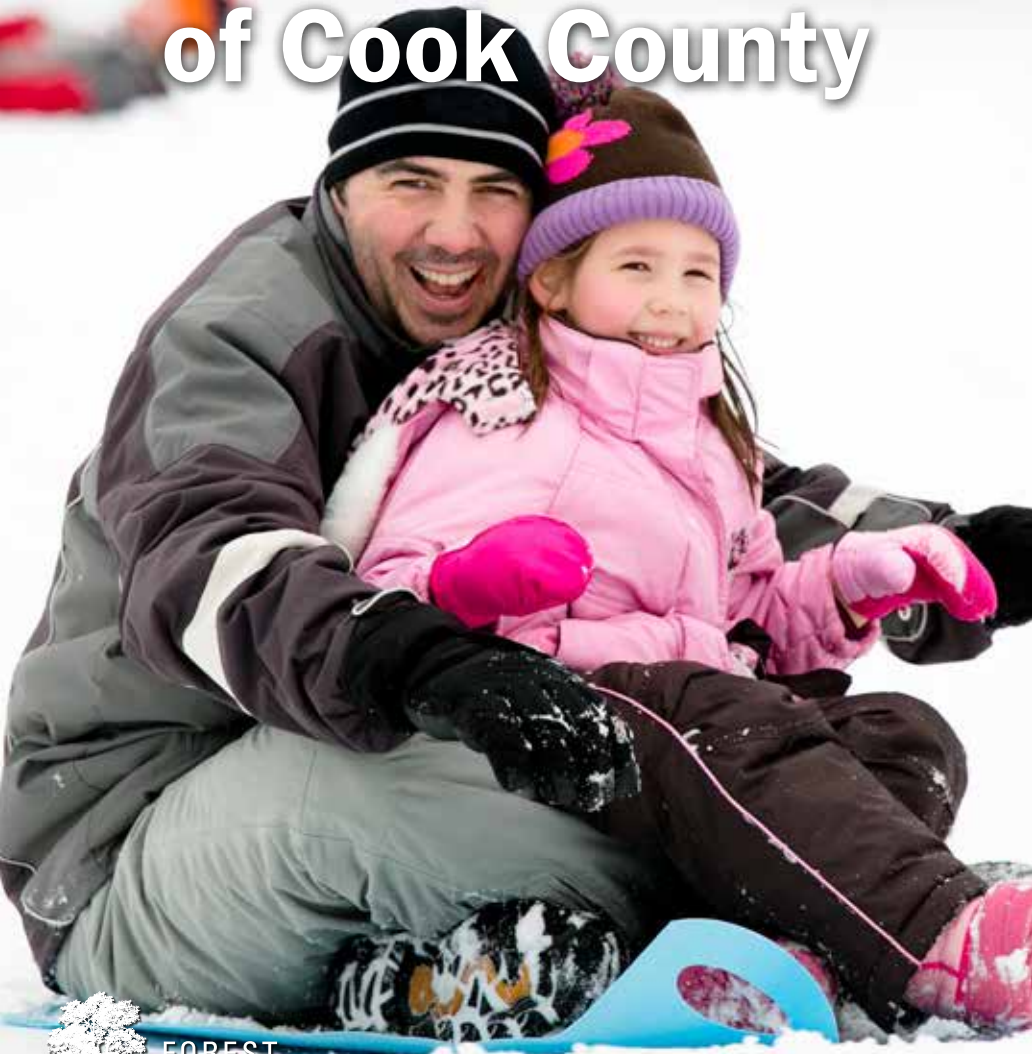


WINTER 2022

A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



feel free

fpdcc.com

Have You **Watched** Wild & Wonderful?



tinyurl.com/wildwonderful101

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



**Wild &
Wonderful**



**Project
Rainbow**
A Cook County Initiative



**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 experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov or at **708-771-1573**.





Although the winter months may not be the most obvious time of year to explore the Forest Preserves of Cook County, this season provides unique opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation and learn about the natural areas that surround us. Throughout this guide, you will find programs, events and ideas on how to get out experience winter fun.

Consider a guided walk at one of our six nature centers or borrow some snowshoes to try something new. Rent skis, take a lesson, then explore miles of groomed cross-country ski trails surrounding Sagawau Environmental Learning Center. You can also enjoy ice fishing, ice skating, sledding and winter camping in locations all across your Forest Preserves.

Interested in learning more about local nature in winter? Join our naturalists for programs about the birds that remain during colder months or how to identify trees without their leaves. And for those of you who want to get even more involved with the Preserves, consider joining our community of dedicated volunteers for restoration stewardship throughout the season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arnold Randall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Arnold Randall

General Superintendent,
Forest Preserves of Cook County



feel free

fpdcc.com

How to use this Guide:

Whether you’re looking for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding locations 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 4–10

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

Northwest Zone 11–17

Crabtree Nature Center, *Nature's Classroom Remains Open for the Winter*

North Zone 18–21

Wildlife Research in the Forest Preserves, River Trail Nature Center

Central Zone 20–25

Trailside Museum of Natural History

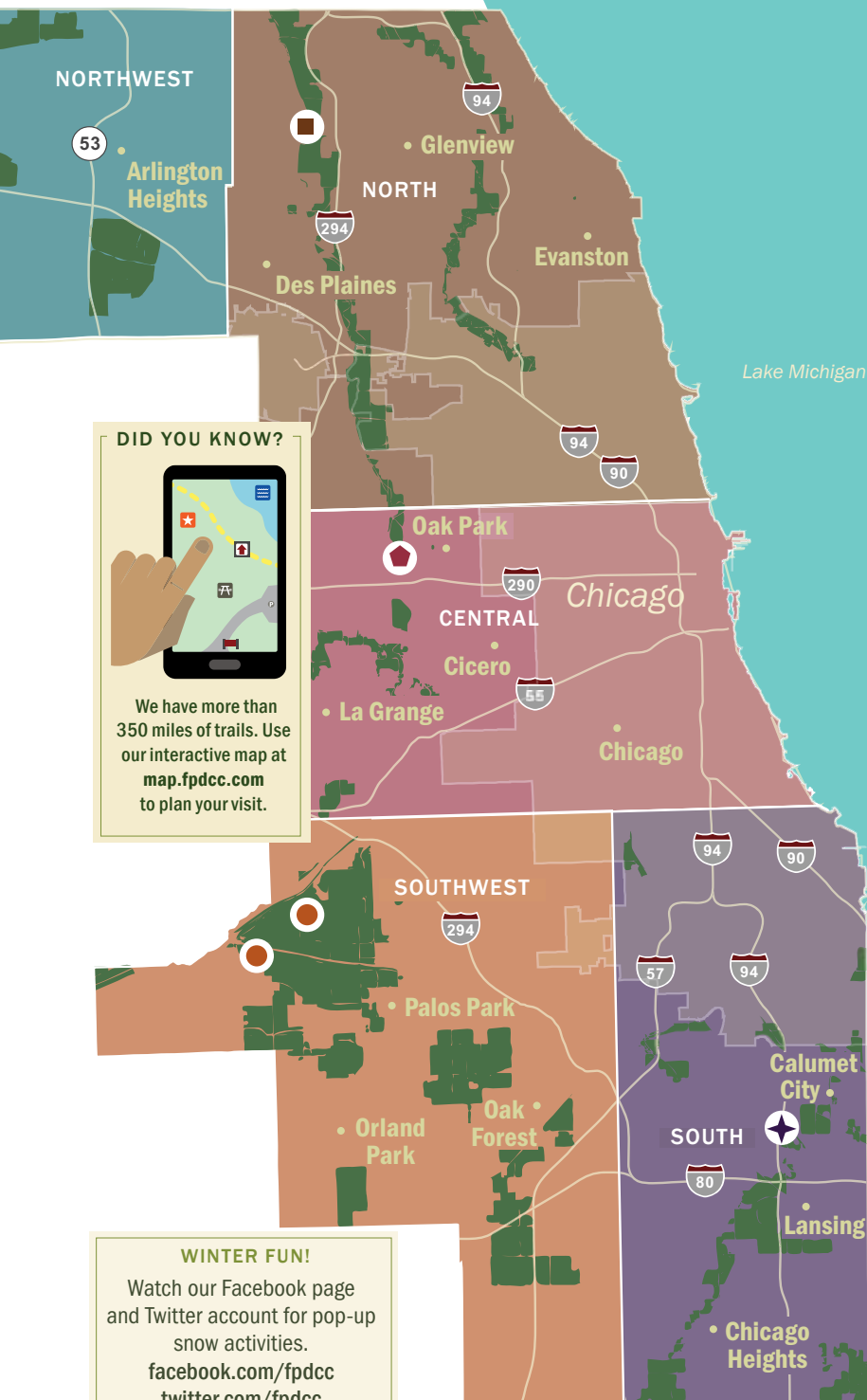
Southwest Zone 26–31

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center/Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

South Zone 32–37

Sand Ridge Nature Center and Sand Ridge Campus

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



Seasonal Offerings

throughout Cook County

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING & SNOWSHOEING ▲ ●

Visitors can cross-country ski in all parts of the Forest Preserves, except for golf courses and nature centers. All areas are open to snowshoeing.

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center offers a complete Nordic Ski Program, including groomed trails and lessons. Campgrounds offer snowshoes and cross-country skis for rent by campers. Check our website for details on snowshoe rentals at nature centers.

EQUESTRIAN ■ ●

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

ICE FISHING* ▲ ■ ● ✦

Ice fishing is permitted at 22 designated waterbodies, from 8 am–sunset.*

ICE SKATING* ▲ ■ ●

Visitors can ice skate from 8 am–sunset on six designated lakes.

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS ■ ◆ ●

Membership info at fpdcc.com/dogs

Beck Lake

East River Rd & Central Rd, Des Paines

Bremen Grove

Oak Park Ave, south of 159th St
Tinley Park

Miller Meadow-South

1st Ave, south of Roosevelt Rd
Forest Park



Become a Concessionaire

in the Forest Preserves of Cook County
Applications now available for 2023
fpdcc.com/permits/concessions

Conviértase en un concesionario

con el Forest Preserves de Cook County
Las solicitudes se pueden completar visitándonos en fpdcc.com/permits/concessions

*Fish and skate at your own risk—ice conditions are not monitored by the Forest Preserves. A minimum of 4 inches of solid ice over the entire lake is strongly recommended.

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

✦ South



SLEDDING ▲ ■ ◆ ● ✦

We offer four sledding hills with lighting, open 10 am–7:30 pm, Sunday–Thursday and 10 am–8:30 pm Friday–Saturday:

Dan Ryan Woods–Chicago

Caldwell Woods–Chicago

Westchester Woods–Westchester

Swallow Cliff–Palos Park

We offer five sledding spots without lighting, open 10 am–sunset:

Pioneer Woods–Willow Springs

Ted Lechowicz Woods–Chicago

Schiller Woods–Schiller Park

Deer Grove, Grove 4

Deer Grove, Grove 5

Open when there is at least 3 inches of snow on frozen ground.

SNOWBOARDING ✦

Snowboarding is allowed at Dan Ryan Woods on the snowboarding hill only. (At least 6 inches of snow required).

SNOWMOBILING ▲ ● ✦

Snowmobiling is allowed in four designated areas from 10 am–10 pm:

Ned Brown Meadow–Rolling Meadows

North Creek Meadow–Lansing

Morrill Meadow–Palos Hills

Turtlehead Lake–Orland Park

Illinois Snowmobile Registration required. For details, visit fpdcc.com/snowmobiling.

VOLUNTEER ▲ ■ ◆ ● ✦

Join a stewardship volunteer day, Adopt-a-Site or support public safety efforts. 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

2023 Permits on sale now
fpdcc.com/permits

PARTNERS CLASSES & EVENTS

L.L. Bean, lbean.com/adventure

REI, rei.com/learn

Trailbound Trips, trailboundtrips.com

Hike the Preserves

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

Walk & Talks

For curious minds who want to know more about the Forest Preserves, these hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation.

Southwest Zone ●

Oak Forest Heritage Preserve-East - 1.7 mi.

Oak Forest Heritage Preserve-East,
Fieldcrest Dr, southwest of Crawford Ave
Oak Forest

Saturday, Jan 21 • 10 am

Sag Valley - 3.2 mi.

Sag Valley Equestrian Parking, 131st St,
east of Bell Rd

Thursday, Dec 15 • 11 am

Central Zone ◆

Chicago Portage National Historic Site* - 1 mi.

Register at tinyurl.com/wtccpnhs
Chicago Portage National Historic Site,
S Harlem Ave, south of 47th St, Lyons
Wednesday, Jan 25 • 11 am

Theodore Stone Forest - 2 mi.

Theodore Stone Forest, 67th St, east
of S La Grange Rd
Tuesday, Feb 21 • 10 am

South Zone ★

Kickapoo Woods - 1 mi.

Kickapoo Woods, Halsted St, south
of W 144th St
Saturday, Feb 18 • 10 am

Fitness Hikes

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

Southwest Zone ●

Midlothian Meadows - 2.6 mi.

Midlothian Meadows, Crawford Ave,
north of W 159th St
Saturday, Dec 17 • 10 am

Teason's Woods* - 4 mi.

Register at tinyurl.com/fittw
Teason's Woods, S Willow Springs Rd,
south of Calumet Sag Rd/Rte 83
Thursday, Jan 12 • 10 am

Country Lane Woods* - 5 mi.

Register at tinyurl.com/fhclw2
Country Lane Woods, 95th St, east
of Flavin Rd/Willow Springs Rd
Thursday, Jan 19 • 10 am

Central Zone ◆

Sunset Bridge Meadow* - 6 mi.

Register at tinyurl.com/fhsbm2
Sunset Bridge Meadow, North Ave,
east of N 1st Ave, River Grove
Thursday, Dec 8 • 9 am

Brezina Woods* - 6 mi.

Register at tinyurl.com/fhbrez
Brezina Woods, N La Grange Rd,
south of W Cermak Rd
Saturday, Dec 17 • 9 am

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

★ South



#birdthepreserves

Bird the Preserves is a joint initiative of the Forest Preserves and various partners. The goal is to connect diverse communities to nature through birding programs and events. Look for birding programs listed on each nature center page or attend a partner-hosted event by zone.



Cermak Woods—4.5 mi.

Cermak Woods, 7600 Ogden Avenue,
Lyons

Saturday, Feb 4 • 9am

South Zone ✦

Vollmer Road Grove—3.6 mi.

Vollmer Road Grove, Vollmer Rd,
west of Crawford Ave

Saturday, Jan 21 • 10 am

**Registration required. Go to
experience.nature@fpdcc.com
to register unless otherwise noted.*



*Kestrel at Somme Prairie Nature
Preserve, by Lisa Musgrave*

Christmas Bird Count

Participate in the longest community science bird project hosted by the Audubon Society.

Visit audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count for more information.



FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

CAMPING

fpdcc.com/camping • 1-855-YES-CAMP

Camp Reinberg • Camp Bullfrog Lake • Camp Sullivan

RATES: NOV-MAR

COOK COUNTY
RESIDENT

NON-RESIDENT

Type	Capacity	Sun-Sat	Sun-Sat
Tent/RV Electric	6	\$28	\$37
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$22	\$32
Small Cabin	8	\$43	\$53
Large Cabin	10	\$104	\$116
Small Bunkhouse	16	\$121	\$133
Large Bunkhouse	36	\$158	\$168

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

RATES: NOV-MAR

COOK COUNTY
RESIDENT

NON-RESIDENT

Type	Capacity	Sun-Sat	Sun-Sat
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$22	\$32
Small Cabin	8	\$43	\$54
Large Cabin	10	\$90	\$100
Group Site Pricing	30-60	\$22/tent	\$32/tent



Camp Dan Beard

200 Portwine Rd
Northbrook

Camp Shabbona Woods

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

Camping permits for 2023 now available.
Camp Shabbona Woods closed for winter. Reopens April 2023.

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

CAMPGROUNDS OFFERINGS

Winter Bonfire ■

Celebrate the start of the winter season with a giant bonfire under the night sky. Parking will only be available at Potawatomi Woods. A shuttle will be provided. Please see fpdcc.com/events for more information.

Camp Dan Beard

Saturday, Dec 3 • 4–8 pm

**Winter Fire Building Workshop***

Learn fire building skills and stick around for a story & s'mores around the fire. All ages. Programs begin at 6 pm.

Camp Dan Beard

Thursday, Dec 22

Camp Reinberg

Friday, Jan 6

Camp Sullivan

Friday, Feb 3

**Snowshoe Walk*** ● ▲

Enjoy the preserves in snowshoes. Snowshoes provided; 4" of snow required. If snowshoeing is not possible, walks and other activities will be offered. Programs begin at 1 pm.

Camp Sullivan

Tuesday, Dec 27

Saturday, Jan 14

Camp Reinberg

Sunday, Jan 29

Sunday, Feb 26

Camp Bullfrog Lake

Saturday, Feb 18

— **THROUGHOUT *the* WINTER** —

Look out for pop-up snow activities on our social media page. Locations/dates/times will vary based on snow/weather.*

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

— **ZONE KEY** —

▲ Northwest

■ North

◆ Central

● Southwest

★ South

Make Nature Your Venue



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

Northwest Zone



JANUARY

Winter Workshop: Woodworking*

Create a walking stick from buckthorn.
Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Jan 5 • 6–8 pm

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

MLK Service Day Celebration

Partake in restoration, celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and warm up with hot beverages. Restoration for ages 10 & up. For group registration, please call 773-758-8899.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 10 am–1pm

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Prehistoric Play Day

Learn about the amazing world of Ice Age Illinois through a series of family-oriented games and activities. Intended for ages 5–8.

Saturday, Jan 28 • 10 am–Noon

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

FEBRUARY

Winter Art Workshop: Watercolors*

Join us as we explore the beauty of nature through watercolor painting. Materials provided. Must register for demos only. All ages. Drop-in available for additional watercolor.

Thursday, Feb 2 • 6–7:30 pm

Rolling Knolls,
11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin



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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

Crabtree

NATURE CENTER

3 Stover Road, Barrington Hills, 847-381-6592
Grounds: 8 am–4 pm daily

Please note: Crabtree Nature Center's exhibit building is undergoing construction and will be closed throughout the season. Restrooms remain available but may be port-o-lets at times; please call for updates. Trails remain open.

All programs listed will be outdoors.

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Snowshoe Rentals

Snowshoes are available when snow is 4" or greater. Equipment is limited and loaned on a first come, first served basis. Driver's license required.



Explore Nature Play!

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

Open Every Day

Volunteer Winter Workdays*

Put on some gloves and join us to remove invasive species. Tools and eye protection provided. Children 8 & up welcome w/adult.

Saturdays, Dec 3 & Jan 14 • 10 am–Noon

DECEMBER

Our Canine Neighbors

Join us for an outdoor program on some of our local canine species with whom we share the land.

Sunday, Dec 11 • 1 pm

Frozen Alive

Cold-blooded animals can survive freezing temperatures and then emerge the following spring without any injury! Learn more about the unique processes during this guided walk.

Sunday, Dec 18 • 1 pm

Winter Nature Play

Drop by for outdoor family-friendly nature activities on the front lawn.

Saturday, Dec 24 • 10 am–Noon

New Year's Wellness Walk

Kick off your resolution of being more active by taking a hike with a naturalist on New Year's Eve morning!

Saturday, Dec 31 • 10 am



JANUARY

Animal Trackin'

Join us for a 1.4-mile walk around Bur Edge to take in some fresh air and look for animal tracks. Ages 6 & up.

Sunday, Jan 8 • 1 pm

Fur-real Fun

How do local animals stay warm in winter? Stop by to see and feel different warm fur coats up-close and discover why not all fur is the same.

Monday, Jan 16 • 1-3 pm

Surviving Phantom

Join us for a fast-paced 3-mile winter hike around Phantom Prairie loop. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 10 am

Headbangers

Woodpeckers are the ultimate headbangers and are vital to the health of woodland ecosystems. Learn basic woodpecker species identification and anatomy on this winter bird search.

Sunday, Jan 29 • 1 pm

FEBRUARY

Resting Reptiles

Pick up an informational guide and enjoy a self-led half-mile hike to discover how our native reptiles are surviving winter.

Saturday & Sunday, Feb 4 & 5 • 10 am-3 pm

Super Bowl Pregame Hike

See what makes Crabtree special on this fast-paced 3-mile hike that will get you up and moving before the big game.

Sunday, Feb 12 • 10 am

The Bare Bones

Check out this jaw-dropping interactive display of animal skulls and bones. Will you be able to uncover whose skeleton is whose?!

Sunday, Feb 19 • 1-3 pm

Snowy Play Day

Drop in for snow day fun. Snow toys and activities will be available for outdoor family fun! Weather dependent; call for conditions.

Monday, Feb 20 • 1-3 pm

Frozen Feathers

Let's take a short walk to see which resident birds we find and who is getting a head start on spring migration. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Ages 10 & up.

Saturday, Feb 25 • 10 am-Noon

**Registration required for events with asterisk.*

847-381-6592



Nature's Classroom

Remains Open for Winter

As the calendar turns to winter, the Forest Preserves of Cook County continues to provide plenty of opportunities to get out into nature—including for teachers and students from K-12 and beyond who want to avail themselves of the preserves' 70,000-acre classroom.

Standards and can be tailored as field trips that meet the needs of a specific class or grade. Many outings combine teaching by Forest Preserves staff with schools' own educators. Students enjoy hands-on activities and develop critical thinking skills.



Educators can choose from a menu of educational topics from the Forest Preserves, from monarch butterflies to local habitats to plant adaptation. All meet Next Generation Science

Nina Baki, the Forest Preserves' public engagement and program manager, encourages educators to reach out to the nearest of the six Forest Preserves of Cook County nature centers. "The field trip opportunity can be catered to whatever the teachers' needs are, in terms of how the topic connects to their curriculum," she says. "We want to get students connected by igniting the senses—sight, sound, touch."



While the fall and spring are the busiest seasons, the Forest Preserves hosts plenty of outings in the winter months, too. “In the colder months, we do a lot of classroom visits, or virtual visits,” Baki says. “But please come out in the winter!”

Popular wintertime field trips include nature walks and snowshoeing, as well as cross-country skiing at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont. Toward the end of the winter, it’s maple syrup season at River Trail Nature Center in Northbrook.

Elizabeth Murray, a fifth-grade reading, writing and English-language arts teacher at John Mills Elementary School in Elmwood Park, organized a trip last spring for more than 100 students who planted a pollinator garden at Thatcher Woods Forest Preserve in River Forest.

The students moved station-to-station through the garden set-up, nature hikes, and tours of the Forest Preserves Trailside Museum of Natural History across the street. “It was a fabulous experience. It was well organized,” Murray says. “Every

kid was able to have a hands-on experience. It was really beneficial, all that outside time. Being exposed to something they might not have ever done with their families was really eye-opening.”

Working with Forest Preserves staff to set up both a hands-on activity at John Mills prior to the trip and the field trip itself was extremely easy, Murray says. “When we went there, [students] had an idea of why we were doing it,” she says. “The whole entire process was really smooth. We would love to return to do something this winter.”



A free Education Access Permit, fpdcc.com/downloads/permits/FPCC-Education-Field-Trip-Daily-Access-Permit-043019.pdf, is required for all school and educational activities at the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and it’s recommended that teachers seek one out three weeks in advance of the intended field trip date, regardless of whether Forest Preserves staff will be providing educational content.

Learn more at
fpdcc.com/nature-centers.



Wildlife Research

in the Forest Preserves

For more than 30 years, Forest Preserves biologists have been researching the behavior of white-tailed deer, bats, coyotes, otters, badgers and other urban wildlife, just some of the thousands of plants and animal species living in the savannas, prairies, woodlands and wetlands of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

“One of the biggest challenges our natural habitats face in Cook County is that we’re in a constantly growing urban environment. Most urban wildlife behaves completely different than animals in a rural environment. There are many questions we do not

understand about the ecology and natural history of local animals like otters that we’re hoping to answer through our continued research,” explains Chris Anchor, the Forest Preserves senior wildlife biologist.

Wildlife researchers also track the presence or absence of animals and insects in the 70,000 acres Forest Preserves, information that provides valuable feedback on a natural community’s overall health—especially areas undergoing ecological restoration.

Continued, page 36

North Zone



WINTER WORKSHOPS

Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer
Resource Center

6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

Unless otherwise noted, ages 13 & up.

Holiday Gift Making*

Need a last-minute holiday gift? Join us to make ornaments, window hangers, wooden houses and dolls. All tools and supplies provided. Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Dec 8 • 6 pm–8 pm

Cozy Creatives*

Calling all creatives! Join us we explore nature journaling and watercolors.

Register for one or both sessions.

More info: district12@cookcountylil.gov.

Saturday, Dec 17

Workshop 1: 9:30–10:30 am

Workshop 2: 11 am–Noon

Cozy Creatives Pottery*

Calling all creatives! Join us as we explore pottery. \$25/person for both sessions; must register for both sessions.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 10 am–Noon

Saturday, Jan 28 • 10 am–Noon

Cozy Creatives Woodworking*

Create a walking stick from buckthorn.

Ages 10 & up.

Thursday, Jan 19 • 6–8 pm

Cozy Creatives Dying and Printing*

Calling all creatives! Join us as we explore natural dyes and print making.

Thursday, Feb 9 • 6–8 pm

Cozy Creatives Macrame*

Calling all creatives! Join us as we explore macrame.

Thursday, Feb 16 • 6–8 pm



Black History Month Celebration*

Learn about Black environmentalists and the history of the Forest Preserves' trails as it relates to the Underground Railroad Movement.

Saturday, Feb 25 • 10 am–Noon

Matthew Bieszczat Volunteer
Resource Center

6100 N Central Ave, Chicago

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

River Trail

NATURE CENTER

3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, 847-824-8360

Building: 9 am – 4 pm, closed Fridays. Grounds: 8 am – 4 pm daily

Free Admission



SAVE THE DATE

Maple Syrup Festival

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

Sunday, Mar 19 • 11 am–3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Snowshoe Lending at River Trail

Snowshoes available for use on-site when snow is 4" or more. Limited number available on a first come, first served basis. Call for more information.

What's On The Menu?

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

Saturdays and Sundays • 3 pm

(No program on Dec 24, 25, 31 & Jan 1)

Wildlife Connections

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

Tuesdays • 10 am–Noon

Small Serendipity

Nature stories, crafts and activities.

Children ages 3–6 w/adult.

Wednesdays, Dec 7, 21; Jan 4, 18;

Feb 1, 15 • 10 am

Fridays in the Field

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

Fridays, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10 • 10 am–Noon

Winter Walk*

A winter hike through the woods.

1–2:45 pm, if there is a base of 4" snow on snowshoes with a short lesson.

Limited number of snowshoes available; registration required at least 3 days prior to reserve snowshoes.

1:30–2:30 pm, if no snow.

Sundays, Dec 11, Jan 8, 22 & Feb 19

Volunteer Workdays*

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

Saturdays, Dec 10, Jan 14 & Feb 11

10 am–Noon

Animal Encounters

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

Wednesday, Dec 28; Sunday, Jan 15;

Mondays, Jan 16, Feb 20 • 1:30 pm

Beginner Beekeeping Class

Learn the process of keeping bees from the beekeepers at River Trail Nature Center in a five week class. \$75 for Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association members who join with promo code; \$100 for non-members. To register, call (630) 207-4255.

Tuesdays, Jan 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb 7 • 6–8 pm

DECEMBER

Bird Feeding Drop In

Learn the basics about winter bird feeding and pick up a do-it-yourself pinecone bird feeder craft.

Sunday, Dec 4 • 11 am–2 pm

Evening Owl Prowl*

A guided walk on our trails to search for local owls. Registration required by 12/13. Ages 8 & up.

Friday, Dec 16 • 7 pm

Whoooo Are the Owls in Your Neighborhood?

Join us and a special guest for a talk about owls.

Sunday, Dec 18 • 1:30 pm



JANUARY

Conservation@Home: Native Gardens for Urban Landscapes*

Get organized for spring with this intro to native plant landscaping taught by a University of Illinois Extension volunteer and landscape designer. Registration required by 1/5. Ages 13 & up.

Thursday, Jan 12 • 6:30–8 pm

A “Winters” Night*

Learn about nocturnal animals. Afterwards, brave the cold for a guided walk. Cost: \$3/person. Registration required by 1/19.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 7 pm

Groundhog Day

Learn the story behind this peculiar holiday.

Sunday, Jan 29 • 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY

Sweetheart Night Hike*

Walk candlelit trails, relax around a campfire or warm up inside with dinner & drinks. \$25/person. Registration, payment required by 1/30. Ages 21 & up.

Saturday, Feb 4 • 6–8 pm

Insects in Winter

Hunt our trails for the mighty snow flea and learn about winter insects. All ages.

Sunday, Feb 5 • 1:30 pm

Superb Owl Party

Help us celebrate owls with crafts and activities. All ages.

Sunday, Feb 12 • 1:30 pm

Sunrise Nature Photography*

An outdoor workshop focusing on amazing winter scenes. Registration required by 1/30. Location provided upon registration. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Feb 18 • 6–9 am

Sap's Rising*

Walk in the sugar maple forest to learn about the sweet process of making maple syrup.

Saturday & Sunday, Feb 25 & 26 • 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

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

Note: All events are all ages unless specified differently.

847-824-8360

Central Zone



DECEMBER

Nature Treasure Hunt

Kids and families, walk a short, looped trail and try and locate various natural items along the way. Find all the treasure, win a prize!

Wednesday, Dec 7 • 10 am–Noon

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

Knitting in Nature Workshop*

With nature as our backdrop, learn how to knit a cowl using natural fibers. Supplies, instruction provided. Ages 10 & up w/adult.

Wednesday, Dec 14 • 5:30–7:30 pm

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

Winter Break-Out Adventure

In partnership with the American Indian Center, come out for fun and adventure during winter break. Snowshoeing (conditions permitting), hikes, solstice storytelling and more.

Thursday, Dec 22 • 10 am–1 pm

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

Tots Trivia Walk

In celebration of National Trivia Day, kids and families can walk a short, looped trail while answering animal trivia questions. Prize awarded after completing the trail.

Wednesday, Jan 4 • 10 am–Noon

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

**Registration required. Call 312-533-5751 unless otherwise noted. Continued on page 23.*

LIGHTSCAPE

Tickets on sale now for a holiday favorite!

NOVEMBER 11 - JANUARY 8

AN ENCHANTING, AFTER-DARK, ILLUMINATED TRAIL
CREATED JUST FOR THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

chicagobotanic.org/lightscape



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 lake cook road glencoe, illinois 60022

The Chicago Botanic Garden is one of the treasures of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

In partnership with



SONY MUSIC

Supported by



AN EXELON COMPANY

DISCOVER



DON'T TRASH THE PRESERVES

Each year the Forest Preserves of Cook County spends resources cleaning up waste from contractors and residents who dump in the preserves!

- Dumping waste here hurts plants and wildlife
- Chemicals can contaminate our water supply
- Clean-up costs the Forest Preserves (taxpayers) time and money

Not convinced?

Violaters are liable for the cost of repair, replacement and the cost of restoring the land.

Call (708) 771-1000 if you see suspicious behavior

Central Zone continued.

MLK Day of Service

Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drop-in event.

Monday, Jan 16 • 10 am–Noon

Miller Meadow-North, Grove 2,
Roosevelt Rd, east of 1st Ave

Winter Painting Workshop*

Follow along and create a painting using the wintery natural landscape as inspiration. Supplies provided.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 9–11 am

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

Snow Snake Workshop

Join the American Indian Center for a workshop on Snow Snake, a Native American winter sport. Enjoy storytelling, stick making and the formation of Snow Snake itself, weather permitting.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 1–3 pm

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



All About Fire

Join us for activities related to fire! Learn safe fire building and containment practices, then make your own fire and roast a marshmallow. Drop-in. All ages.

Saturday, Jan 28 • 11 am–2 pm

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

Poetry Trail: Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, walk a short, looped trail and read poetry for children written by Black authors along the way.

Wednesday, Feb 8 • 10 am–Noon

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

Winter Exploration Day

In partnership with the Portage Creek Boy Scouts, join us for winter activities including hikes, broom hockey, orienteering and more.

Saturday, Feb 11 • 11 am–2 pm

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

Woodworking with Invasives*

Build your own walking stick using buckthorn. Adults and children ages 12 & up. Bring work gloves.

Friday, Feb 24 • 5:30–7:30 pm

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

Animal Olympics Trail

Families and kids, follow the trail and compete in activities during a fun test of human abilities versus animal abilities! Complete all challenges to claim gold medal.

Tuesday, Feb 28 • 3–5 pm

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

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

TRAILSIDE

Museum of Natural History

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

Building: 9 am – 4 pm, *closed Fridays*, Grounds: 8 am – 4 pm daily,

Free Admission



THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Snowshoe Lending

Snowshoes available when snow is 4" deep or more. Available on a first come, first served basis. Call 708-366-6530 for more information.

DECEMBER

History Hike: Isabel Basset Wasson*

Explore Thatcher Woods while learning about the inspiring life of a local pioneering environmental educator. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Dec 3 • 1:30 pm

DIY Holiday Bird Feeder Wreath*

Make a festive birdseed wreath to help our feathered friends this winter! Free; materials provided. Ages 13 & up.

Friday, Dec 9 • 1 pm

Animal Homes Hike*

Take a guided hike to discover where our local animals will spend the winter. Family program.

Sunday, Dec 11 • 1 pm

Story Trail: "The Snowy Day"

Walk a short trail and read a children's story along the way. Afterwards, get a take-home activity bag so you can start your own adventure.

Friday, Dec 16–Friday, Jan 6

Winter Dog Walk*

This hike is for the dog walkers! Join a naturalist as you and your (leashed) friend go on a nature walk. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Dec 17 • 10:30 am

Dawn Owl Prowl*

Listen for owls on our trails as part of the annual Christmas Bird Count, with John Elliot from Chicago Audubon. Ages 10 & up.



Sunday, Dec 18 • 5:30 am

Winter Secrets Hike*

Winter can appear barren of wildlife, but much is happening above, within, and beneath snow. Join us for a walk to see what's happening! Family program.

Wednesday, Dec 28 • 1:30 pm

JANUARY

New Year's Resolution Walk*

Fulfill your resolution of being more active by taking a brisk guided walk. Ages 18 & up.

Monday, Jan 2 • 10 am

Winter Reptiles and Amphibians*

Check out our resident indoor herptiles, then go on a short walk to see where their wild cousins are spending winter outside! Family program.

Saturday, Jan 7 • 11 am

Story Trail: "Over and Under the Snow"

Walk a short trail and read a children's story along the way. Afterwards, get a take-home activity bag so you can start your own adventure.

Friday, Jan 13–Monday, Jan 30



Bird and Bagel Walk*

We'll observe bird feeder action inside while noshing on bagels and coffee, then head out for a walk. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 8:30 am

Bird Painting Workshop Step-by-Step: Black-capped Chickadee*

Sketch and paint a black-capped chickadee. For beginners and experienced artists. Ages 13 & up. Materials provided. \$5.

Friday, Jan 20 • 1–3 pm

Ice Suncatcher Craft and Walk*

Join us outdoors to make a fun, easy craft. Then enjoy a short hike while our suncatchers freeze. Ages 5 & up w/ adult.

Sunday, Jan 22 • 1:30 pm

Winter Tree ID*

Join a naturalist as we discover several ways to identify trees in wintertime. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Jan 28 • 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY

Groundhog Day Celebration*

Listen to a story, do special activities and make your own groundhog weather predictor. Ages 3–7 w/ adult.

Thursday, Feb 2 • 1:30 pm

Owls of Trailside*

Learn about the fascinating owls that call Trailside home and meet one of our ambassador owls! Family program.

Saturday, Feb 4 • 1:30 pm

Winter Bird Walk*

Join us to observe resident birds and their behavior. All levels of birding skill welcome! Binoculars available.

Saturday, Feb 11 • 9 am

Warm Hearts, Cold Noses Hike*

Enjoy a guided walk on our scenic trails as we discuss love in the animal world. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Feb 12 • 1:30 pm

Conservation@Home: Go Native & Get Wild*

Learn about the benefits of gardening using native plants! Call to register.

Saturday, Feb 18 • 10:30 am

Virtual Zoom

Amazing Winter Residents*

Come for a walk on our scenic trails as we discuss some of the amazing year-round residents of the Preserves. Family program.

Saturday, Feb 25 • 10:30 am

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

708-366-6530



Sustain

Is your idea of winter fun in the Preserves invigorating exercise, a peaceful walk in a winter wonderland, or family bonding time? Or perhaps you prefer hibernating with a good book, but you're grateful that the Preserves keep working to sustain our ecosystems? Much like the Preserves sustain us in the winter months, your donation to the Forest Preserve Foundation can help sustain the Preserves.

To donate: forestpreservefoundation.org/give/donate

Southwest Zone



SOUTHWEST



DECEMBER

Stairs, Stories & S'mores

Join us for stair climbing, story trail, sledding, snowshoeing, s'more making and more. Sledding and snowshoeing available weather permitting. Drop-in.

Saturday, Dec 10 • 10 am–1 pm

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

JANUARY

Cold Weather Crafting

Enjoy a cozy winter morning inside listening to the crackle of a fire while creating nature-themed art.

Sunday, Jan 8 • 9:30 am–Noon

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

Photography Walk*

We'll hike around Spears Woods in hopes of capturing some magical winter photos. Register at tinyurl.com/swphoto2.

Wednesday, Jan 11 • 9 am

Spears Woods, 96th Ave, south of W 87th St

Explore: Horsetail Lake

Adults and families, grab a self-guided exploration activity or join a guided hike. Help with litter pickup, warm up by a fire, and enjoy a fun nature craft.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 10 am–Noon

Horsetail Lake, 104th Ave, north of McCarthy Rd

FEBRUARY

Wilderness Survival

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

Friday, Feb 3 • 3–5 pm

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

Knitting in Nature Workshop*

Learn how to knit a cowl using natural fibers. Supplies and instruction provided. Ages 10 & up w/adult.

Thursday, Feb 15 • 4–6 pm

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

Explore: Cherry Hill Woods

Adults and families, grab a self-guided exploration activity or join a guided hike. Help with litter pickup, warm up by a fire, and enjoy a fun nature craft.

Saturday, Feb 18 • 10 am–Noon

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

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center

9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs, 708-839-6897
Building: 9 am–4 pm, *closed Fridays*, Grounds: 8 am–4 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 4–5 w/adult.

Wednesdays, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1 • 10 am



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

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

*Thursdays, Dec 8, Jan 12,
Feb 9 • 10 am*



R.I.P. Stewardship*

Remove Invasive Plants with bow saws or loppers. Tools, gloves and a snack provided. Closed-toed shoes & long pants encouraged. Ages 18 and up; under 17 years w/adult.

*Saturday, Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11
10 am–Noon*

Moon Walk*

Let the full moon be our guide as we walk in the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place. Warm up by a fire afterwards. All ages.

*Wednesday, Dec 7 • 6:30 pm
Friday, Jan 6 • 6:30 pm*
Sunday, Feb 5 • 6:30 pm*

Mother Nature and Me

Children 3–6 years old and their favorite adult will learn about each topic through fun activities and outdoor experiences.

Wednesdays • 10:30 am

Dec 14–Deer

Jan 18–Ice

Feb 22–Woodchucks

Seasonal Pop Up

Pop on over for an outdoor activity. All ages.

*Sundays, Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 19
1:30 pm*

Yoga In the Woods

Enjoy an all-levels yoga class with a certified instructor. Bring a yoga mat/ beach towel & water. Afterwards, enjoy a self-guided walk. Ages 18 & up.

Sundays, Dec 18, Jan 29, Feb 26 • 10–11 am

Sunrise Walks

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

*Thursdays, Dec 15, Jan 19 • 6:30 am
Feb 16 • 6 am*

DECEMBER

Silent Night Walk

Get inspired at the bonfire and enjoy hot chocolate before heading out in the quiet winter on a silent walk. Bring your own mug.

Saturday, Dec 3 • 7:30 pm

Snowbirds

Enjoy a leisurely nature walk while stopping at the bird feeding stations.

Sunday, Dec 4 • 1–2 pm

Let's Talk Stuff

Where does our stuff come from, where does it go and what's the true cost we pay? Materials economy will be discussed.

Sunday, Dec 11 • 1:30 pm

Winter Wonder

Explore natural wonders. Ages 8 & up.

Saturday, Dec 17 • 10 am

Winter Solstice Night of Lights Walk*

Take a candlelit walk, enjoy a bonfire and hot chocolate. Bring your own mug.

Wednesday, Dec 21 • 6:30–9 pm

Renew, Rejuvenate, Restore

Renew, rejuvenate and restore your mind, body and spirit. Followed by a bonfire and hot chocolate. Bring your own mug.

Saturday, Dec 31 • 10 am

JANUARY**Pinecone Suet Feeders***

Learn about birds that call Cook County home during winter and leave with a feeder. Ages 6 & up.

Saturday, Jan 7 • 10 am–Noon

Winter Tree ID Walk-1 mi.

Discover tips and clues to help identify trees in the winter.

Sunday, Jan 8 • 1:30 pm

Signs of the Animals Walk

Let's look for signs of animals. A treat will be provided. Ages 6–10.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 11 am–Noon

Earth, Wind and Fire

Learn how the world was shaped by wind and fire by the fire.

Sunday, Jan 22 • 6 pm

Night Owls Walk

Saturday, Jan 28 • 6–8 pm

FEBRUARY**Greg the Groundhog and Friends**

Enjoy a scavenger hunt to find Greg the Groundhog and his animal friends. Register to book your time.

Saturday, Feb 4 • 11 am–2 pm

Sweetheart Night Hike

Bring your favorite person to this guided walk. Learn about the romance of the forest at a bonfire. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Feb 11 • 6 pm

Nature in Love

Enjoy a talk, wild animals and how they "love" with one another as way of survival. All ages.

Tuesday, Feb 14 • 10 am

Aromatherapy

Learn about natural aromas and their healing effects. Ages 21 & up.

Saturday, Feb 18 • 1:30 pm

Woodpecker Walk

Look for sights and sounds of our hard-headed friends.

Saturday, Feb 25 • 9 am

Season of the Salamanders Walk*

Discover if salamanders have begun their annual migration.

Sunday, Feb 26 • 6–8 pm

Registration required for all programs unless noted.

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

denotes Spanish bilingual program Programa ofrecido en Español

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

12545 W 111th St, Lemont, 630-257-2045

Building: 9 am – 4 pm, Grounds: 8 am – 4 pm daily, Free Admission



THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Cross-country skiing starts Dec 17, as soon as conditions are skiable (frozen ground and 5" snow).

Sagawau Nordic is open daily from 9 am–4 pm. Trails will be open and groomed as snow conditions permit and could include a late start or an early finish. Watch our [Facebook page](#) and call 630-257-2045 for the most up-to-date trail conditions.

Please note programs are weather dependent and denoted as follows:

(+) With snow – Without snow

Beginner Cross-Country Ski Lessons* (+)

Learn to ski with a certified Professional Ski Instructor of America. \$20/person. Ages 12 & up. Registration required (link on website) beginning the Sunday prior to the lesson week.

Saturdays & Sundays, Jan 7–Feb 26 • 9 am

Cross-Country Ski Seminar* –

Learn the basics of cross-country ski equipment and how to prepare for your first cross-country skiing experience.

Saturday, Dec 3; Sunday, Dec 11 • 1 pm

— SKI EQUIPMENT RENTAL —

Rentals available from 9 am–2 pm daily. Equipment must be returned by 3:45 pm. Rental package includes skis, bindings, boots and poles. Classic and skate skis available. All children and adult sizes.

Registration required.

Online registration will open on Sunday mornings for each week. Space is limited.

Rental Fees

Individual: \$15	Family: \$40
Senior: \$10	Lesson/Rental: \$30

To Rent Equipment:

- You must supply a valid driver's license or \$100 deposit.
- You must be 18 years or older, or accompanied by an adult.
- Equipment is for use at Sagawau Nordic only.

All skiers must obtain a free trail pass from the Nordic Center.

Wax Clinic* –

Learn how simple it is to care for your skis. We'll discuss ski maintenance for waxable and waxless skis.

Sunday, Dec 4; Saturday, Dec 10 • 1 pm

Restoration Workday* –

Enjoy the crisp air while staying warm. Put your muscles to work as you help restore habitat by removing invasive plants. Gloves and tools available. Ages 10 & up.

*Saturdays and Sundays, Jan 28 & 29;
Feb 25 & 26 • 9:30–11:30 am*

**DECEMBER****Clear the Ski Trail* –**

Help maintain Sagawau ski trails by cutting and removing brush. Tools and safety gear are provided. Ages 10 & up.

*Saturday and Sunday, Dec 17 & 18
9:30–11:30 am*

Winter Walk* –

Enjoy a trail walk with a naturalist.

Wednesday, Dec 28 • 10 am

JANUARY**Feeder Watch Weekend* –**

What birds are visiting the feeding station? Watch the feeders while learning how to identify resident birds and winter migrants.

Saturday and Sunday, Jan 21 & Jan 22 • 10 am

Winter Insects* –

Believe it or not, some insects are active through the winter. Search for these cold-hearty survivors. Ages 14 & up.

Sunday, Jan 8 • 1 pm

Skier 101* –

Come with questions for PSIA certified instructors to answer. Not sure what to ask? Our instructors will give a crash course to get you ready to ski.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 1 pm

FEBRUARY**Groundhog Week (+)**

Will Sagawau Sam see his shadow? Ski by our outdoor exhibit to learn about groundhogs and other hibernators. Repeat skiers throughout the week win a prize.

Wednesday, Feb 1–Sunday, Feb 5

Ski the White Winter Wave (+)

Join a fun Polynesian spin on winter by skiing the “frozen wave,” then relax and enjoy surfing videos and updates from Oahu’s North Shore.

*Saturday, Feb 11; Sunday, Feb 12
9 am–2 pm*

Birkie Week (+)

Ski with wood skis and wool knickers or dress like a Viking to win a prize. Answer daily trivia question about the Birkebeiner Ski Race.

Saturday, Feb 18–Sunday, Feb 26

**Winter's Last Gasp (+)**

With spring on the way, now is the time to enjoy the last days of skiing.

Monday, Feb 27–Monday, March 6

**Registration required for events
with asterisk.*

630-257-2045

South Zone

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Open Nature Play Day

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

Wednesdays • 10 am–1 pm

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

BE A BETTER BIRDER

Birding Ethics*

Learn about ABA birding ethics and how to ensure other people and—most importantly—birds are minimally impacted during your trip. Register: [BABB12.eventbrite.com](#).

Thursday, Dec 22 • 6 pm, Virtual Via Zoom

Getting Started*

Learn how to build your birding kit, how to get started, and where you can find resources. Great for beginners and those interested in getting into birding. Register: [BABBGettingstarted.eventbrite.com](#)

Thursday, Jan 26 • 6 pm, Virtual via Zoom

Backyard Bird Feeding*

Discover how to make your yard and home bird friendly. Learn about bird feeders, types of foods, garden opportunities and more. Register: [BABBbackyardbirdfeeding.eventbrite.com](#).

Thursday, Feb 16 • 6 pm, Virtual Via Zoom

Intro to Bird ID*

Learn the basics of bird identification, including the lingo birders use to describe birds and how to identify birds using size and shape. Register: [BABBintrotobirdid.eventbrite.com](#).

Thursday Feb 23 • 6 pm
Virtual via Zoom



Winter Exploration Day

This is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy snowshoeing (weather permitting), nature hikes, art making, campfires and more!

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

Wednesday, Dec 28 • 11 am–2 pm

MLK Day of Service-Drop in

Give back this MLK day. Join us for a litter clean up in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drop-in event.

Monday, Jan 16 • 10 am–Noon

Schubert's Woods, Sauk Trail, west
of Ashland Ave

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

Snowshoeing

Come out and explore the preserves via snowshoe. If conditions are not favorable for snowshoeing, walks and other activities will be offered.

Saturday, Jan 14 • 11 am–2 pm

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

Saturday, Feb 11 • 11 am–2 pm

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

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–9

SAND RIDGE CAMPUS



The Sand Ridge Campus is located in the South Zone. Turn the page and learn about the new campus. You may explore everything that makes the Calumet Region special at Sand Ridge Campus—a 585-acre nature-based education and recreation area that invites visitors to experience the natural and cultural history of the area while hiking, biking, fishing, camping and more.

Sand Ridge

NATURE CENTER AND CAMPUS

15891 Paxton, South Holland, 708-868-0606

Building: 9 am – 4 pm, *Exhibit room closed Fridays*, Grounds: 8 am – 4 pm daily,
Free Admission



Christmas Past
Sunday, Dec 4
11 am–3 pm

Visit our pioneer cabins as we celebrate winter holiday traditions. Play with handmade toys, make a craft, and see what's cooking on the open fire.

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Poetry Trail

Enjoy a collection of poems inspired by nature and the changing seasons as you walk Pines Trail.

Winter Birding *

Join staff as we explore and look for winter's resident birds. Binoculars available for lending.

Saturdays, Dec 3, Jan 14, Feb 18 • 9 am

Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Walk*

Venture out on our scenic trails for a 3- to 4-mile walk led by our nature education staff.

Saturdays, Dec 3, Jan 7, Feb 4 • 1:30 pm

Meet Our Birds

Take a closer look at Sand Ridge Nature Center's birds. Learn more about our flighted ambassador animals and discover their unique adaptations.

Sundays, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12 • 1:30 pm

Wee Wonders*

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

Wednesdays • 10 am

Dec 7-Evergreen ID

Jan 11-Making Snowflakes

Feb 8-Heart of Plenty



Underground Railroad Walks

Join us on a self-guided journey that follows the Underground Railroad route connected to the Calumet Region during the mid-1800s.

*Saturday, Feb 25; Sunday,
Feb 26 • 10 am–3 pm*

Candlelight Walks*

Dec 16, Jan 27, Feb 17 • 6–8:30 pm

DECEMBER

Winter Bonfire

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of winter with a large bonfire, artmaking, nature walks and more.

Saturday, Dec 17 • 3:30–7 pm

Homemade Bird Feeders*

Build a simple bird feeder and learn who is attracted to which seeds.

Sunday, Dec 18 • 1 pm

Loteria (Bingo)*

Come play this traditional, fun Mexican game, with a nature twist. All ages welcome. Bilingual.

Thursday, Dec 22 • 4:30–5:30 pm

MLK Day of Service

Stop by the nature center to participate in a self-led litter pick-up. Garbage bags and disposable gloves available.

Monday, Jan 16 • 10 am–3 pm

JANUARY

Resolution Walk*

Take steps towards your health goals during this light, 1-mile nature walk.

Monday, Jan 2 • 11 am

Wellness in the Woods: Soak Up the Sun!*

Combat the winter blues with this guided walk and learn about the sun's ability to boost your mood. Snowshoes will be provided if conditions allow.

Saturday, Jan 21 • 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY

Nature of Love*

Join us for s'mores around the fire while learning about friendship, family and love among our local wildlife.

Friday, Feb 10 • 4:30–6:30 pm

Wellness in the Woods: Finding Space for Mindfulness*

Discover ways to find or create cozy and special places to practice mindfulness in, or near, your home.

Saturday, Feb 18 • 1:30 pm

**Registration required for events
with asterisk.*

708-868-0606



“If we are restoring an area, and the population of wildlife is increasing, that tells us our land management efforts are having the desired effect,” says Rebecca Collings, senior ecologist for the Forest Preserves. “If our wildlife biologists are doing health workups on more coyote pups or banding more young of the year birds, that indicates these species are having reproductive success—these animals are choosing our healthy habitats and finding not only can they survive here, but thrive.”

The information gathered also helps researchers learn more about how animals and humans interact. Since 1988, our wildlife division has collected wildlife blood samples, making us one of the oldest and largest contributors of data on zoonotic diseases (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) to the U.S. Department of Human Health’s Centers for Disease Control.

Other local, regional, and national wildlife research collaborators include Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Public Health, Brookfield Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, USDI National Park Service, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, The Ohio State University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as well as several other universities to provide hands-on experience to college students.





Study at Brookfield Zoo while earning your Master's Degree from Miami University



The Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo, and Miami University of Ohio offer an Advanced Inquiry Program that awards master's degrees in biology and for teaching of biological sciences.

And it's all extremely affordable!

Visit CZS.org/AIP for more information.



PROJECT DRAGONFLY





VOLUNTEER

If you have time, skills and enthusiasm to give, consider volunteering with the Forest Preserves. Our thousands of acres provide endless opportunities for individuals and groups to get involved. From removing invasive species to picking up litter to monitoring birds and other animals, volunteering is fun and meaningful.

fpdcc.com/volunteer