebration for Pride Month. Whether you're interested in a peaceful and informative walk, a birding excursion, or exciting opportunities like kayaking and camping, you'll find something fun in your Forest Preserves.

We hope to see you in the Preserves!

Toni Preckwinkle

President,
Forest Preserves of Cook County



fpdcc.com

How to use this Guide:

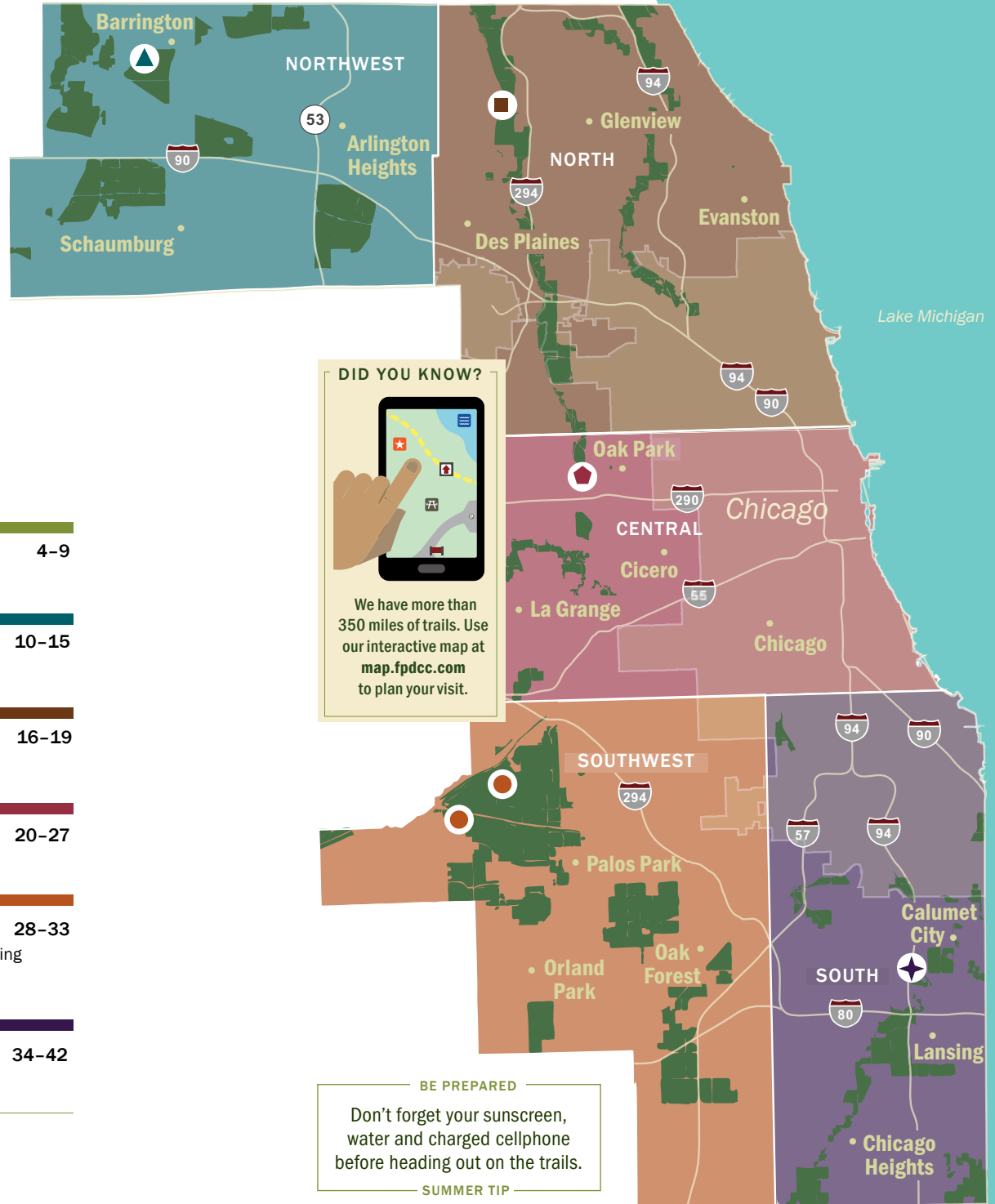
Whether you're looking for boat rentals, ziplining, disc golf or fun and educational events or programs at nature centers and sites throughout the County, this guide will help you create your own adventure in the Forest Preserves.

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.

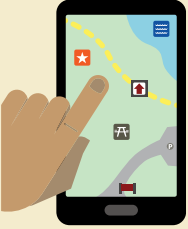
Come by yourself, or with your family and friends; there's no better place to feel free.

	Seasonal Offerings	4-9
	Summer Offerings, Hike the Preserves, Camping, Bird the Preserves	
	Northwest Zone	10-15
	Crabtree Nature Center, <i>First Timers Learn the Fun of Camping</i>	
	North Zone	16-19
	River Trail Nature Center	
	Central Zone	20-27
	Trailside Museum of Natural History, <i>Featured Events</i>	
	Southwest Zone	28-33
	Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center/Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, <i>Teen Exploration Days</i>	
	South Zone	34-42
	Sand Ridge Nature Center	

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



DID YOU KNOW?



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

BE PREPARED

Don't forget your sunscreen, water and charged cellphone before heading out on the trails.

SUMMER TIP

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

620 W Devon Ave, Chicago

Opens Saturday, May 25

BOAT RENTALS ■ ◆ ●

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

Busse Lake Boating Center

E Higgins Rd, east of I-290, Elk Grove Village, 224.415.6554

Maple Lake Boating Center

Wolf Rd, south of 95th St, Willow Springs, 708.506.0227

Skokie Lagoons (Tower Road Entrance)*

Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr, Northfield, 847.414.5883

Tampier Lake Boating Center

W 131st St, west of S Wolf Rd, Orland Park, 708.830.5194

*Canoes and kayaks only

CONSERVATION@HOME

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

DISC GOLF ▲

Rolling Knolls

11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

fpdcc.com/disc-golf

EQUESTRIAN

Horse riders can enjoy miles of trails throughout the Preserves.

fpdcc.com/equestrian

GO APE ZIP LINE ◆

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

Bemis Woods-South ●

1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs

Open April–November



JUICED BY SHIC ●

Swallow Cliff Wood-North

Open June–September. Hours may vary.

juicedbyshic.com

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

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 Bieszczat 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, rei.com/events, 877.819.3810

email: experiences@rei.com

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

✦ South

Hike the Preserves

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

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

Walk & Talks

Central Zone

Bemis Woods-North, Grove 4-2 mi.
Wolf Rd, south of 31st St
Wednesday, July 10 • 10 am

Sundown Meadow-2 mi.
S LaGrange Rd, north of 67th St, Countryside
Tuesday, Aug 13 • 10 am

Southwest Zone
Teason's Woods-2 mi.
S Willow Springs Rd, south of Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83
Wednesday, Jun 26 • 10 am

Wolf Road Woods-2 mi.
Wolf Rd, south of 95th St
Wednesday, Aug 7 • 10 am

St. Mihiel Woods-East-3 mi
Central Ave, south of 167th St
Saturday, Aug 17 • 10 am

Spears Woods-2.5 mi
96th Ave, south of W 87th St
Thursday, Aug 29 • 3 pm



North Zone

LGBTQ2S+ Environmentalists*

Celebrate Pride Month with a nature walk highlighting local and national LGBTQ2S+ conservationists. Register at 773-758-8899.

LaBagh Woods, Grove 1, N Cicero Ave, north of W Foster Ave, Chicago
Tuesday, Jun 11 • 4-6 pm

Native Prairies

Linne Woods, Grove 2, W Dempster St, east of Lehigh Ave, Morton Grove
Thursday, Aug 22 • 8:30 am

Fitness Hike

Central Zone

Sunset Bridge Meadow-7 mi
North Ave, east of N 1st Ave, River Grove
Tuesday, Jun 11 • 10 am

South Zone

Kickapoo Woods-3 mi
Halsted St, south of W 144th St, Riverdale
Saturday, Jul 20 • 10 am

Southwest Zone

Country Lane Woods-5 mi
95th St, east of Flavin Rd/Willow Springs Rd
Wednesday, Jul 31 • 9 am

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ✦ South



#birdthepreserves



American Kestrel
(*Falco sparverius*)



Yellow-rumped Warbler
(*Setophaga coronata*)



Baltimore Oriole
(*Icterus galbula*)

BE A BETTER BIRDER

Thursdays • 6 pm
Virtual via Zoom

Jun 27: Birding Ethics*

Don't be THAT person. Learn about ABA birding ethics and how to ensure birds are minimally impacted during your trip. Register at: tinyurl.com/r4mzebbr

Jul 25: Getting Started*

Learn how to build your birding kit, how to get started birding, and where you can find resources. Register at: tinyurl.com/4eefk9eh

Aug 22: Intro to Bird ID*

Learn the basics of bird identification, the lingo birders use to describe birds and how to identify birds using size and shape. Register at: tinyurl.com/4cfwjyn

*Registration required.



FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

CAMPING

fpdcc.com/camping • 1-855-YES-CAMP

Camp Reinberg • Camp Bullfrog Lake • Camp Sullivan

Type	Capacity	RATES: APR-OCT	
		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Tent/RV Electric	6	Thurs-Sat \$54	Thurs-Sat \$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

Type	Capacity	RATES: APR-OCT	
		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	Sun-Sat \$38	Sun-Sat \$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

Visti fpdcc.com/camping for seasonal rates.

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



CAMPGROUNDS OFFERINGS

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

Camping & Cooking 101* ▲ ■ ●

This workshop covers camping and outdoor cooking basics. Camping and cooking gear provided. All ages.

6-8 pm

Camp Bullfrog Lake

Wednesday, Jun 5

Camp Sullivan

Wednesday, Jul 10

Camp Reinberg

Thursday, Aug 7

Camping 101-Overnight! * ▲ ●

Part workshop, part campout! Learn camping skills then spend the night. Program begins at 5:30 pm. Cost: \$50/family of 6.

Camp Bullfrog Lake

Saturday, Jun 22-Sunday, Jun 23

Camp Reinberg

Saturday, Aug 17-Sunday, Aug 18



Teen Exploration Day ▲ ●

See page 26

*Registration required. For info and registration, contact: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ✦ South

For programming at Camp Shabbona Woods, visit page 35.



Fishing Line Can Harm or Kill Wildlife

THOUSANDS OF BIRDS and mammals are maimed or killed yearly by the improper use and disposal of fishing line.

What Can Be Done?

- 1 Please place fishing line in receptacles around the lakes (it will be made into fish habitat or properly disposed of).
- 2 Remove all hooks, swivels, sinkers and other trash and place in a trash can.
- 3 To reduce the chance of line breaking, use the appropriate test line for the fish you are trying to catch, and replace your line yearly.
- 4 Place only fishing line in the receptacles.



Help protect wildlife and keep your Forest Preserve lakes clean by picking up discarded line.



Northwest Zone

JUNE

IKES Fish for Fun*

Join us for this annual fishing extravaganza. Give-a-ways and refreshments for all and prizes for category winners. Event subject to weather. Ages 15 & under.

Saturday, Jun 1 • 9-11:30 am

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Busse Lake Outdoors Day & Fishing Derby*

Free fishing derby, tree climb, nature play, animal encounters, local foods and more! Enjoy local food and win prizes. For info and registration, call 847.519.7674 or email district15@cookcountyil.gov.

Saturday, Jun 15 • 9 am-Noon

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

Summer Nature Camp

Learn the significance of summer in Native American culture while participating in various activities. All ages. Presented with Trickster Cultural Center.

Tuesday, Jun 18-Fri, Jun 21 • Noon-3 pm

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Morning Solstice Paddle*

Celebrate the summer solstice by paddling Busse South Pool. Ages 5 & up.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 8-10 am

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

JULY

Forest Therapy*

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with nature with a Certified Forest Therapy Guide. Ages 18 & up.

Thursday, Jul 25 • 8:30 am

Bluff Spring Fen, Elgin

AUGUST

Movies in the Parks*

Sit under the stars and enjoy a family film at Elgin's own beautiful Forest Preserve! BYO-blanket and bug spray. Refreshments available for purchase.

Friday, Aug 16 • Pre-movie activities at 7 pm; Movie at dusk

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Forest Therapy*

Awaken your senses and renew your bond with nature with a Certified Forest Therapy Guide. Ages 18 & up.

Thursday, Aug 22 • 8:30 am

Busse Woods-South, Grove 16,
E Higgins Rd, west of N Arlington
Heights Rd, Elk Grove Village



Busse Night Ride*

Don't miss this unique opportunity to ride the Busse Woods trail at sunset, twilight or in the dark! Tickets include live music, bonfires, refreshments and more. Register at egvbikes.org/busse-woods-night-ride.

Saturday, Aug 24 • 6-11 pm

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

**Registration required unless otherwise noted. For more info and registration, 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

SUMMER CAMPS

Gone Fishin' Day Camp*

Join in on learning about fish, making crafts and fishing. On the second day, we will go fishing at a local lake.

Ages 7-12; \$20/child.

Thursday, Jun 13 & Friday, Jun 14
Thursday, Jun 27 & Friday, Jun 28
9:30 am–Noon

Nature Explorer Camp*

Discover the plants and animals of the Preserves through exploration, games and crafts.

Ages 7-11; \$30/child.

Tuesday, Jun 18–Thursday, Jun 20
9:30 am–Noon

Teen Hiking Meet-up*

Hang out with other teens while socializing and learning about nature.

Saturdays, Jul 6, Aug 17 • 1 pm

Nature Table

Examine seasonal objects and specimens with a naturalist.

Saturdays, Jun 8, Aug 10 • 1-3 pm

Crabtree Gyotaku*

Join us for a brief presentation and create your own masterpiece using the traditional Japanese art form of printing fish. Ages 7-12 w/adult.

Thursday, Jun 6; Saturday, Jun 13 • 10 am

Explore the Forest

Celebrate everything the Forest Preserves has to offer through animal encounters, arts & crafts, recreation, and much more at this special event!

Sunday, Jun 2 • 11 am–3 pm

JUNE

Frog Frenzy*

Hear who is croaking in the night. Ages 7 & up.

Friday, Jun 7 • 7:30 pm

Rainbow Families

Celebrate Pride Month and learn about different types of family arrangements in the animal kingdom.

Saturday, Jun 15 • 1 pm

Father's Day Ramble

Join us for a summer walk.

Sunday, Jun 16 • 1 pm

Summer Solstice Walk

Celebrate the longest day of the year during a 1.5-mile walk.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 6 pm

Pond Dippin'

Discover tiny creatures in our ponds.

Sunday, Jun 23 • 1 pm

Firefly Night Walk*

Watch and learn about the glowing insects of twilight on a guided stroll.

Wednesday, Jun 26 • 8:30 pm

PRIDE Walk

Celebrate PRIDE month with a naturalist-led nature walk. LGBTQS+ people, family, friends and allies welcome.

Saturday, Jun 29 • 1pm

JULY

Color Walk

Nature is more than just green, join us on a 1.4-mile guided walk.

Sunday, Jul 7 • 1 pm

Bats of the Night*

Learn about these mysterious nocturnal creatures.

Friday, Jul 19 • 8 pm

Cicadas!

Discover the secretive underground lives of our noisiest insects.

Sunday, Jul 21 • 1 pm

Disability Pride Month: Sensory Walk

Gain a new perspective of the world by using different senses.

Saturday, Jul 27 • 1 pm

Maker Space for Nature Play!*

All ages are welcome to create, paint and sculpt.

Sunday, Jul 28 • 1-3 pm

AUGUST

Scat-venger Hunt

Drop in to get the scoop on poop as you hunt for scat.

Saturday, Aug 3; Sunday, Aug 4
10 am–3 pm

Sulky Bird Count

Join us for a big sit near Sulky Pond.

Thursdays, Aug 8, 15, 22 • 10 am–Noon

Let's Go Find Some Bugs!

Summer bug hunt. Ages 6 & up.

Sunday, Aug 18 • 1 pm

Twilight Canoe*

Explore the wonders of the lake. Ages 18 & up.

Wednesday, Aug 21; Friday, Aug 23 • 6 pm

The Science of Snakes

Learn about these reptiles with fun activities and a walk.

Sunday, Aug 25 • 1 pm

Evening Insect Safari*

Come hear our late summer insects on a guided walk.

Wednesday, Aug 28 • 6:30 pm

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



First Timers Learn the Fun of Camping

with the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Longtime Lynwood resident Aidia Jackson never went camping as a child and had been hesitant to try the experience.

But she, her daughter and two grandchildren put their stakes in the ground and learned a great deal from experienced Forest Preserves staff by participating in a Family Campout program last May, at Camp Shabbona Woods in South Holland. That program, geared to camping beginners, provides staff-led instruction in setting up tents and other equipment, along with cooking and building campfires.

“It was a good experience—a good introduction,” says Jackson. “You’re afraid of what you don’t know.

I felt like being able to do it under somebody’s guidance, and talk freely to somebody, and knowing that other people were in the same boat—we encouraged each other to be able to do it. I didn’t know what to expect. I wanted to see if I liked it, and be equipped, and gain as much knowledge as I could, so I could start doing it.”

During the May 2023 event, Jackson brought her own tents and sleeping bags, which the Forest Preserves provides for those who need them. “I wish I had used their sleeping bags,” she says. “I did not realize that not all sleeping bags are created equal, and I was very cold that night. I wasn’t prepared for how quickly the temperature drops outside.

Continued on page 40

Relax & Restore

at the Forest Preserve Foundation's inaugural outdoor concert



Jazz in the Preserves

July 18, 2024, 6-9 PM

Thatcher Woods Pavilion

8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest, IL 60305

Tickets at forestpreservefoundation.org

North Zone

JUNE

Let's Play! Forest Exploration Day*

Engage in creative, imaginative, and child-directed, outdoor free-play as a family. Presented with The Alliance for Early Childhood and BackYard Nature Center.

Register: tinyurl.com/LetsPlay2024
Erickson Woods, Willow Rd, east of I-94/Edens Expy, Winnetka
Monday, Jun 3 • 9:30-11:30 am

Pedal the Preserves*

Learn bicycle basics, simple maintenance, and safe riding skills then explore the North Branch Trail. Family-friendly. Limited loaner bikes upon request. In partnership with Ride Illinois and Niles-Maine Library.
Miami Woods, Grove 1, N Caldwell Ave, north of Oakton St, Morton Grove
Saturday, Jun 8 • 10 am

Rise of the Cicada*

Learn about the once-in-a-lifetime double-brood cicada emergence and participate in cicada-themed activities.
Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, 6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago
Thursday, Jun 13 • 4-6 pm

International Mud Day CELEBRATION

Join others around the globe for a morning of splashing, squishing, mud creations, and more! Dress to get messy. All ages.

Caldwell Woods Wellness Center,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago
Saturday, Jun 29 • 10 am-Noon

Presented with Niles-Maine Library.

JULY

Without Limits: Recreation for All!

Embrace adventure through rock climbing, cycling, and kayaking opportunities specially tailored for people of all ages with a primary physical disability. Presented with Adaptive Adventures.
Tower Road Boat Launch, Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr, Northfield
Thursday, Jul 18 • 10 am-Noon

Full Moon Paddle*

Join in an exclusive after-hours moonlit paddle through the Skokie Lagoons. Ages 8 & up. Register: chicagoriver.org/events.
Tower Road Boat Launch, Tower Rd, West of Forestway Dr, Northfield
Saturday, Jul 20 • 6:30-10:30 pm



Dog Days of Summer

Calling all dog lovers!
Dog-themed offerings including adoption opportunities, canoe paddles, sniff walks, paw print Olympic medals, pictures, creative reuse toys, training tips, treats, and more. Dogs must be pet and person-friendly and remain on leash.

Beck Lake, East River Rd & Central Road, Des Plaines
Saturday, Jul 20 • 10 am-Noon

Clean Up & Explore*

Do your part to help keep the Forest Preserves clean! Litter pick-up supplies available for check out.
Linne Woods, Grove 2, W Dempster St, east of Lehigh Ave, Morton Grove
Thursday, Jul 25 • 9-10:30 am

Teen Exploration Day: Clean Up & Explore*

Earn service hours and do your part to help keep the Forest Preserves clean! Litter pick-up supplies available for check out.
Miami Woods, Grove 1, N Caldwell Ave, north of Oakton St, Morton Grove
Thursday, Jul 25 • 11 am-12:30 pm



Back-to-School Community ADVENTURE DAY

Welcome the school year with a day of community give-a-ways, school supply distribution, and adventure such as archery, kid's tree climb, disc golf, artmaking, food, and much more! All ages. Donations limited.

Presented with ICNA Chicago, Niles-Maine Library, Hive Center for the Book Arts, and others.
Caldwell Woods, Grove 1, 6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago
Saturday, Aug 3 • 10 am-1 pm

AUGUST

Phone-tography 101*

Enjoy a morning in the Preserves and learn the basics of photography using a smartphone.
Miami Woods, Grove 1, N Caldwell Ave, north of Oakton St, Morton Grove
Thursday, Aug 8 • 9 am and 11 am (Teen Exploration Day, teens only)



History of the Lagoons Paddle*

Explore the uniqueness of Skokie Lagoons by way of water. Equipment provided. Presented with Chicago River Canoe & Kayak.
Tower Road, Boat Rental, Tower Rd, west of Forestway Dr, Winnetka
Thursday, Aug 15 • 5-7 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

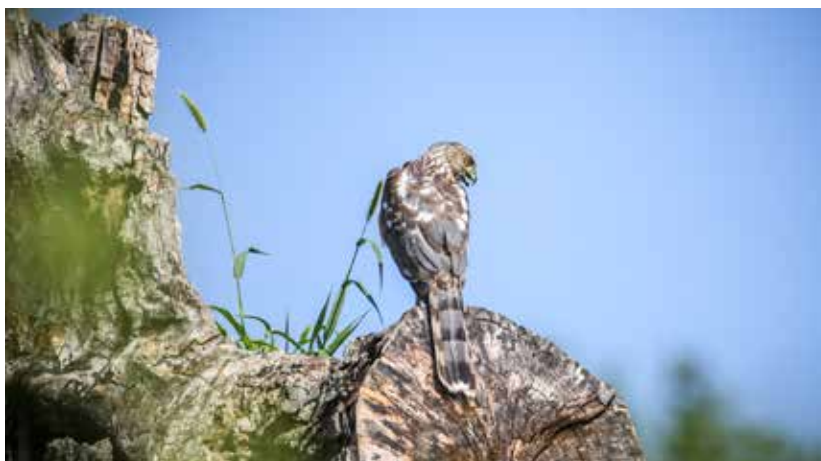


Image: A Cooper's Hawk, perched near the River Trail Nature Center.

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

What's On The Menu?

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

Saturdays and Sundays • 3 pm

Volunteer Workdays*

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

Saturdays, Jun 8, Jul 6,
Aug 10 • 10 am–Noon

Small Serendipity

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

Tuesdays, Jun 11, 25; Jul 9, 23;
Aug 6, 20 • 10 am

The Buzz on Bees

Visit our beehives and meet the beekeepers to learn about bees, pollination, and honey.

Sundays, Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25 • 1:30 pm



Fridays in the Field

Discover something new in nature with University of Illinois Extension Volunteers.

Every Friday, Jun 21–Aug 9 • 10–Noon



Wildlife Connections

Stop by the visitor center to learn about animals from the residents of Misericordia-Heart of Mercy.

Tuesdays • 10:30 am–Noon

JUNE

The Un-buried Treasure Hunt

Pick up a treasure map then decode the clues along the trails to find the un-buried treasure.

Sunday, Jun 16 • 11 am–2 pm

Campfire Stories*

Enjoy the lingering daylight on the longest day of the year with stories, songs and s'mores around the campfire. \$5/person; registration required by 6/18.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 7:30 pm

Serpent Safari

A program all about snakes.

Sunday, Jun 23 • 1:30 pm

JULY

Animal Encounter

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

Thursday, Jul 4 • 1:30 pm

Bug-a-Palooza

Learn about the amazing diversity of insects as we catch and release them.

Sunday, Jul 14 • 1:30 pm



Sunset Walk*

Some of our local wildlife begin their day just as the sun begins to set. Learn about these animals and more on a guided walk. \$5/person; Registration required by 7/16.

Thursday, Jul 18 • 7:30 pm

AUGUST

Bat Chat*

Learn about these fascinating creatures while watching them over the river. Registration required by 7/30.

Thursday, Aug 1 • 8 pm

Morning Mugs with a Naturalist

Nature conversations with a naturalist. BYO-mug and we'll provide the beverages.

Sunday, Aug 11 • 8:30–10 am

**Registration required for events with an asterisk. Please call (847) 824-8360 for more information or registration.*

Central Zone



Insect Fest

Go on a bug hunt, follow the migratory patterns of monarch butterflies, explore bugs through dance and music, and create your own insect!

Thursday, Jul 18 • 11 am–2 pm
Cummings Square
536 N Harlem Ave, River Forest

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Bird Outing*

Look for birds with Chicago Bird Alliance. Register at tinyurl.com/CBAouting.

Thursdays, Jun 20 and Aug 29 • 8–10 am

Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7, Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Oak Brook

Story Trail

Walk a short, looped trail and experience a story unfolding with every step. Onsite activities will be provided.

“I am Strong” by Erin Stevenson:

Wednesday, Jul 10 • 10 am–1 pm

“I am Smart” by Erin Stevenson:

Wednesday, Aug 7 • 10 am–1 pm

Bemis Woods-South, Grove 7, Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Oak Brook

JUNE

Storytime & Picnic

Listen to a nature-themed book read aloud by North Riverside Public Library, followed by an activity. Stay after for a picnic on your own.

Wednesday, Jun 5 • 10 am

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

Nature Wellness Walk*

Reconnect with nature. Relaxing mindfulness and meditative practices will be led during a leisurely walk. Register at go.illinois.edu/cookcountyevents.

Saturday, Jun 8 • 10 am–Noon

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

Teen Exploration Day:

River Kayaking 101*

Learn how to kayak on moving water. Class includes a 3-mile trip down the Des Plaines River. Instruction, equipment, kayaks and shuttle provided. Ages 13 & up.

Wednesday, Jun 13 • 10:30 am

Schuth's Grove, W Cermak Rd, west of Des Plaines Ave, Riverside

AMERICAN INDIAN Summer Solstice

Join the American Indian Center of Chicago to learn the importance of the solstice to the Native community; enjoy traditional Native dancing and hear about the cultural significance of Serpent Mounds.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 10:30 am–Noon

Schiller Woods-West, Serpent Twin Mound, W Irving Park Rd, east of Des Plaines River Rd, Schiller Park

Nature Obstacle Course

Families, attempt an obstacle course created from natural materials. Nature play, exploration and art activities will be available, too! Drop in.

Saturday, Jun 29 • Noon–2:30 pm

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

Art in Nature-Drop in

Explore the symbolism between art in nature. Create land art, write a poem, and make tie dye using fruits and spices.

Friday, Jul 12 • 1–3 pm

National Grove-South, Grove 1, Groveland Ave, north of 31st St, North Riverside



Archery & Games

Adults and families, enjoy trying archery and playing your favorite backyard games. Instruction, equipment and games provided.

Saturday, Jul 27 • 10:30 am–1 pm

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

Craftpalooza

Kids, get creative! Help decorate a large canvas with stamps, paint and markers. Presented in partnership with the North Riverside Public Library.

Friday, Aug 9 • 10 am–Noon

National Grove-South, Groveland Ave, north of 31st St, North Riverside



Nature Discovery Day

Drop in for a fun afternoon of nature discovery. We'll have nature games, disc golf, art making, kite flying and more.

Friday, Aug 16 • Noon–2 pm

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

Pedal the Preserves: Salt Creek Greenway*

Presented with Ride Illinois, join us for a family-friendly event promoting riding bikes. Safety demonstration, techniques, tips, and a guided ride included. Helmets and loaner bikes available. Free.

Saturday, Aug 24 • 10 am–Noon

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

Pond Paddle*

Enjoy an afternoon out paddling. Instruction, equipment and kayaks provided.

Wednesday, Aug 28 • 4–6 pm

Thatcher Glen Pond, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

A Guide to Pride in the Preserves

Join us in June for Pride Month events across the Forest Preserves. Celebrate, learn, have fun and spend some time out in nature!

Walk with Pride! ●

Join us this Pride Month for a self-guided interpretive walk to learn about LGBTQ2S+ people in conservation.

Saturday, Jun 1–Sunday, Jun 30

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, 12545 W 111th St, Lemont

LGBTQ2S+ Environmentalists ■

Celebrate Pride Month with a nature walk highlighting local and national LGBTQ2S+ conservationists. Registration required. Call 773.758.8899.

Tuesday, Jun 11 • 4–6 pm

LaBagh Woods, Grove 1, N Cicero Ave, north of W Foster Ave, Chicago

Rainbow Families ▲

Celebrate Pride Month and learn about different types of family arrangements in the animal kingdom.

Saturday, Jun 15 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center
3 Stover Rd, Barrington

Summer Pride Walk ◆

Celebrate Pride Month with a casual nature hike to enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents of early summer. Family program. Registration required. Call 708.366.6530.

Saturday, Jun 22 • 10:30 am

Trailside Museum of Natural History
738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

Queer Family Day ✦

Celebrate love and inclusion with nature play, games, art and more!

Saturday, Jun 29 • 11 am–2 pm

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

PRIDE Walk ▲

Celebrate Pride Month with a naturalist-led nature walk. LGBTQ2S+ people, family, friends and allies welcome.

Saturday, Jun 29 • 1pm

Crabtree Nature Center
3 Stover Rd, Barrington

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

✦ South



Get your CICADA ON!



MagiCicada Fest

Celebrate the biggest party in 17 years! Make some noise with Brood XIII as you enjoy scheduled walks, presentations, exhibits, and crafts.

Saturday, Jun 15 • 10 am–3 pm

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 West 111th St,
Lemont, IL 60439

For information call,
630.257.2045.

For more cicada-themed events go to fpdcc.com/events.

TRAILSIDE

Museum of Natural History

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

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

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON



Birdhouse Building Contest Voting

Every day from 9 am–5 pm

Story Time in Polish*

Program dla najmłodszych miłośników natury. Z pomocą znanych i lubianych wierszyków poznamy owady, ptaki i inne zwierzęta i poszukamy ich w lesie. Wstęp darmowy, rejestracja pod numerem: 708-366-6530.

Tuesdays, Jun 4, Jul 2, Aug 6 • 10 am

Thursdays In the Field

Connect to nature through fun inquiry-based activities. Different theme/activities each month. Drop in.

Thursdays, Jun 20, Jul 18, Aug 15, 10 am–Noon

Stories in the Forest

Presented with River Forest Public Library. We'll read stories and do a simple nature activity. Weather dependent. Ages 0–5 w/adult. Drop in.

Thursdays, Jun 20, 27; Jul 11, 18, 25; Aug 1, 8 • 10–10:30 am

Kid's Nature Art Workshops*

Join Little Bits Workshop for creative fun as we observe nature, draw, paint, or sculpt. Instruction, materials provided. Ages 8–12. Fee: \$3/session.

Wednesdays, Jul 24 & 31, Aug 7 • 2–4 pm

Gnome Hunt

Pick up a sheet with clues to where the gnomes are hidden. Family program.

Friday, Aug 9–Monday Sept 9 • 9 am–5 pm

JUNE

Senior Nature Collaging*

Join local artist, Phyllis Frick, in making collages of plants, animals and landscapes. Ages 55 & up.

Friday, Jun 7 • 10 am

Nesting Bird Walk*

Saturday, Jun 15 • 8 am

Nature Book Club “Entangled Life” by M. Sheldrake

Join us for a lively discussion of “Entangled Life” by Merlin Sheldrake, a book about fungi and forests. Ages 18 & up. Sign up at fppl.org/eventscal/list/.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 7 pm

Forest Park Public Library,
7555 Jackson Blvd, Forest Park

Summer Pride Walk*

Celebrate Pride month with a casual nature hike to enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents of early summer. Family program.

Saturday, Jun 22 • 10:30 am

JULY

Pond Dip Discovery*

Join us as we dip our nets in the water and scoop up our discoveries! Equipment provided. Ages 5–12 w/adult.

Sunday, Jul 7 • 10:30 am

Wildflower Walk*

Ages 13 & up.

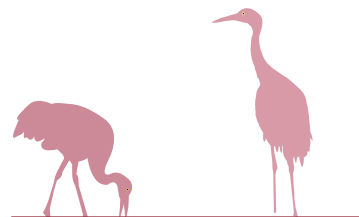
Saturday, Jul 13 • 9 am

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

Bird Painting Step-By-Step*

Sketch and paint a barn swallow. Materials provided. All skill levels welcome. Cost: \$5. Ages 13 & up.

Friday, Jul 12 • 9:30 am–Noon



Wetland Birds Walk*

Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Jul 21 • 9 am

High Summer Nature Walk*

Saturday, Jul 27 • 10:30 am

AUGUST

Summer Prairie Blooms Walk*

18 & up.

Sunday, Aug 4 • 10:30 am

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

A Closer Look: Magnifier and Microscope Walk*

Explore the tiny secrets of the wood as we examine plants and small animals both on our walk and in our classroom.

Saturday, Aug 10 • 10:30 am

Bird Migration and More Walk*

Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Aug 24 • 8 am

THATCHER WOODS PAVILION

Chicago Ave,
west of Thatcher Ave,
River Forest

Wellness Walks*

Ages 18 & up.

Saturdays, Jun 1, 15; Jul 6, 13;
Aug 3, 17 • 1 pm



Senior Fitness Walks*

Wednesdays, Jun 5, 19; Jul 3, 17;
Aug 7, 21 • 9 am



Makin' Music BLUEGRASS JAM

Make a simple musical instrument with us or bring your own and join the jam! All ages welcome to join or just listen.

Sunday, Jun 2 • 1–3 pm

**Registration required for events with an asterisk. For information and registration, call 708-366-6530.*

TEEN exploration DAYS



CALLING ALL TEENS!

Join us throughout the county at our **Teen Exploration Days**. Each event will have a main activity such as canoeing, climbing, campfire or archery, and all dates will offer various nature-related activities and adventures. Ages 13 & up. **Registration required.**

Wilderness Survival ■

Wednesday, Jun 12 • 1-3 pm
Camp Dan Beard,
200 Portwine Rd, Northbrook
Register: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

River Kayaking 101 ◆

Wednesday, Jun 13 • 10:30 am
Schuth's Grove, W Cermak Rd,
west of Des Plaines Ave, Riverside
Register: 312.533.5751

Teen Hiking Meet-up ▲

Saturdays, Jul 6, Aug 17 • 1 pm
Crabtree Nature Center,
3 Stover Rd, Barrington
Register: 847.381.6592

Kayaking 101 ●

Wednesday, Jul 17 • 1-3 pm
Camp Bullfrog Lake,
9600 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs
Register: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

*Earn service hours



Clean Up & Explore* ■

Thursday, Jul 25 • 11 am-12:30 pm
Miami Woods, Grove 1,
N Caldwell Ave, north of Oakton St,
Morton Grove
Register: 773.758.8899

Rock Climbing ●

Wednesday, Aug 14 • 1-3 am
Camp Sullivan,
14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest
Register: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov

Archery ●

Wednesday, Aug 14 • 4:30-7 pm
Breman Grove, Oak Park Ave,
south of 159th St, Tinley Park,
Register: 312.533.5751

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

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Women's Wellness*

Join The Do-Good Movement for a yoga class followed by a women's wellness discussion based around the 31 Days to Wellness.

Saturday, Jun 1 • 8-9:15 am

Setting the Intention; Hydration & Movement

Saturday, Jul 6 • 8-9:15 am

Sleep & Gratitude

Saturday, Aug 3 • 8-10 am

Spreading Kindness Together

Swallow Cliff Pavilion, Calumet Sag Rd, west of LaGrange Rd, Palos Park



Without Limits: Adventure for All*

Enjoy climbing and kayaking in this program specially designed for individuals with a primary physical disability or visual impairment. Register at tinyurl.com/adaptivesag.

Thursday, Jun 6 • 10 am-Noon

Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch, 107th St, west of S Willow Springs Rd/104th Ave, Willow Springs



Learn to Fly Fish: Basics Class*

Introductory class on fly fishing. Includes basic casting instruction followed by classroom time to go over gear, rigging, knots, flies and proper fish handling. Presented by Ike Rhodes of Illinois Fly Fishing & the Village of Palos Park. Register at palospark.org.

Friday, Jun 14 • 6-8:30 pm

Ages 10 & up w/adult

Friday, Jun 21 • 6-8:30 pm

Ages 18 & up

Palos Park Village Green, 8901 123rd St, Palos Park

Learn to Fly Fish: On the Water*

We'll review casting and other aspects of fly fishing, then we'll jump into fishing with instruction and tips. Presented by Ike Rhodes of Illinois Fly Fishing & the Village of Palos Park. Register at palospark.org.

Thursday, Jul 18 • 6-8:30 pm

Ages 10 & up w/adult

Thursday, Jul 25 • 6-8:30 pm

Ages 18 & up

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

Intro to Mountain Biking*

Learn and practice riding techniques, including body and pedal position, shifting, braking, climbing, descending, and navigating minor obstacles on the trail. Presented by REI.

Sunday, Jun 23 • 10 am-2 pm

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

Archery

Equipment provided. Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Jun 27 • 4-6 pm

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

Photography Walk

Grab your camera and explore Paw Paw Woods Nature Preserve with us.

Saturday, Jul 6 • 9 am

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

Art in Nature

Create land art, write a poem, and make tie dye using fruits and spices. Drop in.

Thursday, Jul 25 • 4:30-6:30 pm

Swallow Cliff-North, Calumet Sag Rd, west of LaGrange Rd, Palos Park

Crafternoon: Mosaics and Collages

Discover the artistry of mosaics and collages by using nature to create a personal project.

Friday, Jul 26 • Noon-2 pm

Rubio Woods, W Midlothian Turnpike/W 143rd St, east of S Ridgeland Ave, Midlothian



Teen Exploration Day: Archery

Designed for all teens. Receive instruction from certified staff and try your hand at archery.

Wednesday, Aug 14 • 4:30-7 pm

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



Nature Discovery Day

Drop in for a fun afternoon of kids' yoga, guided walks, art making, kite flying and more.

Thursday, Aug 15 • Noon-2 pm

Swallow Cliff-North, Calumet Sag Rd, west of LaGrange Rd, Palos Park

Summer Shakeout -1.6 mi.

Enjoy a walk or run through the prairie.

Saturday, Aug 17 • 7-8:30 am

Orland Grassland-South, 104th Ave, south of 179th St, Orland Park

Telescope Party

Calling all amateur astronomers and night sky enthusiasts! Bring your telescope or use one of ours for an evening of stargazing.

Thursday, Aug 22 • 7:30-9 pm

Swallow Cliff-South, Grove 2, S La Grange Rd, south of 119th St, Palos Park

CAMBr Meltdown

The Palos Meltdown is Chicagoland's premier mountain bike event, with racing for all ages and abilities. Free for spectators. More info at cambr.org.

Sunday, Aug 25 • 9 am-5 pm

Pulaski Woods, 9800 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4-9

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



**MagiCicada
FEST**

Celebrate the biggest party in 17 years!

Make some noise with Brood XIII as you enjoy scheduled walks, presentations, exhibits, and crafts.

**Saturday, Jun 15
10 am–3 pm**

Field Science Workshop: EARTH SCIENCE & GEOLOGY OF NE ILLINOIS*

Learn how to excite your class with geology and earn CPDUs with NGSS guidance from Illinois Science Teachers Association.

Teachers, register at ilsience.org for CPDUs.

**Tuesday, Jul 16–Thursday,
Jul 18 • 9:30 am–2:30 pm**

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON Restoration Stewardship Weekend*

Age 10 & up.

**Saturdays & Sundays, Jun 29 & 30,
Jul 27 & 28, Aug 31, Sept 1
9:30–11:30 am**

The Unseen Prairie*

Join us for a walk to take a closer look at Sagawau's tallgrass prairie.

Sweep Netting: Saturday, Jun 22 • 1 pm

Pollinators: Sunday, Jun 23 • 10 am

Plants: Sunday, Jul 7 • 1 pm

JUNE

Walk with Pride!

Join us this Pride Month for a self-guided interpretive walk to learn about LGBTQ2S+ people in conservation.

Saturday, Jun 1–Sunday, Jun 30

Creek Survey*

Help us survey Sagawau's creek to see what life it supports. Ages 12 & up.

Saturday, Jun 1 • 1 pm

Nests: Birds Baskets of Life*

We'll search for nests and nesting activity. Bring binoculars or borrow ours.

Sunday, Jun 2 • 1 pm

Rocks on the Beach: Great Lakes Geology 101*

Enjoy a presentation that highlights how beachcombing for rocks on the shore of Lake Michigan provides a window into the geologic story of the Great Lakes.

Sunday, Jun 9 • 1 pm



Cicada Sensory Walk*

Experience periodic cicadas through sound, sight and touch on a guided walk.

Sunday, Jun 16 • 1 pm

Bird Banding

Join us for an evening of tagging and releasing to learn about our birds.

Wednesday, Jun 18 • 5–7 pm

JULY

Insects Behind the Icons: Parasitoids and Xenomorphs*

Parasitoids inspired one of horror's greatest icons, the xenomorph from the "Alien" franchise. Learn how the ecology of these insects led to the iconic monster.

Saturday, Jul 6 • 1 pm

Jewels of the Night: Fireflies*

Presentation and walk to learn how to identify fireflies.

Wednesday, Jul 10 • 7:30–9:30 pm

Morning Moths*

Celebrate National Moth Week. Join us as we head down to Sagawau's magic porch to see the diversity of moths resting from their nighttime escapades.

Saturday, Jul 20 • 9:30 am

Sagawau Symbiosis*

Talk and walk with us to learn about the specialized relationship between certain fungi and plants. Age 18 & up.

Sunday, Jul 21 • 1 pm

Dragons and Damsels*

Join us as we watch aerial artists hunt and fight for territory in awe-inspiring aerial displays. Includes a moderate 1-mile walk. Ages 12 & up.

Friday, Jul 26 • 1 pm

**Registration required for events with asterisk.*

HUMMINGBIRD EVENTS

Rise & Shine, Hummingbirds*

Bring your coffee to wake up with the hummingbirds.

Saturday, Aug 3; Sunday, Aug 11;

Wednesday, Aug 28 • 6:30–8 am

Make Hummingbirds Happy*

Invite hummingbirds to your garden. We'll discuss gardening tips, feeding, pest control and answer your questions.

Sunday, Aug 4 • 1 pm

Hummingbird Sit–Accessible!*

Spend some time in our hummingbird garden. Staff will answer your hummingbird questions.

Wednesday, Aug 7; Sundays,

Aug 18 & 25 • 10–11 am

The Jewels of Mexico*

An indoor presentation about hummingbirds' legend and cultural significance will be followed by a walk to the hummingbird garden.

Saturday, Aug 10 • 2 pm

Hummingbird FEST

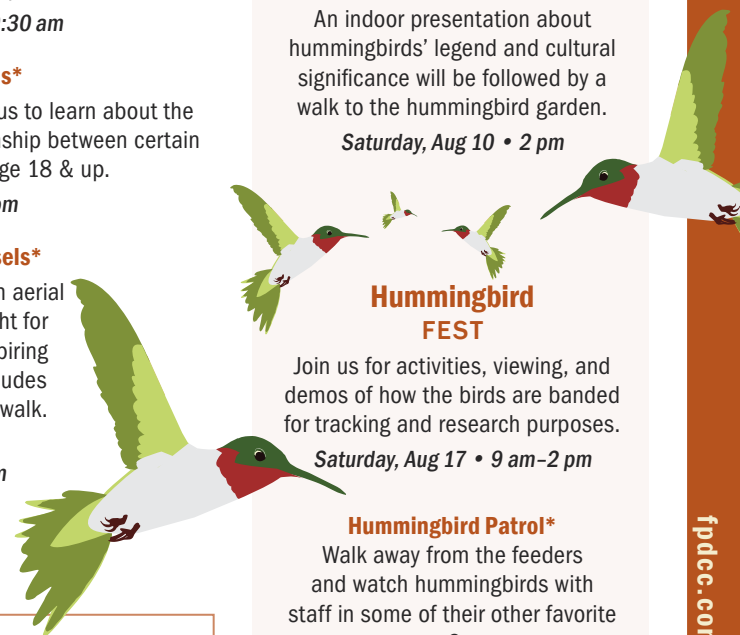
Join us for activities, viewing, and demos of how the birds are banded for tracking and research purposes.

Saturday, Aug 17 • 9 am–2 pm

Hummingbird Patrol*

Walk away from the feeders and watch hummingbirds with staff in some of their other favorite spots at Sagawau.

Saturday, Aug 24 • 1 pm



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 in the natural world. Ages 4-5 w/adult.

Wednesdays, Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7 • 10 am

Fridays in the Field

University of Illinois Extension Certified Master Naturalists will connect visitors with nature through inquiry-based activities.

Fridays, Jul 5-Aug 30 • 10 am-Noon

Jul 5 & Jul 12-Cicadas	Aug 9-Squirrels
Jul 19-Amphibians	Aug 16-Deer
& Reptiles	Aug 23-Beetles
Jul 26-Wildflowers	Aug 30-Fossils
Aug 2-Bats	

R.I.P. Stewardship

Join us as we Remove Invasive Plants with bow saws or loppers. Tools, gloves and a snack provided. Closed toed shoes and long pants encouraged. Ages 18 & up.

*Saturdays, Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10
10 am-Noon*



Sunrise Walks

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

Sunday, Jun 9 • 5 am

Sundays, Jul 14, Aug 11 • 5:15 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, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8 • 10 am

Nature Open Mic Night

Perform songs, poetry or enjoy the live performances while overlooking the slough at sunset. All ages.

Thursdays, Jun 13, Jul 11 • 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, Aug 15 • 6-8 pm

Nature's Art Box

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

Sundays, Jun 16, Aug 18 • 10:30 am

Yoga

Enjoy an all-levels yoga class indoors with a certified instructor, then stay for a self-guided walk after the program. Ages 18 & up.

Sundays, Jun 30, Jul 28, Aug 25 • 10-11 am

Cub Scout Adventure Series

A nature-related scout adventure will be offered and achieved.

Sundays • 1-4 pm

Jun 23-Wolf Level

Jul 28-Bear Level

Aug 25-Webelos Level

Summertime Stories

Join us for stories told by the Naperville Chinese Storytime group and enjoy nature-based art and activity afterwards. Supplies provided. Ages 3 & up w/adult.

Sunday, Jun 2 • 11 am-Noon



Image by Fidencio Marbella

Solstice & Cicada Walk

The time has finally come to celebrate the emergence of the 17-year cicadas! Join us on the summer solstice as we walk and talk about these weird and fantastic insects while a librarian from the LaGrange Park library recites a folktale.

Thursday, Jun 20 • 7:30 pm

Forest Photography

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

Saturday, Jun 22 • 2 pm

Ophidiophobia

Are you afraid of snakes? Overcome your phobia by gaining a healthy understanding of these misunderstood reptiles.

Saturday, Jun 29 • 2 pm

Fossil Fun

Become an amateur paleontologist and learn how to discover fossils in your own backyard while learning about the past. Ages 6 & up.

Sunday, Jul 7 • 10 am

Bats Under a Dark Sky

Wonder what species of bats live in our area? Using bat monitors, we will seek out these flying mammals while enjoying an evening walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place.

Monday, Jul 8 • 8 pm

Flickering Fireflies

Discover why fireflies glow in the dark before setting out on a 1-mile adventure where we will catch and release these incredible creatures.

Sunday, Jul 14 • 8:30 pm

Turtles

Learn about turtles through hands-on discovery.

Saturday, Jul 27 • 1:30 pm

Cicadas: Teen Exploration Day

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

Sunday, Aug 4 • 1:30 pm

Night Sky Walk

Enjoy an evening walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world.

Wednesday, Aug 7 • 8:45 pm

Raptors

Learn about birds of prey and how staff care for our ambassador raptors.

Saturday, Aug 31 • 2 pm

Registration not required for all programs unless noted.

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

South Zone



Bilingual Community Series/ Serie de la Comunitaria Bilingüe

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

Bird Walk/Caminata de Aves
Saturday, Jun 8 • 9-11 am

Plant Walk/Caminata de
Identificación de Plantas
Saturday, Jul 13 • 8-10 am

Tree Walk/Caminata de
Identificación de Arboles
Saturday, Aug 10 • 8-10 am

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Wellness in the Woods:

Senior Fitness

Saturdays, Jun 15 & 29 • 10:30-11:30 am

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

Zumba

Saturdays, Jul 13 & 27 • 10:30-11:30 am

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

Night of Nature Play

Open play, star gazing and s'mores.

Wednesday, Jun 26 • 7-9 pm

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

Wednesday, Aug 21 • 7-9 pm

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

"Hike the Freedom Trail" Tour*

Part bus ride, part walk. Hear a story of "Freedom Seekers" who traveled the Underground Railroad through south Chicagoland.

Register at tonfarmugrr@gmail.com.

Saturday, Jun 29 • 10 am-12:30 pm

Saturday, Aug 3 • 10 am-12:30 pm

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

JUNE

Little Calumet River Clean-up*

Clean up the river while paddling.
Register at lholden@openlands.org.

Saturday, Jun 1 • 9:30 am

Kickapoo Woods, Halsted St,
south of W 144th St, Riverdale

Beaubien Woods Celebration

Join us for archery, canoeing, and more.
Registration encouraged:

tinyurl.com/beaubienwoods2024

Saturday, Jun 8 • 11 am-3 pm

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



Juneteenth Paddling*

Experience the African American Heritage
Water Trail.

Friday, Jun 14; Sunday, Jun 16 • 10 am-2 pm

Little Calumet Boat Launch, Jackson
St, east of S Ashland Ave, Riverdale

Juneteenth Freedom Ride-16 mi.

Cycling celebration ride. BYO bike/helmet.

Wednesday, Jun 19 • 6-7:30 pm

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

Queer Family Day

Celebrate love and inclusion with nature
play, games, art and more!

Saturday, Jun 29 • 11 am-2 pm

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

JULY

Open Nature Play Day

Wednesday, Jul 10 • 10 am-2 pm

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



Kids' Fest

Fishing, canoeing, archery and
more. Registration encouraged;
tinyurl.com/kidsfest2024

Saturday, Jul 13 • 10 am-3 pm

Wampum Lake,
Thornton-Lansing Rd,
west of IL-394, Thornton

Morning Cycle-16 mi.

Geared for experienced cyclists. BYO
bike/helmet.

Saturday, Jul 27 • 8 am

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

Plant and Paddle*

Re-plant the river and learn about water
conservation. Register at aanderson@chicagoriver.org.

Saturday, Jul 27 • 9:30 am-2 pm

Kickapoo Woods, Halsted St,
south of W 144th St, Riverdale



AUGUST

Adaptative Adventures: Rock Climb

Rock climbing and cycling, opportunities
tailored for people of all ages with a
primary physical disability.

Thursday, Aug 1 • 10 am-Noon

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

Bird Walk

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

Friday, Aug 9 • 8 am

Pedal the Preserves: Ride IL*

Fun, family-friendly bike ride led by expe-
rienced guides. Bikes/helmets provided.

Saturday, Aug 10 • 10 am-Noon

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

Adaptative Adventures: Paddling

Rock climbing and kayaking, opportuni-
ties tailored for people of all ages with a
primary physical disability.

Thursday, Aug 15 • 10 am-Noon

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

**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



Juneteenth Celebration

Celebrate freedom, family and country with activities, presentations, performances, and exhibits highlighting Black history, arts and culture.

Saturday, Jun 15 • 10 am-2 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Walk*

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

Saturdays, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3 • 1:30 pm



Self-Love in Nature Series

Begins Jun 8 -page 38

Restoration Saturdays*

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.

Saturdays, Jun 8, Jul 27, Aug 10
10 am-Noon

Wee Wonders*

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

Sundays • 1 pm	Wednesdays • 10 am
Jun 9: Cicadas!	Jun 12: Cicadas!
Jul 14: Snakes!	Jul 10: Snakes!
Aug 11: Turtles!	Aug 14: Turtles!

Meet Our Birds

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

Sundays, Jun 30, Jul 21, Aug 25 • 1:30 pm

JUNE

Cicada Celebration*-Drop in.

This year's cicada emergence is a once-in-a-lifetime event! Join us for crafts, games and refreshments and learn what makes this summer so special.

Sunday, Jun 2 • 2:30-4 pm

Night of the Frogs/ Noche de las Ranas*

Join our bilingual night walk to hear seasonal frog calls and other nocturnal creatures. Spanish native speakers encouraged! Ages 16 & up. ¡Los invitamos a una caminata para escuchar los cantos de las ranas y otras criaturas nocturnas de la temporada. Solo personas mayores de 16 años.

Thursday, Jun 6 • 7:30-9:30 pm
Jueves, 6 de Junio • 7:30-9:30 pm

Intro to Birding*

Join us for a stroll looking for birds while we learn basic ID tips. All skill levels welcome.

Saturday, Jun 22 • 8-10 am

Outdoor Education Camp*

Discover nature and enjoy experiences through exploration and recreation.

Cost: \$25/child.

Group 1: Ages 6-8

Group 2: Ages 9-11

Monday, Jun 24-Friday, Jun 28
8:30 am-12:30 pm

Birding is Accessible*

Join us for a short, slow-paced birdwatching experience on our ADA-accessible trail with a stop at a marsh overlook. Total distance: about .5 mile.

Saturday, Jun 29 • 8-9 am

JULY

Red, White and...Black?*

Join us for a walk to search for local woodpeckers and learn about their amazing traits.

Saturday, Jul 13 • 1-3 pm

Green Lake OPEN FISHING CLINIC*

Join us as we learn to fish with instructions. Equipment provided.

Fishing license required for ages 16 & up.

Green Lake Family Aquatic Center,
1100 River Oaks Dr, Calumet City

Saturday, Aug 3 • 10 am-Noon

AUGUST

Craft Camp*

Get creative and learn some new skills. Project materials will vary. Ages 8-13. Cost: \$15/child.

Wednesday, Aug 7-Friday, Aug 9
8:30 am-12:30 pm

Summer Spores*

Mystified by mushrooms? Take a casual walk to learn more. Ages 18 & up or ages 14-17 w/adult.

Saturday, Aug 17 • 5-7 pm

Starry Night Walk*

Come for a guided walk, observe the night sky, and learn about the constellations and astronomy.

Saturday, Aug 31 • 7-9 pm

CAMP SHABBONA WOODS

15810 S Torrence Ave,
South Holland

The Sounds Natural Creative RETREAT SERIES*

Sounds Natural invites families to enjoy art activities, food, music and workshops with the option to stay overnight in your own tent (limited camping sites available).

Saturday, May 18 • 4-7 pm

Kick-off event

Saturday, Jul 20 • 4-8:30 pm

Campus Block Party

Create your own adventure with family and friends through music, nature play, games, artmaking, walks and more.

Saturday, Jul 20 • 11 am-3 pm

Summer Bonfire

Join us as we celebrate summer with a bonfire, activities, walks and more.

Saturday, Aug 24 • 6:30-10 pm

**Registration required for events
with asterisk.*

708-868-0606



Self-Love in Nature SERIES

WEEK 1:

Create a Self-Love Kit

Saturday, Jun 8 • 11 am–1 pm
Sand Ridge Nature Center,
15891 Paxton Ave,
South Holland

WEEK 2:

Peace and Drum Circle

Saturday, Jun 22 • 11 am–1 pm
Sand Ridge Nature Center,
15891 Paxton Ave,
South Holland

WEEK 3:

Sensory Experience Walk

Saturday, Jul 20 • 11 am–1 pm
Camp Shabbona Woods,
15810 Torrance Ave,
South Holland

WEEK 4:

Grief & Self-Love Workshop

Saturday, Aug 3 • 11 am–1 pm
Eggers Grove,
E 112th St & S Ave E,
Chicago

WEEK 5:

Forest Bathing & Peace Circle

Saturday, Aug 17 • 11 am–1 pm
Sauk Trail Woods-North,
W 26th St, west of Euclid Ave,
South Chicago Heights



BROOKFIELD ZOO
CHICAGO

CONNECT • CARE • CONSERVE

KOALAS!

HERE FOR A LIMITED TIME
DOWN UNDER.
UP CLOSE.



**Opening Memorial
Day Weekend**



**FOREST
PRESERVES**
of Cook County



Other than that, the experience was wonderful.”

Among other tips, Jackson learned what kinds of foods to bring and how to keep them refrigerated in a cooler, which she hadn't been certain would guard against spoilage into the morning hours. “What do you do? What do you bring?” she says. “You can make pancakes—oh, wow, I didn't know you could do that!”

Jackson and her family members went on evening and morning trail walks and toured the Sand Ridge Nature Center on site, which she hadn't known about before. “The kids enjoyed the interactions they had with the staff there,” she says. The experience gave Jackson the confidence to recruit her husband and son to go with her and her grandchildren on a two-night

campout in Indiana last August. “I knew what kind of stuff to bring and buy. I told my husband, ‘We're doing this.’ He was skeptical at first,” she says. “We brought hot dogs and s'mores and did all of that. We brought grills and knew what kind of foods to prepare, and to keep them refrigerated. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed that one.”

Jackson and her family plan to camp again this summer. “The grandkids are constantly asking me, ‘When we are going camping?’” she says. “That warms my heart.”

LOST & FOUND

Lose yourself in nature, art, beauty

June 1 – September 22

Get lost at the Chicago Botanic Garden this summer—and find something new. Lost & Found invites you to explore the Garden with new eyes, through art installations, storytelling performances, and more.


Learn more: chicagobotanic.org



chicago botanic garden

One of the treasures of the 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 **708.771.1573** or at **experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov**.

Toni Preckwinkle, *President*

Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners

Frank J. Aguilar	Donna Miller
Alma E. Anaya	Stanley Moore
Scott R. Britton	Josina Morita
John P. Daley	Kevin B. Morrison
Dennis Deer	Sean M. Morrison
Bridget Degnen	Anthony J. Quezada
Bridget Gainer	Tara S. Stamps
Monica Gordon	Maggie Trevor
Bill Lowry	

General Headquarters, 536 N Harlem, River Forest, IL 60305 • 800.870.3666