

SUMMER 2026

A GUIDE TO THE Forest Preserves of Cook County



FREE

JUNETEENTH

Jubilee

Saturday, June 20, 11 am–3 pm



Celebrate freedom, family and country with performances highlighting Black history, activities and refreshments.

FACE PAINTING • DRUM CIRCLE • GENEALOGY RESOURCE TABLE
CERAMICS WORKSHOP • PRESENTATIONS AND MORE!



Scan to learn more:
fpdcc.com/juneteenth



fpdcc.com

Sand Ridge Nature Center
15891 Paxton, South Holland



Summer in the Forest Preserves is an open invitation to step outside and rediscover the joy of nature right here at home. As the days grow longer and the landscape comes alive with color and sound, we invite you to explore more than 70,000 acres of public land across Cook County.

This season's guide offers countless ways to make the most of summer. Paddle along the Des Plaines River, join a guided hike to discover pollinators and wildflowers, or experience the glow of fireflies under the night sky. Families can enjoy festivals, storytelling and nature play, while those eager to learn can explore birding, photography, and conservation programs.

Summer is also a time to celebrate community and heritage. From Juneteenth and Pride to programs honoring Indigenous cultural traditions, the Forest Preserves remain a place where people, nature and history come together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Toni Preckwinkle'.

Toni Preckwinkle

President

Forest Preserves of Cook County



feel free

fpdcc.com

How to use this Guide:

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

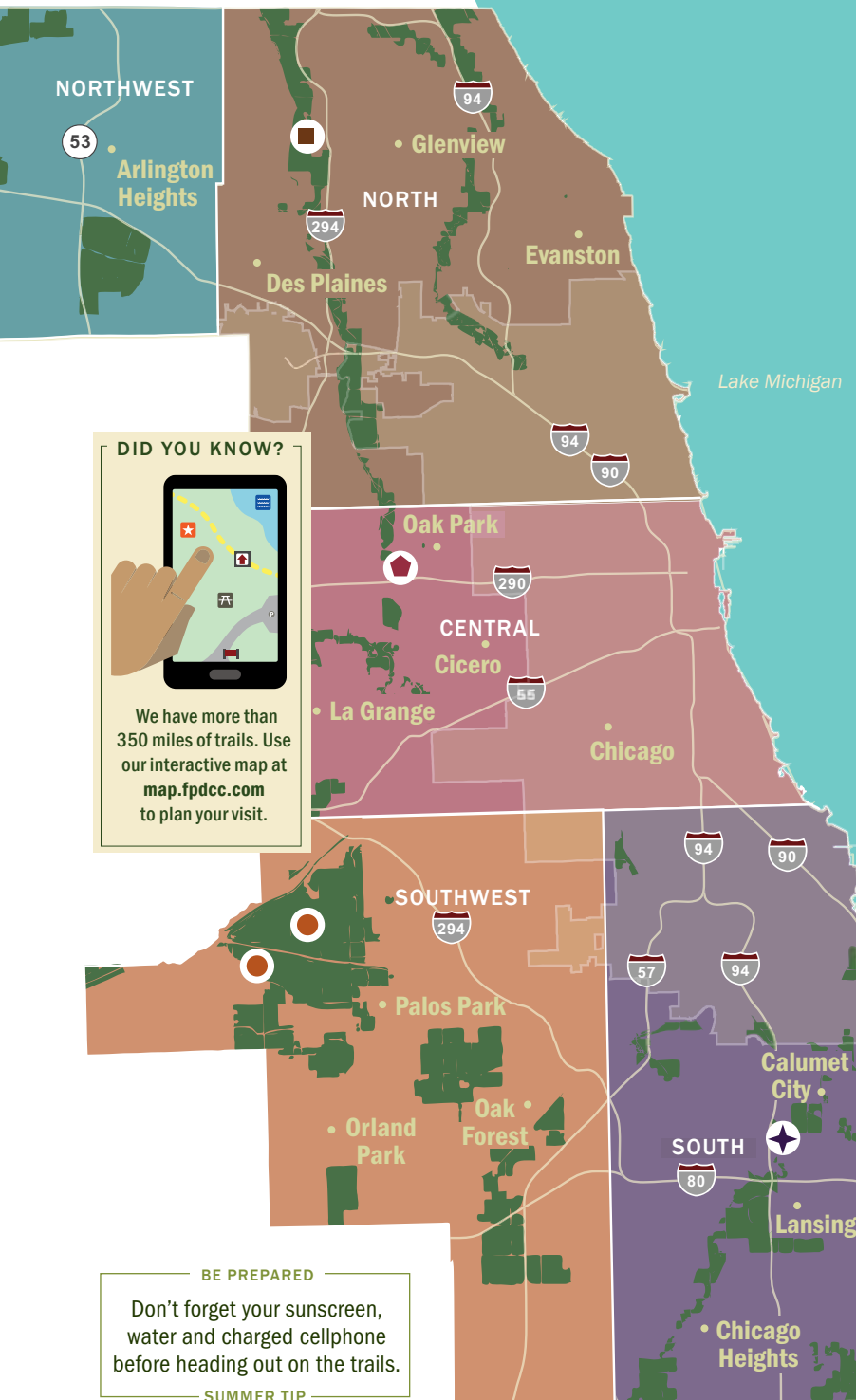
By using the designated zone colors and shapes below, find events and amenities close to home, or explore more than 70,000 acres of wild and wonderful.

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



Seasonal Offerings	4-12
Seasonal Offerings, Hike the Preserves, Bird the Preserves, Volunteer Opportunities, Camping	
	
Northwest Zone	13-17
Crabtree Nature Center	
	
North Zone	18-23
River Trail Nature Center	
	
Central Zone	24-33
Trailside Museum of Natural History, Red, White & Bloom, 250 Years of America	
	
Southwest Zone	34-39
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center	
	
South Zone	40-45
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, Opening summer 2025.

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 ZIPLINE ◆

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 March-late-November



JUICED BY SHIC ●

Swallow Cliff Woods-North

Open April-late-October. 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

Glencoe Golf Club

glencoegolfclub.com

621 Westley Rd, Glencoe

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

**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 Ave, Chicago

Rolling Knolls Pavilion

11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Swallow Cliff Pavilion

IL Rt 83 & US Rt 45, Palos Park

Thatcher Woods Pavilion

8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest

VOLUNTEER

fpdcc.com/volunteer

ZONE KEY

▲ Northwest ■ North ◆ Central ● Southwest ★ South

Hike the Preserves

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.

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 and Talk:

■ North Zone

Walk & Talk: Pride Walk*

Celebrate Pride Month with a nature walk highlighting queer ecology and local and national LGBTQ2S+ conservation work.

Caldwell Woods Wellness Center,
6350 W Devon Ave, Chicago

Thursday, Jun 4 • 5 pm

▲ Northwest Zone

What is Restoration?

What is restoration and why is it important? If interested, sign up for the Restoration Workday that takes place after.

Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Rd,
Barrington

Saturday, Jul 18 • 9 am

● Southwest Zone

Champion Tree Hike

Walk with a naturalist and learn about our Champion Trees and how to identify them.

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

Saturday, Aug 29 • 10 am



Fitness Hike:

● Southwest Zone

Vollmer Road Grove-3.6 mi

Vollmer Rd, west of Crawford Ave,
Country Club Hills

Thursday, Jun 25 • 6:30 pm

Yankee Woods-3 mi

Central Ave, north of 167th St,
Tinley Park

Wednesday, Jul 22 • 6 pm

Vollmer Road Grove-3.6 mi

Vollmer Rd, west of Crawford Ave,
Country Club Hills

Saturday, Aug 1 • 8 am

ZONE KEY



Northwest



North



Central



Southwest



South



#birdthepreserves

Bird Walks

Join a naturalist as we explore this preserve while looking for local birds. A limited supply of binoculars available for loan at select events. All levels of birding skills welcome!

Fridays, Jun 5, Aug 7; Saturdays, Jun 27, Aug 15 • 8 am

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

Morning Bird Walks

Presented by the Chicago Bird Alliance. Registration required. Call 708.366.6530.

Sundays, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9 • 8 am

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

Sulky Bird Count

Tuesdays, Aug 4, 11, 18, 25

8:30–10:30 am

Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Rd, Barrington

All About Birds

Saturday, Aug 22 • 9:30 am–Noon

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

BE A BETTER BIRDER

Birding Ethics*

Learn about ABA birding ethics and how to ensure other people and birds are minimally impacted during your trip. Register: tinyurl.com/BirdingEthics2026

Thursday, Jun 25 • 6 pm

Getting Started*

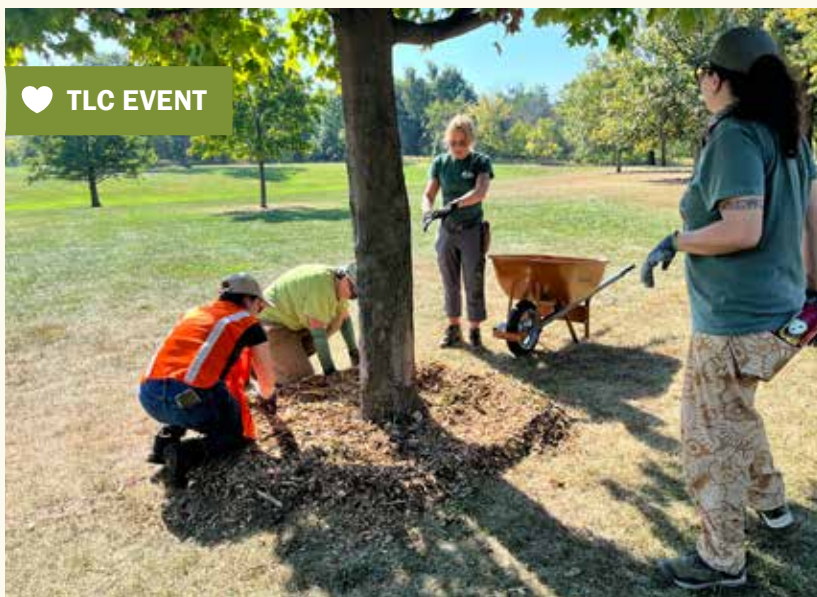
Learn how to build your birding kit, how to get started birding and where you can find resources. Register: tinyurl.com/Getting-Started-Aug-2026

Thursday, Aug 27 • 6 pm



**Registration required. All events conducted virtually via Zoom.*

Volunteer Opportunities



♥ TLC EVENT

● Southwest Zone

Community Litter Cleanup

Make an impact and connect with fellow community members. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes and bring a reusable water bottle.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 9–11:30 am

Yankee Woods, Central Ave, north of 167th St, Tinley Park

◆ Central Zone

Tree TLC

Beginner-friendly workdays feature pruning and mulching picnic grove trees.

Friday, Aug 21 • 8:30–11 am

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

✦ South Zone

Major Taylor Trail Keepers Chicago

A fun day of litter cleanup, stewardship and more. Learn about pioneering cyclist Major Taylor and the mural in his honor.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 9 am–Noon

Whistler Woods, Forest View Ave, east of S Halsted Ave, Riverdale

Nature Ambassador

Love the Forest Preserves? Turn passion for your local preserve into an official volunteer role by becoming a Nature Ambassador Volunteer.

Learn more and register
fpdcc.com/volunteer/

Dedicate a tree

July 15 deadline for fall plantings

**YOUR LOVE CAN HELP OUR
AIR, WATER AND WILDLIFE**

Welcome a new baby, celebrate an anniversary, remember someone dear to you, or just show your love while making a lasting impact.

We can help you show your love

Call 312.603.8349 or visit us online at forestpreservefoundation.org



**FOREST
PRESERVE
FOUNDATION**



FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

CAMPING

Contact campgrounds for information and group site availability. For seasonal rates visit fpdcc.com/camping or call 1-855-YES-CAMP.

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

For March rates and
Thursday-Saturday
rates, visit:
fpdcc.com/camping

CAMP REINBERG • CAMP BULLFROG LAKE
CAMP SULLIVAN

RATES: APR-OCT		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Type	Capacity	Sun-Wed	Sun-Wed
Tent/RV Electric	6	\$40	\$50
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$35	\$45
Small Cabin	8	\$57	\$67
Large Cabin	10	\$112	\$124
Small Bunkhouse	16	\$129	\$141
Large Bunkhouse	36	\$168	\$178

CAMP DAN BEARD • CAMP SHABBONA

RATES: APR-OCT		COOK COUNTY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Type	Capacity	Sun-Wed	Sun-Wed
Tent (Non-Electric)	6	\$34	\$44
Small Cabin	8	\$57	\$66
Large Cabin	10	\$95	\$106
Group Site Pricing	30-60	\$24/tent	\$34/tent

ZONE KEY



Northwest



North



Central



Southwest



South



Image: Camp Bullfrog



CAMPGROUNDS OFFERINGS

▲ ● Camping 101

Join us for a workshop to learn basic skills like how to set up a tent, build a fire, dress for the weather and more!

Camp Bullfrog Lake
Wednesday, Jun 10 & Thursdays,
Jul 9 & Aug 6 • 5:30 pm

Camp Reinberg
Thursdays, Jun 25, Jul 23, Aug 20
5:30 pm

● Camping 101: Overnight!*

Part workshop, part campout! Learn camping skills then spend the night.
 Cost: \$50/group of 6.

Camp Reinberg
Saturday, Aug 15–Sunday, Aug 16
5:30 pm



ADDITIONAL EVENTS OFFERINGS

Compliment your camping experience by attending a program. Check out the summer guide for programming near your campground.

**Registration required. To register, email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.*

MAY 22 - OCT 25

DINOS!

FREE *with Zoo Admission*



**BROOKFIELD ZOO
CHICAGO**



**SO
MUCH
GROWS
HERE**

Science. Learning.
Urban Agriculture—all
in the stunning Garden
you love. Join us in
our mission to grow
more than plants as a
member, donor,
or visitor.



**chicago
botanic
garden**
PLANTS. PEOPLE. PLANET.

One of the treasures of the Forest Preserves of Cook County

NORTHWEST ZONE



JUNE

Busse Lake Outdoors Day & Fishing Derby*

Free fishing derby, nature play, animal encounters and more! Enjoy local food and win prizes. Register: call 847.519.7674 or email district15@cookcountyil.gov.

Saturday, Jun 20 • 9 am–Noon

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

JULY

Summer Nature Camp*

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

Saturday, Jul 18 • Noon–3 pm

Rolling Knolls, 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

AUGUST

Nature Wellness Walk*

Relaxing mindfulness and meditative practice during this leisure walk. Led by University of Illinois-Extension. Ages 18 & up.

Tuesday, Aug 4 • 2–4 pm

Deer Grove-East, Grove 1, W Dundee Rd, west of N Hicks Rd, Palatine

Wildflowers in the Prairie*

Learn about the natural history and wildflowers of Shoe Factory Road Prairie on this 2-mile walk. Bring sun protection and water!

Friday, Aug 21 • 9:30–11 am

Carl R. Hansen Woods, Sutton Rd/Rte 59, south of Shoe Factory Rd, Hoffman Estates



Photo by Friends of Cycling in Elk Grove

Busse Night Ride*

Ride the trail at sunset, twilight or in the dark! Ticket includes live music, bonfires, refreshments and more. Register: www.egvbikes.org.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 6–11 pm

Busse Lake Boating Center, E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village

**Registration required. For more information or registration, call 773.758.8899.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–12

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



Art in Nature Festival

Create your own masterpiece using different mediums. Enjoy music and dance performances. Art and food available for purchase.

Sunday, Aug 30 • 11 am–3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Explore Nature Play

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

Every Day

Baby Buds

Join us for nature-themed interactive songs and stories. Ages 0–23 months w/ adult. Tickets first come, first served.

Thursdays, Jun 18, Jul 16, Aug 20 • 9:30 am

Wee Wandering Wednesdays

Ages 2–6 w/ adult. Limited tickets available; ticket giveaway starts at 9:30 am.

Wednesdays, Jun 10, Jul 1, Aug 5 • 10 am

Senior Nature Club*

Discover the natural world with nature-themed activities. Ages 55 & up.

Thursdays, Jun 4, Jul 9, Aug 13 • 10 am

Meet Our Ambassador Animals

Meet the animals that call Crabtree home.

Saturdays, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8 • 11 am

Animal Enrichment Studio

Create items for our ambassador animals, then watch how enrichment is part of their daily care.

Tuesdays, Jun 16 & Jul 14 • 11 am

Morning Prairie Walk

Join us for a hike around Phantom Prairie. Ages 12 & up.

Wednesdays, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19 • 8:30 am

Sunset Photography Meetup*

Join nature photographers for a guided walk to explore the grounds and capture nature in the fading light of dusk.

Friday, Jun 5 • 7:30 pm

Wednesday, Jul 29 • 7:30 pm

Thursday, Aug 27 • 6:30 pm

Summer Artisan Series*

Get crafty each month on select evenings.

Wednesdays

Firefly Paint & Hike: Jun 24 • 8 pm

Papermaking: Jul 22 • 7 pm

Floral Arranging: Aug 26 • 7 pm

Junior Naturalist Walk

Earn a Junior Naturalist badge by taking a short walk, then doing an indoor activity book. Ages 6–12 w/ caregiver.

Sundays, Jul 19 & Aug 23 • 10 am

JUNE

Senior Forest Therapy Walk & Sound Bath*

Experience forest bathing. Presented with Gayle Byck from InTune with Nature. Ages 55 & up.

Thursday, Jun 4 • 10 am–Noon



Moonlight Sound Workshop*

Sound excursion on our trails with the Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology and Wandering Paths, LLC.

Saturday, Jun 6 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Family Fishing Exploration Day*

Discover the wonders beneath the waters of the preserves. Learn to fish, examine specimens and create art with your family.

Friday, Jun 19 • 10 am–1 pm

LGBTQ2S+ Nature Trivia*

Join us for a celebration of all things queer in nature.

Sunday, Jun 14 • 1 pm

Furry But Not Friendly

Join us for an indoor presentation on some of the mustelids (weasels) within Cook County. Ages 12 & up.

Tuesday, Jun 23 • 10 am

Nature's Fireworks*

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

Friday, June 26 • 8:30 pm

International Mud Day

Play and create with mud! Please dress for a muddy experience.

Sunday, Jun 28 • Noon–2 pm

JULY

Disability Pride Month Trail Exhibit

Learn about environmentalists with disabilities and celebrate the important work being done around the world.

Jul 1–31 • 9 am–5 pm daily

Nature Play-Date

Join other families in our nature play area for fun and socializing.

Wednesday, Jul 8 • 9:30 am–Noon

Pond Dip

Discover what tiny critters are living in the pond in this hands-on science program. Ages 5 & up.

Sunday, Jul 12 • 10 am



What is Restoration?

Join us for a short walk and talk: What is restoration and why is it important? If interested, sign up for the Restoration Workday that takes place after.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 9 am

Restoration Workday*

Help us restore prairie habitat by removing invasive species. Equipment provided. Ages 8 & up.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 10:30 am–Noon

Continued on page 16.

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

847.381.6592



AUGUST

Let's Go Find Some Bugs

Play bug bingo as we hunt for the best bugs of the summer.

Sunday, Aug 9 • 1 pm

Watercolor Workshop: Berry-based Paints*

Join Navraaz Basati of Wandering Paths, LLC on a forest therapy walk, then paint using plant-based inks on seed paper.

Saturday, Aug 15 • 10 am–Noon

Prairie Pages*

Join our adult nature book club with the Barrington Area Library! Discuss “Eager: The Surprising Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter” by Ben Goldfarb.

Tuesday, Aug 18 • 1 pm

Twilight Canoe*

Explore the wonders of Crabtree Lake at twilight. Presented with Chicago River Canoe and Kayak. Ages 18 & up.

*Thursday, Aug 20 & Friday, Aug 21
6:30–8:30 pm*

Restoration Workday*

Help us restore prairie habitat by removing invasive species. Equipment provided. Ages 8 & up.

Saturday, Aug 22 • 10 am–Noon

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

847.381.6592

**Join Us at an Event
to Celebrate!**



Scan to learn more:
fpdcc.com/250



Experience America's story where it lives, in the landscapes, wildlife and traditions that have shaped 250 years of history.

North Zone



**CALDWELL WOODS
WELLNESS CENTER**
6350 W Devon Ave,
Chicago

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON Weekly Programming at Caldwell Woods Wellness Center

Join us for exciting new programs every Thursday! Visit fpdcc.com, call 773.758.8899 or email northzoneprogram@cookcountyil.gov for details.

JUNE

Yoga in the Preserves*

Vinyasa yoga class for all ages and skill levels. Led by Kim Eisendrath. Cost: \$5/ person due at registration.

Thursdays • 9:30–10:45 am

Smart Cycling Workshop*

Learn skills to become a confident, competent bicyclist certified through the League of American Bicyclists. Ages 12 & up. Pre-course work and minimal fees required. Register: www.rideillinois.org.

Sunday, Jun 7 • 9 am

Summer Solstice Forest Bathing*

Discover the health benefits of being in nature. Meditation led by Gayle Byck of InTune with Nature. Ages 18 & up.

Thursday, Jun 11 • 10 am–Noon

Ethnobotany & The Power of Plants*

Discover the healing stories of Chicago's landscapes in this immersive indoor-outdoor herbalism workshop. Led by University of Illinois-Extension.

Wednesday, Jun 17 • 10 am–Noon

Story Trail: Juneteenth

Experience a story unfolding along a short trail. A craft is available to take home upon story trail completion.

Thursday, Jun 18 • 10 am & 2 pm

Nature Arts for Health*

Experience the positive interaction between nature art and wellness in this fun, interactive art class. Led by University of Illinois-Extension.

Thursdays • 1:30–3 pm

Jun 18: Plein Air Watercolor

Jul 16: Cyanotype Printing

Aug 20: Nature Journal Making

Food Security Gardens with Native Plants*

Led by Wandering Paths Founder and flower farmer Navraaz Kaur Basati. Explore native plants that are traditionally used as food.

Thursday, Jun 25 • 10 am



International Mud Day Celebration

Dress for a mess as you splash and squish in the mud! Presented with Hive Center for the Book Arts and Niles-Maine Library.

Saturday, Jun 27 • 10 am–Noon

JULY

Feel Free Self-Guided Reflection Hike

Explore freedom and resilience in nature while celebrating Independence Day through guided reflection prompts.

Thursday, Jul 2 • 11 am–4 pm

Awaken Your Senses*

Join this senses-based wellness workshop for all ages and skill levels. Led by Kim Eisendrath.

Thursday, Jul 9 • 4:30–6:30 pm

Back-to-School Community Adventure Day

Ring in the school year with us! Presented with ICNA Chicago, Hive Center for the Book Arts, Niles Maine Library and many others.

Saturday, Aug 1 • 10 am–1 pm

AUGUST

Digital Detox in the Garden*

Led by Wandering Paths Founder and flower farmer Navraaz Kaur Basati. Learn how plants can help us disconnect from our devices.

Thursday, Aug 27 • 10 am

Additional North Zone Events

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. Register: theallianceforec.org.

Monday, Jun 1 • 9:30–11:30 am

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

Paddle the Upper Des Plaines River: Part 1*

Paddle the river and witness the surrounding flora and fauna. Equipment provided. Ages 12 & up. Presented with Chicago River Canoe & Kayak.

Saturday, Jun 6 • 9 am–2 pm

Launch: Allison Woods, Milwaukee Ave & Winkleman Rd, Northbrook

Take Out: Northwestern Woods, Joseph Schwab Rd, south of Minor St, Des Plaines

Continued on page 21

**Registration required. For more information or registration, please email northzoneprogram@cookcountyil.gov or call 773.758.8899.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–12

Adaptive Adventures Start Here!



Join us to learn how to kayak
and move along unpaved trails.

Learn more

fpdcc.com/accessibility



Funding for this program provided
in part by the Illinois Department of
Commerce and Economic Opportunity.



Dog Days of Summer

Join us for adoption opportunities, canoe paddles, training tips, treats and more. Dogs must be pet/person-friendly and on leash.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 10 am–Noon

Beck Lake, East River Rd &
Central Rd, Des Plaines

History of the Lagoons Paddle*

Explore the uniqueness of Skokie Lagoons by water. Equipment provided. Presented with Chicago River Canoe & Kayak.

Friday, Jun 12 • 5:30–7 pm

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

Share the Trails: Cycling Pit Stop

Get your helmet fit, tires inflated, bike checked and learn about trail safety. Presented by Ride Illinois.

**Sundays, Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 30
2:30–4:30 pm**

LaBagh Woods, Grove 4, N Cicero Ave,
north of W Foster Ave, Chicago

Paddle the Upper Des Plaines River: Part 2*

Paddle the river and witness the surrounding flora and fauna. Equipment provided. Ages 12 & up. Presented with Chicago River Canoe & Kayak.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 9 am–2 pm

Launch: Northwestern Woods, Joseph
Schwab Rd, south of Minor St,
Des Plaines

Take Out: Irving Park Road Canoe
Landing, Des Plaines River Rd, north
of Irving Park Rd, Schiller Park

Full Moon Paddle*

Enjoy an exclusive after-hours sunset and moonlit paddle through the Skokie Lagoons. Register: Chicagoriver.org/events

Saturday, Jul 25 • 7–10:30 pm

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

Nature Wellness Walk*

Relaxing mindfulness and meditative practice during this leisure walk. Presented by University of Illinois-Extension. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Aug 15 • 10 am–Noon

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

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



The Buzz on Bees

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

Sundays, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 23
1:30 pm

Photo by Jerry Attere

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

What's On The Menu?

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

Saturdays & Sundays • 3 pm

Wildlife Connections

Drop in program to learn about animals from the residents of Misericordia-Heart of Mercy.

Tuesdays • 10:30 am–Noon

Volunteer Workdays*

Help us work to make River Trail even better. Ages 8 & up; ages 8–14 w/adult.

Saturdays, Jun 13 & Aug 8 • 10 am–Noon

Small Serendipity

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

Tuesdays, Jun 9, 23; Jul 7, 21; Aug 4, 18
10 am

Hawk Talk

Learn about one of our resident raptors.

Saturdays, Jun 20 & Aug 22 • 1:30 pm

Fridays in the Field

Drop in to discover something new in nature with University of Illinois-Extension volunteers.

Fridays, Jun 26–Aug 7 • 10 am–Noon

Nature Wellness Walk*

Learn techniques for using relaxing mindfulness and meditative practices. Led by the University of Illinois-Extension volunteer, Roberta Jannsen. Ages 18 & up.

Saturday, Jul 11 • 11 am–12:30 pm &
Sunday, Aug 2 • 1–2:30 pm

JUNE

Build a Pollinator Hotel*

Come learn about local pollinators and build an insect hotel.

Sunday, Jun 7 • 1–2:30 pm



Campfire Stories*

Enjoy stories, songs and s'mores around the campfire. Cost: \$5/person.

Thursday, Jun 11 • 7:30 pm

All About Snakes

Learn about local snakes.

Sunday, Jun 14 • 1:30 pm

The Un-buried Treasure Hunt

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

Sunday, Jun 21 • 11 am–2 pm

JULY

Red, White and Whooo

An up-close look at one of our owls.

Saturday, Jul 4 & Sunday, Jul 5 • 1:30 pm

Bug-a-Palooza

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

Sunday, Jul 12 • 1:30 pm

Sunset Hike*

A guided walk to learn about local wildlife who begin their day as the sun begins to set. Cost: \$5/person.

Thursday, Jul 23 • 7:30 pm

Stranger Things

Explore the unusual and mysterious natural world around us.

Sunday, Jul 26 • 1:30 pm

Cell Phone Photography for Teens*

Explore our trails through a camera lens to learn tips on taking nature photos with your cell phone. Ages 13–17.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 1 pm

Women's Night Out: Full Moon Empowerment*

An evening designed to empower, connect and inspire. Led by Gayle Byck of InTune with Nature. Cost: \$10/person. Ages 18 & up.

Wednesday, Jul 29 • 8 pm

AUGUST

Cooler in the Forest

Take a walk to discover and discuss the highlights of the season.

Sunday, Aug 9 • 1:30 pm

Bat Chat*

Learn about these fascinating creatures while watching for them over the river.

Thursday, Aug 13 • 8 pm

River Monsters*

Search for and study the aquatic life of the Des Plaines River.

Sunday, Aug 16 • Noon–2 pm

**Registration required. For more information or registration, call*

847.824.8360

CENTRAL ZONE

Insect Fest

Join us for this all-things-insect event! Go on a bug hunt, experience an insect petting zoo and more!

Thursday, Jun 16 • 11 am–2 pm

Cummings Square
536 N Harlem Ave,
River Forest



THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Children's Storytime

Listen to a nature-themed children's book read aloud, followed by an activity.

Wednesdays, Jun 10, Jul 8 & Aug 5 • 9:30 am

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

JUNE

Community Book Swap

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

Friday, Jun 5 • 4:30–6:30 pm

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

Underground Railroad Walking Tour*

Celebrate Juneteenth with a 1.5-mile walking tour highlighting notable sites connected to Freedom Seekers. Led by the Midwest Underground Railroad Network.

Friday, Jun 12 • 9:30–Noon

Thatcher Glen Pond, 738 Thatcher Ave,
River Forest

Nature Wellness Walk*

Reconnect with nature. Relax and meditate during a leisurely walk. Ages 18 & up.

Register: go.illinois.edu/cookcountyevents

Saturday, Jun 13 • 10 am–Noon

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

Wildlife Pride Walk

Join a 1.6-mile walk to learn about the anatomy and relationships of native wildlife.

Saturday, Jun 13 • 2 pm

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

Community Fishing Clinic

Free fishing clinic for new or novice anglers. Equipment provided. Ages 6–15 w/ adult. Presented with Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Tuesday, Jun 16 • 5–7 pm

Cermak Woods, 7600 W Ogden Ave,
Lyons

American Indian Summer Solstice

Celebrate the solstice with dancing, drumming, storytelling and art. Presented by American Indian Center of Chicago.

Saturday, Jun 20 • 11 am–1 pm

Schiller Woods-East, Grove 13, W Irving
Park Rd, west of N Cumberland Ave,
Chicago

ADA Nature Walk*

Explore local nature in this accessibility-focused walk.

Saturday, Jun 27 • 9:30 am

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

Kayak the Des Plaines*

Kayak 3 miles from Schuth's Grove to Plank Road Meadow. Equipment and shuttle provided. Beginners welcome.

Sunday, Jun 28 • 9 am–Noon

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

JULY

Kayak the Des Plaines*

Kayak 9 miles from Irving Park Road to Schuth's Grove. Equipment and shuttle provided. Experience recommended.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 9 am-2 pm

Irving Park Road Canoe Landing,
Des Plaines River Rd, north of Irving
Park Rd, Schiller Park

**Nature Wellness Walk***

Reconnect with nature. Meditate and relax during a leisurely walk. Ages 18 & up.

Register: go.illinois.edu/cookcountyevents

Saturday, Jul 18 • 10 am-Noon

Sunset Bridge Meadow, North Ave,
east of N 1st Ave, River Grove

Indigenous Games & Activities

Join the American Indian Center of Chicago for traditional Indigenous games and activities.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 10 am-12:30 pm

Schiller Woods-East, Grove 13,
W Irving Park Rd, west of N Cumberland Ave, Chicago

Art in Nature: Sun Printing

With natural materials and drawings, use the sun to make a one-of-a-kind print. Supplies provided. Drop in.

Friday, Jul 31 • 1-3 pm

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

AUGUST

Teen Restoration Workday

Improve native wildlife habitat by removing invasive species. Equipment and tools provided. Ages 15 & under w/ adult.

Register: tinuyr.com/evansfieldsummer.

Saturday, Aug 1 • 10 am-Noon

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

**Craftpalooza**

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

Friday, Aug 14 • 10 am-Noon

National Grove-South, Grove 2,
Groveland Ave, north of 31st St,
North Riverside

Cultural Presentation and Dance Exhibition

A showcase of Native dance forms and cultural presentations. Presented with the American Indian Center of Chicago.

Saturday, Aug 15 • 5-7 pm

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

Kayak the Salt Creek Water Trail*

Kayak 9 miles from Bemis Woods to Plank Road Meadow. Equipment and shuttle provided. Experience required.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 9 am-2 pm

Bemis Woods-North Canoe Landing,
Wolf Rd, south of 31st St, Oak Brook

**Registration required. For more information or registration, please email centralzoneprogram@cookcountyl.gov or call 312.533.5751.*

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4-12

Red, White

A Star-Spangled Scavenger Hunt

America's 250th anniversary

is the perfect excuse to pay close attention to the colors that surround you when taking in nature when you're visiting the Forest Preserves of Cook County. This summer, turn your visit into a Red, White and Blue Scavenger Hunt and see how many patriotic plants and animals you can find!

Here's some ideas to get started.

Red

Look closely and you may spot the bright wings of a **northern cardinal**, one of the most recognizable birds in Illinois.

In summer prairies, the striking petals of **cardinal flower** stand tall and attract hummingbirds with their deep crimson blooms.

Another prairie standout is **fire pink**, a vibrant native wildflower whose fiery red petals seem to glow against green grasses.



& BLOOM:



White

Keep an eye out for **starry campion**, a delicate wildflower with crisp white petals that form a star shape through forests and along woodland edges.



In sunny prairies, **wild quinine** forms clusters of small white blossoms that resemble tiny buttons and provide an important nectar source for pollinators.

If you are lucky, you might spot the graceful **great egret** wading through wetlands with its snowy feathers a standout in the marsh.

Blue

In open areas and woodlands, the cheerful **eastern bluebird** flashes its brilliant blue back as it darts after insects.

Near ponds or slow streams, keep an eye out for the blue **dasher dragonfly**, a tiny streak of blue that zip through the summer air.



Bring the kids, challenge your friends or make it a solo adventure. With a little patience and curiosity, the Forest Preserves is full of red, white and blue surprises waiting to be discovered.



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



Spring Festival

Enjoy interactive programs, kids' tree climb, guided wildflower walks, kid's nature crafts, gardening info and much more!

Saturday, May 2 • Noon–3 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Birdhouse Building Contest Voting

Stroll Trailside's gardens and vote for your favorite birdhouses, made by the public. Winners will be announced in September!

Everyday • 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 9, Jul 14, Aug 11 • 10 am

Fishing Bass-ics

Get hooked on the basics of fishing as we tackle a new topic each class. See website for individual topics.

Wednesdays, Jun 17, Jul 15, Aug 19 • 9 am

Nature Thursdays

Connect to nature with University of Illinois-Extension Master Naturalists through fun inquiry-based activities for both adults and kids. Drop in.

Thursdays • 10 am–Noon

Jun 18: Bug Detective!

Jul 16: Pond Dip Discovery!

Aug 20: Geology-Can you dig it?

Stories in the Forest

Join the River Forest Public Library for storytelling! Ages 0–5 w/ adult. Drop in.

Thursdays, Jun 18–Aug 13 • 10–10:30 am

Restoration Workdays*

Help us restore our natural communities of woodland and prairie. Ages 10 & up. Ages 10–14 w/ adult. Equipment provided.

Sundays, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16 • 9 am–Noon

Bone Appetit

Join us at feeding time as we give our outdoor Ambassador Animals their dinner.

Saturdays, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 29 • 3 pm

JUNE

Pride in the Preserves: Flags & Exhibit

This “raised flags” exhibit highlights the contributions of LGBTQ2S+ conservation leaders whose work has shaped and inspired the conservation movement.

Everyday, Jun 1–30

Trailside Summer Bluegrass Jam

Join this all-American music jam! Come play or listen. Make a simple musical instrument or bring your own.

Sunday, Jun 14 • 1–3 pm

Senior Nature Collaging*

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

Friday, Jun 5 • 10 am–Noon

Nature Book Club: “Why Rats Laugh and Jellyfish Sleep” by D. Stipp*

Discuss the featured book and ponder the hidden depths of familiar animals and ordinary things. Ages 18 & up. Register: fppl.org/eventscal/list/

Thursday, Jun 18 • 7 pm

Forest Park Public Library,
7555 Jackson Blvd, Forest Park

Evening Firefly Walk*

Join us for a guided walk on our woodland trails as twilight settles in and the fireflies begin to twinkle.

Friday, Jun 26 • 8–9 pm

Printmaking 101: Linocuts Workshop*

Learn the art of cutting designs into linoleum blocks and inking prints. All skill levels welcomed. Ages 16 & up.

Sunday, Jun 28 • 1:30 pm

JULY

Red, White & Blue Nature Walk*

Join a naturalist for a guided hike and look for our nation’s flag colors in nature.

Sunday, Jul 5 • 10:30 am

Bird Painting Step-By-Step: Indigo Bunting*

Sketch and paint a bird on a 9x12 canvas. Cost: \$5/person. All skill levels welcomed. Ages 13 & up.

Friday, Jul 10 • 9:30 am–Noon

Teen GPS Mystery Adventure*

A murder most “fowl”! Discover who did it in the bird! Ages 10 & up w/ adult.

Saturday, Jul 18 • 1:30 pm

National Moth Week: Evening Mothing!*

Learn about this elusive night-time pollinator and visit our “moth traps.” Ages 8 & up w/ adult.

Thursday, Jul 23 • 8:30–10 pm

Fishing for Community/Pescando Conexiones

Learn fishing basics, enjoy the beauty of nature and build connections with others. Instructions and equipment provided.

Friday, Jul 24 • 10 am–Noon

High Summer Nature Walk*

Join us for a guided walk to experience the beauty of summer in the gardens and woods surrounding Trailside Museum

Sunday, Jul 26 • 10:30 am

AUGUST

Trailside Resonance: Listening to Nature

A guided soundwalk invites you to slow down and listen to woodland trails, river currents and native animals.

Saturday, Aug 1 • 10 am

Continued on page 31.

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

708.366.6530



Make Your Gathering Green

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

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



Continued from page 29.

Pond Dip Discovery*

Discover what lives on and below the surface of Thatcher Glen Pond? Ages 5-12 w/ adult. Equipment provided.

Sunday, Aug 2 • 10:30 am

Weaving a Community

Learn weaving techniques and its history as well as the natural history of invasive plants. Supplies provided.

Saturday, Aug 8 • 2 pm

Nature Book Club: "I Contain Multitudes" by Ed Yong*

Discuss the featured book which explores the surprising world of our personal microbial partners. Ages 18 & up. Register: fppl.org/events/cal/list/.

Thursday, Aug 20 • 7 pm



Twilight Creations: Open Art Space

Musicians, poets and visual artists find inspiration during the twilight hours indoors or outdoors.

Thursday, Aug 27 • 6-8 pm

Nature Weaving Workshop for Seniors*

Join local artist Phyllis Frick in exploring weaving with natural vegetation, seeds and more. Materials provided.

Friday, Aug 28 • 10 am

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

708.366.6530



THATCHER WOODS

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

Children's Storytime

Listen to a children's book read aloud, followed by an activity.

Wednesday, Jul 8 • 9:30 am

Senior Fitness Walks*

Join us for a gentle, slow-paced 1-mile walk. Led by University of Illinois-Extension volunteer, Roberta Janssen.

**Wednesdays, Jun 3, 17; Jul 1, 15;
Aug 5, 19 • 9 am**

Sacred Wanderings

Connect and surround yourself with nature. Presented by Unity Temple of Oak Park. For more information, email mindful@unitytemple.org.

**Saturdays, Jun 6, Jul 11, Aug 1
8:30-10:30 am**

Forest Therapy Walks

Enjoy a mindful and meditation guided forest therapy walk. Ages 18 & up. Presented by University of Illinois-Extension volunteers.

Sunday, Jun 7 • 1 pm

250

Years of America,
THOUSANDS

*of YEARS of
Stories*



As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is worth remembering that some of the most remarkable pieces of American history are not preserved behind glass. They are preserved in the land itself.

Across Cook County, the Forest Preserves protects landscapes that have witnessed thousands of years of human history, long before the United States was even founded. Walk the trails today and you are stepping into a reminder of the natural wonders of our country, as well as a history lesson.

Archaeologists have documented hundreds of sites within the Forest Preserves that reveal a continuous human presence in our region stretching back more than 10,000 years. Discoveries of pottery fragments, stone tools and other artifacts tell the story of Native American communities who lived, hunted and traveled through the lands of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi—as well as the Miami, Peoria, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sauk and Meskwaki peoples. Many diverse Native Americans still live and practice their heritage and traditions on this land today.

For centuries, Indigenous peoples used a narrow stretch of land in the Chicago Portage preserve to travel between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. In 1673, the Kaskaskia tribe shared knowledge of the portage with French explorers Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette as they searched for a route to the Mississippi River, helping to continue the legacy of Chicago as a transportation hub. Forests and river valleys in and adjacent to the Forest Preserves played a role as routes used by freedom seekers traveling north on the Underground Railroad, moving carefully through natural landscapes that provided shelter and concealment on their journey from slavery.

In a way, the Forest Preserves themselves are now part of American history, part of the same movement around the start of the last century that created the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service. Civic leaders created the Forest Preserves of Cook County in 1915 to protect open natural lands from rapid native prairie and forests from rapid urban development.

The first purchase in 1916 included 500 acres at what is now Deer Grove. Over the decades the system has grown to more than 70,000 acres of protected land across the county. American history has left a mark on the Preserves too, from the Skokie Lagoons, picnic shelters and other projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression to the many lakes in the Preserves created due to the construction of the Interstate Highway system after WWII.

SOUTHWEST ZONE



SWALLOW CLIFF WOODS PAVILION

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

JUNE

Community Book Swap

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

Saturday, Jun 6 • 11 am–2 pm



Owl Pellet Dissection*

Dissect an owl pellet and learn about local owls. Supplies provided. Ages 10 & up. Ages 10–17 w/ adult.

Thursday, Jun 25 • 10–11:30 am

AUGUST

Trace Monotype Printing

Learn about monotype printmaking! Create your own one-of-a-kind print. Materials provided. All levels welcome. Drop in.

Thursday, Aug 13 • 11 am–1 pm

Additional Southwest Zone Events

THROUGHOUT the SEASON

Wellness in the Woods: Fitness Walk

Join a Master Naturalist for a brisk walk around this 3-mile paved trail.

Fridays, Jun 5, Jul 10, Aug 14 • 6 pm

Yankee Woods, Central Ave, north of 167th St, Tinley Park

Intro to Kayaking Class*

Learn basic skills for beginner kayakers. Equipment provided. Register: call 312.533.5756.

*Sundays, Jun 21, Jul 12, Aug 16
10 am–Noon*

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

Naturalist Night Out

Join a naturalist for a themed stroll under the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place.

Wednesdays & Thursdays • 7–8:30 pm

Jun 17: Bats

Jul 22: Fireflies

Jul 2: Owls

Aug 19: Senses

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



JUNE

Community Paddle

Drop in and experience a guided paddle tour on a voyager canoe. Limited spots available; first come, first served.

Friday, Jun 26 • 10 am–Noon

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

JULY

Crafternoon: Mosaics and Collages

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

Friday, Jul 17 • Noon–2 pm

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

Community Fishing Clinic

Free clinic for anglers. Equipment provided.
Presented with Illinois Department of
Natural Resources. Ages 6 & up. Ages
6–17 w/ adult.

Friday, Jul 24 • 5–7 pm

Sundown Meadow, S LaGrange Rd,
north of 67th St, Countryside

Summer Wildflower Walk

Join a guided walk to discover blooming
summer wildflowers, learn about species
and enjoy nature.

Thursday, Jul 30 • 5 pm

St. Mihiel Woods-East, Central Ave,
south of 167th St, Tinley Park

AUGUST

Native American Heritage Wildflower Walk

Honor Native American culture and focus
on their deep, respectful and reciprocal
relationship with the natural world.

Thursday, Aug 6 • 5 pm

St. Mihiel Woods-East, Central Ave,
south of 167th St, Tinley Park

Painting by the Slough*

Enjoy the beauty of freshwater ecosystems
through watercolor painting. Ages 18 &
up. All levels welcome.

Saturday, Aug 8 • 10 am–Noon

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

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

EXPLORE MORE



PAGES 4–12

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



TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Earn professional development hours while spending time outside in the Forest Preserves! (Fees required)

Geology & Herpetology: The Bridging of Two Sciences*

Learn how geological forces shape the ecology of reptiles and amphibians. Presented by Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Register: enticeworkshops.com/

Saturday, Jun 13 • 9 am–3 pm

Field Biology*

Expand your knowledge of local natural communities and gain field experience through investigations into the environment. Register: email sagawau@cookcountyil.gov.

Tuesday, Jul 14–Thursday, Jul 16
9:30 am–2:30 pm

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Ecological Restoration Weekend*

Contribute to conservation as you help restore Sagawau's diverse ecosystems by removing invasive plants species.

Saturdays, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 29
9:30–11:30 am

Bird Banding

Visit Sagawau's bird banders to see and learn about banding. Drop in.

Sundays, Jun 7; Jul 5, 26; Aug 2 • 9 am

JUNE

Walk with Pride!

Take a self-guided walk and learn about LGBTQ2S+ people in conservation.

Monday, Jun 1–Tuesday, Jun 30

Uncommon Tree ID*

Learn field characteristics of lesser-known tree species. Ages 18 & up.

Sunday, Jun 7 • 1 pm

Fantastic Fireflies*

Join a Sagawau firefly expert for a discussion of their ecology and a firefly viewing. Ages 12 & up.

Tuesday, Jun 16 • 7:30–9:30 pm

Juneteenth Walk

Join us for a walk focusing on the contributions made by African American naturalists.

Friday, Jun 19 • 1 pm

America's Original Wildlife*

Learn how iconic species helped shape America's landscapes, ecosystems and culture. Ages 13 & up.

Sunday, Jun 21 • 1 pm

Teen Biodiversity Day*

Spend the day in the field with naturalists to discover the diversity of life in the Forest Preserves. Ages 13 & up.

Tuesday, Jun 23 • 9 am–Noon

JULY**Prairie Fireworks**

Follow signs for a self-guided hike to learn about prairie influence on history, culture and its explosion of colorful flowers.

Saturday, Jul 4–Friday, Jul 31

Nature Hike*

Join a naturalist for a short hike as we take in the sounds and sights at Sagawau. Age 18 & up.

Sunday, Jul 19 • 1 pm

Majestic Moths*

Learn about moths and watch a moth trapping demonstration.

Tuesday, Jul 21 • 7:30–9:30 pm

AUGUST**Insect Investigation***

Join a naturalist as we investigate this fascinating group of organisms.

Sunday, Aug 23 • 10:30 am

Listening to Nature*

Sound artist Norman W. Long leads a focused listening soundwalk exploring the Sagawau soundscape. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 1 pm

**HUMMINGBIRD
EVENTS****Hummingbird Trivia***

Join us for a day of trivia to learn about hummingbirds in our hummingbird garden. Ages 13 & up.

Saturday, Aug 1 • 10 am–Noon

**Hummingbird
Fest**

Let's celebrate hummingbirds!

Watch hummingbird banding demonstrations, learn about their migration, behaviors and physiology, make crafts with kids, and more.

Saturday, Aug 15 • 9 am–2 pm

The Jewels of Mexico*

An indoor presentation explores the legend of hummingbirds and their cultural significance in Mexico. Followed by walk to hummingbird garden.

Saturday, Aug 22 • 1 pm

Happy Hummingbirds*

Visit the Hummingbird Garden in this accessible program to watch and learn about hummingbirds, gardening and feeder maintenance.

English and Spanish.

Sunday, Aug 30 • 9–11 am

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

630.257.2045

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

Sunset Serenity Hike*

Enjoy the quiet of sunset as we explore the woods on a casual 2-mile hike. Ages 13 & up.

Monday, Jun 1 & Wednesday, Jul 29 • 8 pm

Little Red Rocks*

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

Sundays, Jun 7 & Aug 23 • 6:30–8:30 pm

Everyone in Nature*

Join us for a sensory class where homeschoolers and individuals with disabilities can learn about nature. Participants of all ages w/ guardian.

Wednesdays, Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 12 • 1 pm

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

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

Thursdays, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 13 • 10 am

R.I.P. Stewardship*

Help Remove Invasive Plants; tools, gloves, snacks and teamwork included! Ages 15 & under w/ adult.

Saturdays, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8 • 10 am–Noon

Sunrise Hike*

Join us for an early morning hike to witness the beauty of a new day.

Sundays, Jun 14, Jul 12 • 4:45 am

Sunday, Aug 9 • 5:15 am

Nature's Art Box*

Nature art fun! Ages 3–6 w/ adult. Supplies included.

Thursdays, Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27 • 10:30 am

Fridays in the Field

University of Illinois–Extension Master Naturalists will connect visitors with nature through inquiry-based activities when the buildings are closed.

Fridays, Jun 26–Aug 7 • 10 am–Noon

JUNE

Summer Bird Hike

Hike a trail with a naturalist to look for and listen to our summer frequent flyers.

Saturday, Jun 6 • 8 am

To Catch a Crayfish

We'll set out traps and explore the amazing arthropods we discover. Ages 7 & up.

Saturday, Jun 20 • 10:30 am

Feeding Time

Learn about the diets of our ambassador animals, their habitats and observe a feeding demonstration.

Saturday, Jun 27 • 11 am



Nature Soundwalk!

Join us for an acoustic ecology hike led by the Midwest Society for Acoustic Ecology.

Saturday, Jun 27 • 1 pm

JULY

Dark Night Rising*

Use binoculars and technology to look for and listen to bat signals on this 1-mile hike.

Tuesday, Jul 7 • 7:45 pm

Flickering Fireflies*

See fireflies, nature's fireworks, glow in the dark before going on a 1-mile adventure to catch and release these creatures.

Friday, Jul 10 • 8:30 pm

Searching for the Endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly

Bring your binoculars for a close-up look at dragonflies near the water. Ages 10 & up.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 10:30 am

Wild About Play

Unleash your wild side! Create enrichment items for our ambassador animals. Groups welcome. Drop in.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 11 am

AUGUST

Summertime Stories

The Naperville Chinese Storytellers share stories in Chinese followed by nature-based art and activities. Ages 10 & under w/ adult.

Sunday, Aug 16 • 11 am

Partial Eclipse of the Moon*

Bring a chair and experience a breathtaking partial total lunar eclipse as it slowly transforms the night sky.

*Thursday, Aug 27-Friday, Aug 28
9:30 pm-12:30 am*

Meet the Birds

Stop by to see our birds at mealtime.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 2 pm

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

708.839.6897

SOUTH ZONE

DAN RYAN WOODS

THROUGHOUT *the* SEASON

Wellness in the Woods: Yoga

Join a 1-hour yoga class. Dress in active wear and bring a yoga mat.

Saturdays, Jun 27 & Jul 18 • 11 am–Noon

Dan Ryan Woods-Central,
Grove 10, S Western Ave, south of W
83rd St, Chicago

Saturdays, Aug 8 • 11 am–Noon

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

Nature Skate Day

Bring your best skating skills routines or just roll along to the music.

Friday, Aug 21 • 5:30–8 pm

Dan Ryan Woods-East, Grove 13 & 14

DAN RYAN VISITOR CENTER

S Western Ave & W 87th St, Chicago

JUNE

Family Pride Day

Celebrate love and inclusion!

Saturday, Jun 6 • 11 am–2 pm

Juneteenth Freedom Ride

Join this 16-mile cycling celebration with Major Taylor Trail Keepers and local bike clubs. BYO-bike and helmet.

Friday, Jun 19 • 6–8:30 pm

Night of Nature Play

Experience nature at night through open play, star gazing and s'mores.

Wednesday, Jun 24 • 7–9 pm

Open Nature Play Day

Children can connect to nature.

Wednesday, Jul 1 • 10 am–2 pm

BEAUBIEN WOODS BOAT LAUNCH

S Western Ave and W 87th St, Chicago

Little Cal Paddles

Join Chicago Adventure Therapy for a guided paddle in 10-person voyager canoe exploring the history, people and stories that shape the community.

**Saturdays, Jun 13, Jul 18, Aug 8
10 am–1 pm**

Hike the Freedom Trail: Bus & Walking Tour*

Follow the tale of Freedom Seekers. Registration opens one month prior to event date: fpdcc.com. Presented with the Midwest Underground Railroad Network.

Saturday, Jun 13 • 11 am–1:30 pm

Freedom Trail: Paddle Tour*

Follow the tale of Freedom Seekers on 10-persons voyager canoes. Registration opens one month prior to event date: fpdcc.com. Presented with The Midwest Underground Railroad Network.

**Thursday, Jun 18 & Saturday, Jun 27
10 am–1 pm**



Beaubien Woods Celebration

Enjoy archery, canoeing at Flatfoot Lake and engaging activities from our community partners. Pre-register: 2026BeaubienWoodsCelebration.eventbrite.com

Saturday, Jun 13 • 11 am–3 pm

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



Kids' Fest*

Embrace the beauty of summer and the wonders of nature. Community partners offer fishing, canoeing, archery and more.

Registration is encouraged:
2026Kidsfest.eventbrite.com

Saturday, Jul 11 • 10 am-3 pm

Wampum Lake,
Thornton-Lansing Rd



AUGUST

Plant and Paddle*

Help restore habitat by planting native species from canoes. Gear provided. Presented with Friends of the Chicago River. Register: chicagoriver.org/events

**Thursday, Aug 20 & Saturday, Aug 22
9:30 am-1 pm**

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

Additional South Zone Events

JUNE

Nature Photography

Enjoy the summer landscapes and bring your own camera to capture the beauty along our trail

Thursday, Jun 11 • 8 am

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

Community Paddle*

Open community paddle on 10-person canoes. Registration opens one month prior to event date: fpdcc.com.

Sunday, Jun 28 • 10 am-1 pm

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

JULY

Calling of the Frogs

Join a frog monitor to learn how to identify local frogs by sound.

Thursday, Jul 2 • 7-8:30 pm

Whistler Woods, Forest View Ave, east
of S Halsted Ave, Riverdale



Night of Nature Play

Experience nature at night through open play, star gazing and s'mores.

Friday, Aug 28 • 7-9 pm

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

**Registration required. Please email southzoneprogram@cookcountyil.gov or call 708.771.9632 for more information and to register.*

EXPLORE MORE



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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 Jubilee

Celebrate freedom, family and country with activities, refreshments and performances highlighting Black history.

Saturday, Jun 20 • 11 am–3 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 6, Jul 4, Aug 1 • 1:30 pm

Wee Wonders*

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

Wednesdays • 10 am & Sundays • 1 pm

Jun 10 & 14: Woodpeckers

Jul 8 & 12: Pollinators

Aug 12 & 16: Hummingbirds

JUNE

Evening Stroll*

Enjoy the extended daylight of summer on an after-hour 1-mile guided walk.

Saturday, Jun 6 • 5:30 pm

Birding By Ear*

Join us for a birding adventure to learn some mnemonics and other tips to ID birds by their songs.

Saturday, Jun 13 • 8–10 am

Juneteenth Reflection Hike

Self-guided Juneteenth reflection hike exploring freedom, resilience and belonging through thoughtful prompts.

Friday, Jun 19 • 10 am–3:30 pm

Teen Restoration Sunday*

Help us improve our wildlife habitat by cutting and removing invasive species. Ages 12 & up.

Sunday, Jun 28 • 9:30 am–Noon

JULY

Freedom in Nature Self-Guided Reflection Hike

Explore freedom and resilience in nature while celebrating Independence Day through guided reflection prompts along the trail.

Saturday, Jul 4 • 10 am–3:30 pm

Red, White & Black*

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

Saturday, Jul 4 • 10 am

Wild Edibles Walk*

Learn about wild plants with culinary and medicinal uses on a casual walk.

Sunday, Jul 5 • 10 am

AUGUST**Natural Dyes Workshop***

Learn how to turn natural materials into fabric dyes. Color a bandana or bring your own 100% cotton item. Ages 10 & up.

Sunday, Aug 9 • Noon–2 pm

Outdoor Education Camp*

Children learn teambuilding skills in survival challenges, activities and games. Group 1: ages 6–8. Group 2: ages 9–11. Cost: \$25/child.

*Monday, Aug 17–Thursday, Aug 20
8:30 am–12:30 pm*

The Hum About Hummingbirds*

Drop in to learn about hummingbirds and observe them at our feeders. Light refreshments provided.

Saturday, Aug 22 • 8–10 am

**CAMP SHABBONA WOODS**

15810 S Torrence Ave, South Holland

JUNE**Campfire Cooking***

Learn how to set up a safe and clean campground kitchen, use a stove, start a fire and prepare breakfast.

Sunday, Jun 7 • 8 am

Night of the Frogs*

Join our bilingual night walk to hear seasonal frog calls and other nocturnal creatures. Ages 16 & up.

Saturday, Jun 13 • 7:30 pm

JULY**Summer Stargazing***

Take a short walk, learn how to read a sky map and identify constellations.

Saturday, Jul 11 • 8 pm

Nothing*

Kick off National Moth Week by learning how to attract and observe these misunderstood nocturnal insects.

Friday, Jul 17 • 7:30 pm

Campus Block Party

Celebrate summer at the campground with family and friends! Enjoy artmaking, games, food and more.

Saturday, Jul 25 • 11 am–3 pm

Hip Hop Camp-Out*

A camping experience blending hip hop culture, nature, wellness and community. Presented with the Chicago Hip Hop Heritage Museum. Register: hiphopcampout.com.

*Friday, Jul 31 • 3 pm–Sunday,
Aug 2–Noon*

AUGUST**Night Walk***

Join us for evening explorations at the campground as we walk the trails after hours!

Saturday, Aug 1 • 8 pm

Bat & Nighthawk Walk*

Join us for a walk around our 1-mile dogwood trail and look for and listen to bats and nighthawks.

Saturday, Aug 29 • 7:30 pm

**Registration required.
For more information or
registration, call*

708.868.0606



Explore Even More in *Nature*

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

Looking for *free* admission days?

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



NATURE SKATE DAY

Friday, August 21

5:30–8 pm

Dan Ryan Woods-East,
Grove 13 & 14

Helmets required.

*Limited helmets
available. All Ages!*



Scan to learn more:
fpdcc.com/motion



The Forest Preserves 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 630.453.7887.**

Toni Preckwinkle, *President*
Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners

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