

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2025



The New Look
of Winter?

Better Garden Go-Tos

Winter Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



On Nov. 5 DuPage County voters showed their overwhelming support of the Forest Preserve District's mission by approving a referendum to support District operations. This outcome highlights our community's collective dedication to safeguarding the natural beauty and biodiversity of the county's woodlands, wetlands, and prairies, ensuring their preservation for future generations.

This investment in our future enables us to continue preserving, restoring, and maintaining DuPage County's forests, open spaces, and essential air and water quality. It will support our ability to acquire key lands to protect vital rivers, watersheds, and wildlife habitats, plant trees, and enhance flood control and drainage infrastructure. Furthermore, it will provide us with the resources to continue offering nature education and outdoor activities for individuals of all ages while improving accessibility and ensuring safety in our forest preserves.

The funding will also allow us to enhance recreational facilities, including trails and campgrounds, ensuring they remain enjoyable and accessible for all.

With 63% of voters showing their approval, this outcome is a strong affirmation of the value placed on open spaces and environmental conservation throughout DuPage County. We do not take this responsibility lightly and are committed to ensuring these resources are preserved and cared for in the years to come.

Daniel Hebreard

President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



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For schedules and agendas or to watch live or recorded meetings, visit dupageforest.org.



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Winter 2025, Vol. 62, No. 1



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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dupageforest.org

The Conservationist is a quarterly publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Subscriptions are free for DuPage County residents and \$5 per year for nonresidents. To subscribe or unsubscribe, call 630-933-7248 or email forest@dupageforest.org. You can also read this and previous issues 24/7 at dupageforest.org. To receive an email when each new issue is available online, email forest@dupageforest.org.



contents

Vol. 62, No. 1 | **Winter 2025**



4



6



8



16



18

- 4 **News & Notes**
- 6 **The New Look of Winter?**
- 8 **Winter Calendar**
- 16 **Better Garden Go-Tos**
- 18 **Directory**
- 19 **Map**

On the cover: Red-winged blackbird

OUR *Mission*

To acquire and hold lands for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure and recreation of DuPage County citizens

news & notes

NONNATIVE HYDRILLA FOUND IN DUPAGE

Considered one of the world's worst aquatic weeds, hydrilla was recently discovered in DuPage County, although not in a forest preserve. This is the first-known occurrence in DuPage and only the second-known report in Illinois.

The highly invasive hydrilla can grow up to an inch per day and form dense mats several feet thick that can severely interfere with boating and fishing and harm native aquatic wildlife. Control and eradication efforts can cost millions of dollars over many years.

Hydrilla moves from lake to lake via boats, boat trailers, fishing gear, and natural currents. To limit the spread of this invasive plant and other aquatic invasive species:

- Remove all plants, animals, and mud from any equipment that's used in any body of water.
- Drain all water from boats and gear.
- Dry everything thoroughly with a towel or heat.
- Never dump plants or animals from aquariums or water gardens in any body of water.

If you think you've identified hydrilla, notify the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Nuisance Species Program at dnr.ans@illinois.gov.



THANK YOU *for Being a Friend*

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County gratefully acknowledges those who donated \$500 or more during the third quarter of 2024. The Friends engages the community in philanthropy to advance the District's mission-aligned programs and master plan projects for the benefit of wildlife and wild areas and to increase sustainability in the forest preserves.

Gift of \$10,000 or More

Anonymous
CNH Industrial Foundation

Gift of \$5,000 – \$9,999

Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Domtar Paper Company
Nicor Gas Company
Daniel W. Soline
Target

Gift of \$2,500 – \$4,999

Friends of Danada, Inc
nora fleming
Republic Bank of Chicago
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Wheaton Bank and Trust

Gift of \$1,000 – \$2,499

The Baran Family Fund
Ferrari Plumbing, Inc.
Monica Sentoff Charitable Fund
Montano's Landscaping

Gift of \$1,000 – \$2,499 (continued)

Donald and Susan Panozzo
Timothy Ramsey
The Richard Laurence Parish
Foundation
V3 Companies
Vulcan Materials Company Foundation
West Chicago Garden Club

Gift of \$500 – \$999

Rosemary and Robert Carroll
Eva Dahm
DuPage Birding Club
Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Jo Ann and Andy Ginger Charitable
Fund
Madeline and Kenneth Kwiatkowski
Milton Township
Kathleen Murphy
Morgan Stanley
Wheaton Lions Club
Doug Zimmer

Learn more or donate at dupageforest.org/friends or mail your gift to Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County at 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189. To discuss your giving plans or learn about Friends' board service opportunities, please contact Partnership & Philanthropy at 630-871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org.

FALL PLANTINGS 2024

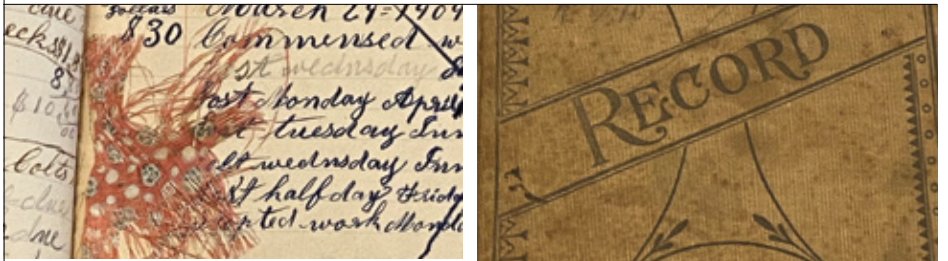
Last fall Forest Preserve District forestry and landscape crews planted over 750 woody trees and shrubs harvested from the District’s nursery at Blackwell. Of the 37 different species, 85% are documented as native to DuPage. The other 15% – such as the eastern white pine being planted below – are native to Illinois and are used for visual or sound barriers or in other special situations.

Most of the plants are grown at the nursery (as shown in the photo at the bottom) from seed or acorns collected from known “remnant populations” of plants. These are plants known to grow here before much of the county was converted into cropland. This ensures they plant local genotypes adapted to northeast Illinois’ climate and growing conditions, which increases planting success. These plants are used in landscapes, reforestation projects, and areas ready for restoration after clearing of unwanted or invasive vegetation.



2025 PERMITS ON SALE

Annual 2025 permits for off-leash dog areas, private watercraft, archery, and model crafts are now on sale at dupageforest.org under “Get a Permit.” They are also available Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. from Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Questions? Call Visitor Services, or use our online chat at dupageforest.org.



COLLECTIONS *Corner*

Before computers, farmers used ledgers and record books to keep track of goods and finances. Kline Creek Farm has a number of ledgers that is uses for research and exhibits. The Frank Kline record book in particular, which Kline started in 1899, helps staff understand what life was like in the past. It’s stuffed with family letters and contains drawings from one of Kline’s sons as well as a scrap of fabric.

The book details income records from Kline’s blacksmith shop in Winfield and shows the amounts he charged to pasture neighbors’ animals at his farm. The ledger states that on Sept. 27, 1899, Kline loaned William Sears \$600 to buy a house in Warrenville. On Jan. 31, 1904, he sold a cord of firewood to John Debolt, and on March 27 that same year he sold John Nelson 57 bushels of oats. On March 19, 1906, he hired Askes Nelson to work for \$12.50 per month, a job, it reveals, that Nelson held until later that December.

Kline Creek Farm uses bits of information found in primary sources like this ledger to recreate the past to present to visitors. Stop by the farm this winter to see the oats from last summer’s harvest, the stack of firewood ready to keep the stoves lit, and life as it was inside the 1890s farmhouse.

SNOW TUBING AT BLACKWELL *Notice*

The snow tubing hill at Blackwell Forest Preserve is closed this winter due to preventative maintenance work. For details, visit dupageforest.org/things-to-do/recreational-activities/winter-fun.



The New Look of **Winter?**

by **DEREK GRONLUND**, ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION SUPERVISOR

Winter used to bring to mind snow, sledding, and bitter cold temps, but recently, winters seem to have taken on a new identity.

According to data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Illinois' average daily temperatures have increased by several degrees since the 1900s. Surprisingly, most of the warming has occurred during what was historically the coldest part of the year, winter and early spring. In our region, temperatures have increased by an average of 3 degrees, just enough to make winter in Illinois more unpredictable than it was a few decades ago. A milder winter can make exploring the outdoors feel more pleasant, but some side effects could affect local wildlife.

First, warmer temperatures can mean less snow. Currently, the data doesn't indicate any long-term trends in snowfall, but it does show that snowfall has become more variable. While large snow events still occur, they happen less frequently, and the snow that does fall melts sooner. Having less snow on the ground leaves soil and animals more exposed to the elements.

Snow is a great insulator due to the large amounts of air that become trapped as ice crystals form. This trapped air slows heat transfer, much like the feathers in a down coat. On average, a foot of snow has an R-value of 12, the same as a 2-by-4 house wall filled with fiberglass insulation.

Even at lesser depths, snow still insulates. At 6 inches, a microclimate known as a "subnival zone" can form at ground level. This layer can remain warmer than the air above and is a

refuge for many types of animals.

Meadow voles are one of the species that benefit from this subnival zone. These small rodents stay active all winter, foraging for vegetation, seeds, and bark to eat. When there is a layer of snow, voles are able to move about while staying protected from the elements. Decreased snow cover exposes voles not only to colder temperatures but also a higher risk of predation.

Snow cover also insulates the soil and provides extra protection for dormant animals. Species such as the American toad, smooth green snake, and eastern box turtle overwinter in underground burrows that extend below the soil frost line. Having a blanket of snow on top of the soil regulates the ground temperature and prevents extreme temperature swings, keeping their burrows frost-free.

Many plants also benefit from stabilized ground temperatures in winter. Soil insulated by snow cover doesn't experience as many freeze-thaw cycles as exposed soil does. Repeated freezing and thawing can damage plant roots and thrust them above ground. A blanket of snow can also regulate soil moisture by protecting the ground from winds and sunlight, which can dry out plants' roots.

Another consequence of warmer winters is the potential for phenological mismatch between species. This occurs when two species that typically interact change the timing of certain phases of their life becoming out of sync with each other.

Migratory songbirds and the insects they feed on are a great



dike2015/stock-adobe.com

▲ Even with just a few inches of snow, meadow voles stay warm and protected in the tunnels they build through the snow.



Kyle Selcer/stock-adobe.com

▲ Spring wildflowers may bloom and fade before ground-nesting bees that rely on them for food can emerge.



Jeff Huth/stock-adobe.com

▲ Warmer winters can cause the spring insect boom to occur earlier, sometimes long before hungry migrating birds arrive.



© Gray Calanzano

▲ Eastern box turtles that overwinter in burrows benefit from layers of insulating snow that help keep their homes frost-free.

example. Typically, bird migration coincides with peak insect populations. If insect hatches occur earlier due to warmer temperatures, birds may arrive at their nesting sites after the peak emergence, missing out on an important food source.

Insects are also sensitive to this effect. In the Midwest, bumblebees are feeling the squeeze from warmer winters, especially in the southern reaches of their ranges. Mild temperatures at the end of winter signal spring ephemerals to emerge and flower sooner than they would during a cold winter. If this happens too early, ground-nesting bees emerge from their burrows after many of the flower species they rely on for nectar have already bloomed.

While we can't directly reverse the warming trends seen in our winters, the conservation and restoration work the Forest Preserve District does helps mitigate these effects. Invasive plant

removal, introduction of native species, and habitat restoration all work together to increase biological diversity and create local habitats that are robust and more resilient to change.

As an individual, you can make a difference as well.

Leaving some leaf litter and plant material in your yard over winter can be a substitute for decreased snow cover. Planting spring wildflowers such as bloodroot, spring beauty, Virginia bluebell, and rue anemone can provide critical food sources to early emerging bees and other pollinators. Oak trees harbor hundreds of different insect species that remain dormant in their larval form on branches and in bark crevices, providing a bank of food for hungry birds.

Although it can be a bit unpleasant when the mercury drops, chilly winters play an important role in keeping things in balance. So this season, bundle up, and embrace the cold! •

Two Ways to Go Green in One

Carbon emissions contribute to warmer climates, but native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers can counter some of its effects. These plants not only provide beautiful backyard vegetation but also store carbon in their roots and heartwood. Native grasses and wildflowers especially have deep roots, some 4 to 6 feet long. Even if the parts that grow above ground are periodically mowed, the roots remain alive and continue to retain the element. Some of the carbon decomposes and is released back into the atmosphere, but a large portion is stored in the soil even after the plant dies.

winter calendar



Plants & Wildlife	Page 10	Living Green	Page 12
Ways to Play	Page 11	Heritage	Page 13
Health & Well-Being	Page 12	Nature Art & Culture	Page 13
		Volunteer	Page 15

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
jan			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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30	31					

January

- 3** Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Program Begins
- 4** Archery: All Ages
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Climate Conversations: *Mussel Matters*
- 11** Self-Care Saturday
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** A Year in Practice: Winter Seven-Part Class Begins
- 15** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Winter Wonderland Walk
- 16** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
History of St. James Farm
- 17** Watercolor Series Six-Part Class Begins
- 19** Archery: Adults
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Wildlife Tracking and Observation
- 21** National Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 22** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23** Glass Art Class: Painting in Reverse
- 24** Amateur Astronomy Night
- 25** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Volunteer Restoration Workday



Winter Pop-Ups

Various Locations

Once the snow starts to fall and the ice gets thick, we'll begin scheduling a series of fun fishing, snowshoeing, and scavenger hunt pop-up programs that'll get you excited for winter in the forest preserves. For updates, text POPUP to 866-743-7332, and we'll text you when one pops up!



Pollinator Blitz: Bringing Conservation Home

Speakers, demonstrations, vendors, and more!
Saturday • March 15
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mayslake Peabody Estate
 Questions? Call 630-933-7247.







How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

February

- 1** Fishing: Hard Water Classic
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 2** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Archery: Adults
- 5** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Winter Wonderland Walk
- 7** Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike
- 8** Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike
Nature Study Explorers
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 11** Mosaic Class
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Cocktails and Conservation: Backyard Birds and Brews
The Other McCormick of DuPage:
Chauncey McCormick
- 14** Specialty Tour: The Architecture of Mayslake Hall
- 15** Curatorial Sneak Peek: Objects in
the District's Collection
Make a Botanical-Themed Glass Dish
Maple Sugaring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Backyard Owl Prowl
Maple Sugaring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Archery: All Ages
- 19** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Winter Wonderland Walk
- 20** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 21** Amateur Astronomy Night
Specialty Tour: The Architecture of Mayslake Hall
- 22** Maple Sugaring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 23** Maple Sugaring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** Climate Conversations: Reducing Waste With Worms
- 28** Specialty Tour: The Architecture of Mayslake Hall

March

- 1** Ceramic Mushrooms for the Home and Garden
Two-Part Class Begins
Maple Sugaring
- 2** Maple Sugaring
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 5** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 7** Fresh Air Friday
- 8** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Backyard Bird Nests
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** A Year in Practice: Spring Seven-Part Class Begins
- 11** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Winter Wonderland Walk
- 15** Pollinator Blitz: Bringing Conservation Home
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 19** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 20** The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game
- 22** Lady Bird Johnson and the Beautification Movement
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Ukrainian Easter Eggs
- 25** Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan
- 26** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 29** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring
Volunteer Restoration Workday



Plants & Wildlife

Backyard Bird Nests 26269

Discover fascinating wild bird nest designs and what makes them successful. We will investigate different types of nests, hear how to attract birds to bird houses, and then go on a hike to look for old nests. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

March 9 3 – 4:30 p.m. Wildlife Center

Backyard Owl Prowl 26268

Discover the fascinating lives of owls and what makes them successful predators of the night sky. Dissect an owl pellet to investigate what they eat, and journey through a natural area to search for wild owls. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Feb. 16 4 – 6 p.m. Wildlife Center

Climate Conversations: Mussel Matters 26231

Grab some popcorn and join us for a screening of *Mussel Matters: Saving Critical Species in DuPage County* followed by a moderated panel Q&A with local experts. Ages 16 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 9 6 – 7:30 p.m. Oak Meadows

Cocktails and Conservation: Backyard Birds and Brews 26183

The annual Great Backyard Bird Count is an opportunity for anyone to contribute to community science. Over a drink we'll learn how to participate in the event, get an overview of local backyard birds during a walk, and discover how sightings support bird conservation. Ages 21 and up. \$15 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 13 6 – 7:30 p.m. Oak Meadows

National Squirrel Appreciation Day 26267

On this national holiday, learn about some of our most under-appreciated wildlife – squirrels! Learn about Illinois species, and then take a hike to observe them in the wild. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Jan. 21 10 – 11:30 a.m. Wildlife Center

Nature Detectives: Signs of Spring 26198

Bring your family on this signs-of-spring scavenger hunt, and sharpen your nature observational skills as you enjoy the seasonal features of the preserve. Ages 5 – 11 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 30 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Pollinator Blitz: Bringing Conservation Home

Celebrate some of nature's busiest members, and discover ways to help them right in your own backyard. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7247.

March 15 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mayslake

Wildlife Tracking and Observation 26266

Reconnect with your surroundings by developing an acute awareness of the stories told by local wildlife and the natural world through observation and deduction. You'll discover nature's clues by exploring animal tracks, signs, and evidence. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

Jan. 19 3 – 5 p.m. Wildlife Center



2025 Summer Camps

Multiple Forest Preserves

We'll have a great lineup of camps for kids entering kindergarten through eighth grade, many focusing on nature's relationship with science, technology, engineering, and math. With time for team-building, exploration, and play, kids might not realize they're firing up new neurons as they're making new friends!

Feb. 1 **Descriptions go online at dupageforest.org/camps.**

Feb. 15 **Early-bird registration starts for DuPage residents at dupageforest.org.**

March 1 **Open registration begins.**



How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Winter Wonderland Walk 26270

Join a wildlife interpreter and observe how shorter days and cold temperatures affect the plants and animals that live in (or visit!) the forest preserve. Join us for a cup of coffee or tea as we discuss some of nature's wonders before we start the walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online, at 630-942-6200, or at the walk.

Jan. 15	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Wildlife Center
Feb. 5 & 19	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Wildlife Center
March 12	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Wildlife Center

Ways to Play

Amateur Astronomy Night 26171

Join us for a night out in the preserves, where we'll use binoculars and spotting scopes to identify several stars and constellations. We'll have activities to demonstrate the effects of light pollution and a blazing campfire to keep us warm. Arrival times are staggered every 30 minutes, and the program concludes at 8:30 p.m. (Blackwell) or 9 p.m. (Springbrook Prairie). All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 24	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Blackwell
Feb. 21	7 – 9 p.m.	Springbrook

Archery

Whether you're new to the sport or looking for a refresher, join us to learn safety tips, proper shooting techniques, and basic skills. Equipment provided. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Adults 26147

Ages 18 and up.

Jan. 19	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	St. James Farm
Feb. 4	9 – 10:30 a.m.	St. James Farm

All Ages 26144

Ages 9 and up; under 18 with an adult.

Jan. 4	10 – 11:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Feb. 17	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	St. James Farm

The Challenge: Trivia Quiz Game

Challenge your friends and neighbors and show off your knowledge during this friendly quiz game featuring categories to test your familiarity with music, animals, geography, history, and more! Come with a team of up to seven or have us help you find one. Ages 18 and up. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Jan. 16	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
Feb. 20	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows
March 20	7 – 8:30 p.m.	Oak Meadows

The Indoor Riding Arena

St. James Farm

RIDING YOUR HORSE IN THE INDOOR RIDING ARENA

Exercise and school your horse at this historic venue. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. Register at 630-580-7027.

OBSTACLE COURSE PLAY DATE 26081

Exercise and school your horse at your own pace through a series of obstacles, which may include bridge, cake top stand, fishing pole, maypole, carrying items, parallel parking, or gate work. Share the arena with up to three other riders, or register and pay for all four slots and have the arena all to yourself for one hour. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo. To register by phone instead, call 630-580-7027.

Saturdays & Sundays

Jan. 11, 12, 25 & 26

Feb. 8, 9, 22 & 23

March 8, 9, 22 & 23

11 a.m. – Noon, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.,
1:30 – 2:30 p.m. & 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Fridays

Jan. 10 & 24

Feb. 7 & 21

March 7 & 21

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. & 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

winter calendar



Fishing: Hard Water Classic 26143

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Bring your own equipment and bait. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the event. Register online, at 630-933-7248, or at the event.

Feb. 1 Noon – 3:30 p.m. Blackwell

Nature Date Night: Romantic Night Hike 26224

Experience the magic of an evening walk along lantern-lit trails on a self-guided, 1-to-2-mile journey. Follow the candlelight to roaring fires, roasting marshmallows, and hot chocolate. Hikes leave at the top of the hour. Last group leaves at 8 p.m., and trails close at 9 p.m. Ages 18 and up. \$12 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 7 & 8 6 – 9 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Health & Well-Being

Fresh Air Friday 26195

Enjoy a relaxing hour of mindful walking and immersive nature-based ways to tune in to the present on a 1-mile walk on crushed limestone and grass trails. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 7 1 – 2 p.m. St. James Farm

Self-Care Saturday 26249

It's time to focus on you! Create three items using organic lavender. The real treat comes after you get home and use your eye pillow, moisturizing salt scrub, and lavender sachets. Ages 18 and up. \$65 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 11 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake

Living Green

Climate Conversations: Reducing Waste With Worms 26277

Composting at home is a simple step anyone can take to help tackle climate change. Learn how to transform kitchen scraps and backyard cuttings into rich compost for your plants and gardens, and create your own worm farm for home. Ages 21 and up. \$25 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 27 6:30 – 8 p.m. Oak Meadows

Native Landscaping: Creating Your Garden Plan 26197

Share drawings or photos of your yard prior to a one-hour one-on-one online meeting, and then get customized recommendations from a plant expert who will help you select native plants to match your gardening goals and growing conditions. Find out, too, how native plants benefit you, your landscape, and local wildlife. Ages 18 and up. \$30 per session. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 3 & 6 p.m. Online

March 16 1, 3 & 6 p.m. Online



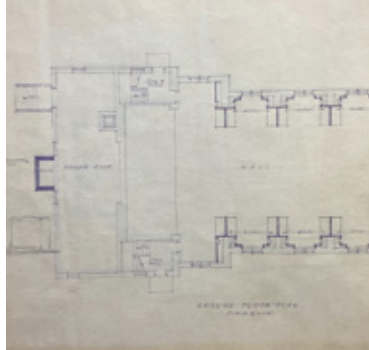
Coming This Spring!

NATIVE PLANT SALE

Mayslake Peabody Estate

Shop in person May 16 and 17 for native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees! Support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District and purchase a ticket for an exclusive advanced shopping event May 15.

For details, including a list of plants and info on tickets for the May 15 advanced event, visit dupageforest.org/native-plant-sale after March 1. We'll see you there!



How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Heritage

History of St. James Farm 26196

Get an in-depth look into St. James Farm's fascinating history through stories and historic photographs, and learn about the people who were part of its legacy. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Jan. 16 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

Maple Sugaring

Discover how sap becomes syrup as you try tapping with tools from the 1890s, check the collection buckets, and watch sap thicken over the fire. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Feb. 15, 16, 22 & 23 1 – 4 p.m. Kline Creek Farm
 March 1 & 2 1 – 4 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

1890s Living

Kline Creek Farm

Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. Registration not required for these free tours, which are for all ages (under 18 with an adult). Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

FARMHOUSE TOUR

Join us in the farmhouse for a look at 1890s home life with themes that change to reflect the seasons.

March 1 – 31

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

FARMHOUSE TOUR: CURING A COLD IN THE 1890S

Find out how families stayed healthy in winter. Learn which kinds of foods were prepared for ailing family members and how candy was used as medicine.

Jan. 2 – Feb. 28

Thursday – Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on the hour

Nature Study Explorers

Step back in time and learn from the nature-study movement of the late Victorian era. Create memories with your friends or family as we explore nature through an 1890s lens with craft projects or science experiments. Suggested admission donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900 or visit facebook.com/klinecreekfarm.

Feb. 8 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

The Other McCormick of DuPage: Chauncey McCormick 26199

Chauncey McCormick of St. James Farm was a farmer, gentleman, and philanthropist whose influence is far-reaching but little-known. Get to know the life of this man who played a significant role the county's history. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Feb. 13 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm

Specialty Tour: The Architecture of Mayslake Hall 26280

Rising up from the prairie like an English country manor, Mayslake Hall was a surprisingly modern home in 1921. Join us for an hour as we explore its architecture and how it has connected its occupants to history and the natural landscape for over 100 years. Ages 18 and up. \$8 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 14, 21 & 28 2 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Nature Art & Culture

Ceramic Mushrooms for the Home and Garden Two-Part Class 26281

Add a little magic to your yard, garden, or home. Learn about the size, shape, and color of local mushrooms as you design and create four to six ceramic mushrooms of your own. Stop back on March 22 to pick up your kiln-fired pieces. Ages 18 and up. \$205 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 1 & 8 2 – 4 p.m. Mayslake



winter calendar



Art and More at Mayslake

Mayslake Peabody Estate

ART FOR ALL

Find inspiration at an exhibit showcasing works from the People's Resource Center's free art programs, which empower all people through the transforming experience of creating art together in an affirming, inclusive community. Join us March 5 at 6 p.m. for a two-hour reception, and meet the artists as you enjoy signature mocktails. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Feb. 25 – April 12

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

AT HOME WITH NATURE HOUSE TOUR

Learn some of the surprising history of Mayslake Hall, the 1921 home of F.S. Peabody and a landmark and architectural gem that has been surrounded by an oasis of nature for over 100 years. Ages 12 and up, under 18 with an adult. \$8 per person. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Jan. 2 – March 31 (except March 15)

Monday – Friday 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Saturdays 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MAYSLAKE: A SANCTUARY FOR REFRESHMENT AND RENEWAL

Through his camera lens, William North draws you into the ways the architecture and design of Mayslake Hall highlights and amplifies its bucolic setting, creating space for contemplating and enjoying nature. Join us Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. for a two-hour reception, and meet the artist as you enjoy signature mocktails. All ages; under 13 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-206-9566.

Jan. 7 – Feb. 22

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Curatorial Sneak Peek: Objects in the District's Collection 26248

Would you be surprised to learn that the Forest Preserve District maintains a collection of historic artifacts? Learn what we collect and why, and pick up some best practices for storing and keeping your own artifacts safe. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 15 2 – 3:30 p.m. Mayslake

Glass Art Class: Painting in Reverse 26247

Turn a flat piece of glass into a beautiful work of art. Learn basic techniques, and discover why once you start painting on glass you'll never look at a plain glass surface the same way again. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$75 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 23 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mayslake

Lady Bird Johnson and the Beautification Movement 26246

It's 1969, and Lady Bird Johnson (portrayed by actress and historian Leslie Goddard) has returned to Texas at the end of her husband's presidency. As she welcomes visitors to her home, she reminisces about her years in Washington, the experiences that brought her to the White House, and how she forged her own path as an advocate for the environment, civil rights, and her husband. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$7 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 22 2 – 3 p.m. Mayslake

Make a Botanical-Themed Glass Dish 26278

Receive instruction from design through the layout of a 5-inch glass dish, and then pick up your kiln-fired piece the following week. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 15 10 a.m. – Noon Mayslake

Mosaic Class 26245

Have you ever admired the mosaic artwork over the entrance of the Portiuncula Chapel? Learn tips and tricks from pros on how to create your own original glass mosaic project, and take your finished piece home. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$75 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Feb. 11 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mayslake



How to Register Online

1. Visit dupageforest.org. Scroll down, and click on "Find a Program."
2. Click the link to search by activity number.
3. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
4. If a program has more than one date, time, or location, click "View Subactivities" to find the one you want.

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 26276

Sign up for these enriching meet ups where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In January we'll discuss *Staying Alive* by Pat Camilliere; in February, *Royal Gardeners* by Alan Titchman; and in March, *This Troubled World* by Eleanor Roosevelt. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$10 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 3, Feb. 7 & March 7	10 – 11:15 a.m.	Mayslake
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Ukrainian Easter Eggs 26244

Celebrate the arrival of spring as you learn *pysanky*, the fascinating art of Ukrainian Easter eggs. Copy a traditional, centuries-old design, or create your own. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$65 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

March 24	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Mayslake
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Watercolor Series Six-Part Class 26282

Beginning and intermediate artists, learn watercolor and gouache techniques from a scientific illustrator of the Chicago Field Museum. Explore the surface structure and coloration of plants while studying color mixing, color layering, and other techniques. There may be some outdoor exploration, weather permitting. Ages 18 and up. \$200 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Jan. 17 & 24, Feb. 7 & 21, & March 14 & 28	4 – 6 p.m.	Mayslake
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A Year in Practice Seven-Part Class 26404

Experience each season in its own light as you investigate rituals and awakening cycles of creative expression with nature during nature walks, art journaling, poetry, and collage. See how the change of seasons awakens changes within. Ages 18 and up. \$170 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Winter

Jan. 13 – Feb. 24 Mondays	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Spring

March 10 – April 21 Mondays	9:30 a.m. – Noon	Mayslake
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Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 26332

Help improve a forest preserve prairie or woodland by collecting seeds or removing nonnative plants. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days by phone for groups of five or more).

Churchill Woods

Jan. 4, 5, 11, 12, 25 & 26	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Feb. 1, 2, 15, 16, 22 & 23	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Mar. 8, 9, 15, 16, 29 & 30	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods

Fullersburg Woods

Jan. 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Feb. 15	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
March 8	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods

Oldfield Oaks

Jan. 8 & 22	9 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
Feb. 12 & 26	9 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks
March 12 & 26	9 – 11 a.m.	Oldfield Oaks

Springbrook Prairie

Jan. 4, 8, 15, 22 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Jan. 19	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
Feb. 5, 8, 12, 19, 22 & 26	9 a.m. – Noon 9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook Springbrook
March 2 & 16	1 – 4 p.m.	Springbrook
March 5, 8, 12 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook

Wayne Grove

Jan. 11 & 25	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove
Feb. 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove
March 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Wayne Grove



Better Garden Go-Tos

by **NICK FULLER**, NATURAL RESOURCE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Michele/stock.adobe.com

If you live in DuPage County, you're no more than a 10-minute drive from a forest preserve. This means that your backyard is not too far away from a preserve the way the crow flies (or the butterfly or the wind- or bird-carried seed). But many plants that we choose to add to our landscapes aren't necessarily beneficial to surrounding natural habitats. Because seeds easily spread by insects, birds, and wind, what grows in our backyards doesn't always stay there. Fortunately, the next time you flip through your favorite gardening catalog to decide what add or replace, there are

choices you can make that benefit not only your backyard but also the county's native plants and wildlife. By making a few simple changes in your landscaping, you can remove harmful plants and replace them with beautiful native species that benefit the local ecology. Your yard can become a valuable part of the larger ecosystem, providing habitat and resources for wildlife. Here are a few ideas to get you started! (Mark your calendar, too, for our May Native Plant Sale, where our experts will be on hand to help you pick the best plants for your garden. Information is on Page 12.)





◀ Dame's rocket (left) became popular because of its delicate purple flowers, but just one of these nonnative plants can produce 20,000 seeds, creating dense stands in natural areas. For a touch of lavender in your late spring yard, plant native Virginia bluebells (right) instead.



◀ Because they grow fast in different conditions, Bradford pears (left) became popular. But gardeners soon discovered the trees' spring blooms have a foul smell. Also, once established, the trees are difficult to remove. Native downy serviceberry (right) provides the same white spring blooms (minus the odor) plus berries that native wildlife love.



◀ Many gardens feature Japanese barberry (left) because the plant's bright red berries attract birds. But animals that eat the berries quickly spread the shrub's seeds into to grasslands and woodlands, where the plants take over where natives used to grow. Native nannyberry (left) is a friendly alternative for gardeners and birds alike.



◀ In the late 1900s, Norway maples (left) were the go-to plant for parkways and backyards because they grew fast and provided a lot of shade — too much shade. Nothing can grow below one. Northern red oaks (right) allow grasses and flowers to thrive underneath and provide wildlife with nutritious acorns.

directory



HEADQUARTERS

35580 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-933-7200
TTY 800-526-0857
dupageforest.org
forest@dupageforest.org

Visitor Services

630-933-7248
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Services

630-933-7233

Partnership & Philanthropy Friends of the Forest Preserve District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

FOREST PRESERVE *Hours*

Most forest preserves are open daily from one hour after sunrise until one hour after sunset.

PARTNER *Sites*

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388

EDUCATION *Centers*

DANADA EQUESTRIAN CENTER

35507 Naperville Road
Wheaton • 630-668-6012

Office

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturdays & Sundays

Barn

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

DUPAGE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

525 S. Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn • 630-942-6200

Animal Admittance and Phone Hours

Thursday – Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesdays 9 a.m. – Noon

Visitor Center

Thank you for your patience! The center is still under construction but is expected to open in early 2025. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

3800 York Road • Oak Brook
630-850-8112

Open mid-April – mid-November
Wednesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays & Tuesdays

KLING CREEK FARM

1N600 County Farm Road
West Chicago • 630-876-5900

Suggested admission donation \$5 per person ages 3 and up

Thursday – Monday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 W. 31st St.
Oak Brook • 630-206-9566

Monday – Friday Noon – 3 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Closed Sundays

ST. JAMES FARM

25541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office and Visitor Center

Please call for hours.

GOLF *Courses*

THE PRESERVE AT OAK MEADOWS

900 N. Wood Dale Road
Addison • 630-595-0071

MAPLE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

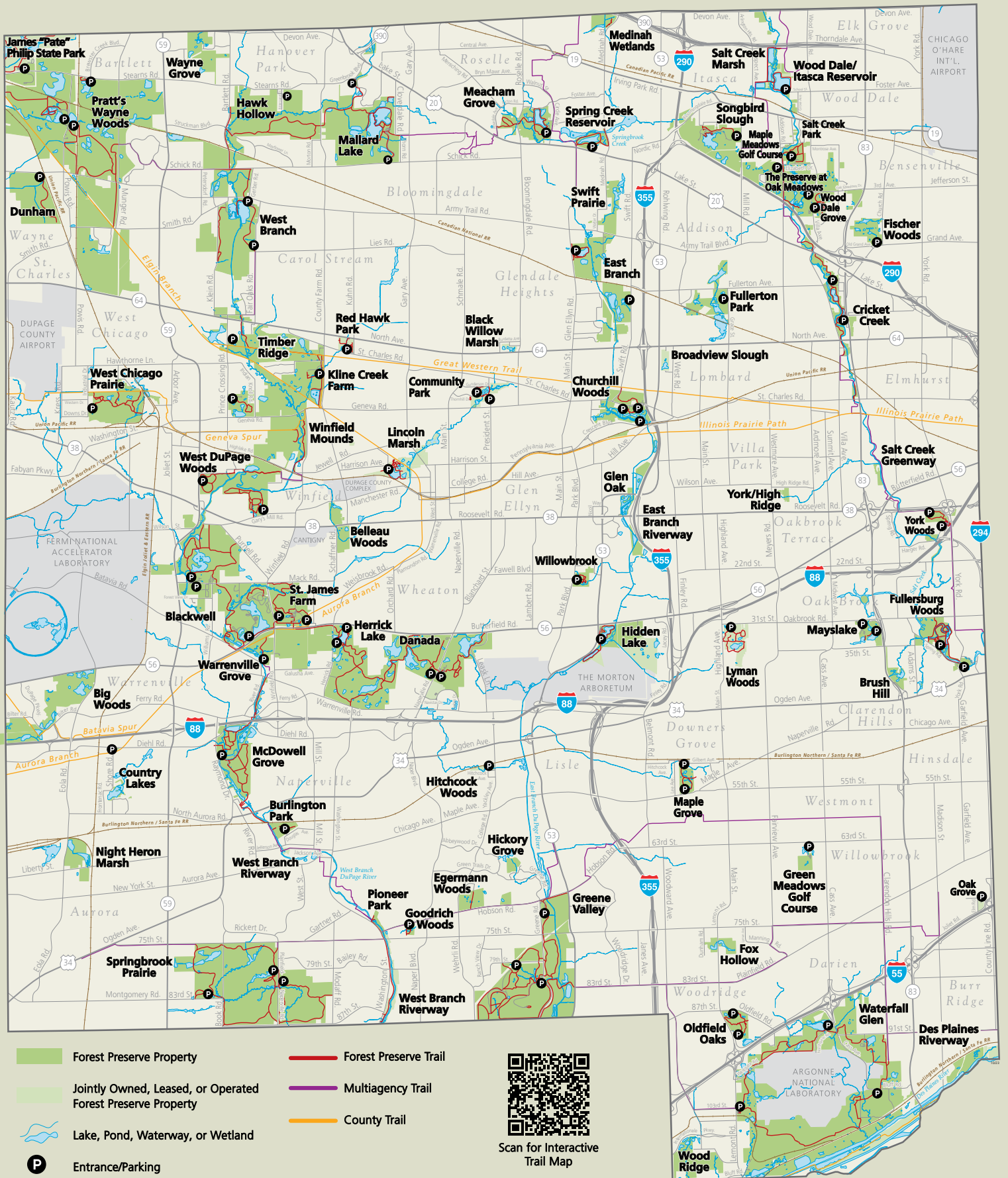
272 S. Addison Road
Wood Dale • 630-616-8424

GREEN MEADOWS GOLF COURSE

18W201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont • 630-810-5330

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have accessibility needs or concerns, please contact our ADA programs and activities coordinator at 630-871-7537 or TTY 800-526-0857 at least 48 hours before your visit or at least two weeks before any registration-based program.





**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

3580 Naperville Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

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the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Winter 2025

DUPAGE FOREST PRESERVE SUMMER CAMPS

THE NATURE OF FUN



For kids entering kindergarten through eighth grade

Feb. 1
Descriptions go online at dupageforest.org/camps.

Feb. 15
Early-bird registration starts for DuPage residents.

March 1
Open registration begins.

