

the Conservationist

A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2022



**The Return of
the River Otter**

Inside Story on Galls

Fall Calendar



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

from the president



I hope that you and your family are ready to enjoy the fall breeze and autumn leaves. It's an ideal time to visit a preserve you haven't seen, explore a new trail, or enjoy a fall program at one of our education centers. With 26,000 acres of open space in DuPage, you will certainly find something magical this season.

This year we're thrilled to mark the return of Fall Festival at Danada, and instead of one day of fun, we're expanding the event to two days, Saturday, Oct. 8, and Sunday, Oct. 9. Our largest event, Fall Festival includes equestrian performances, wagon rides, kids activities, great food, and more. Admission and parking are free, and you can find out more about this fun family experience on Page 11.

As the seasons change, we continue to be busy. Construction is complete for the new 180-space parking lot at Waterfall Glen, and work has started on the major renovation of the exterior of Mayslake Hall. Our fleet building at Blackwell has a full array of solar panels ready to go online, and the board recently approved the development of a comprehensive clean-energy, resiliency, and sustainability plan, which will help guide our conservation efforts into the future. We also hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking celebration for the new Willowbrook Wildlife Center, a project that will be under construction for the next two years. In the meantime, we're actively seeking grants and donations for this most-loved wildlife center.

There is so much going on that I encourage you to follow us on our social media sites or sign up for email alerts. Fall is the perfect season to enjoy all of the beautiful sites, colors, and programs we have to offer. See you on the trails!

Daniel Hebreard
President, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioners

Marsha Murphy, Bloomingdale — District 1

Tina Tyson-Dunne, Lombard — District 2

Linda Painter, Hinsdale — District 3

Jeff Gahris, Wheaton — District 4

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Al Murphy, West Chicago — District 6

Executive Director

Karie Friling



BOARD MEETINGS

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



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Fall 2022, Vol. 59, No. 4



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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dupageforest.org

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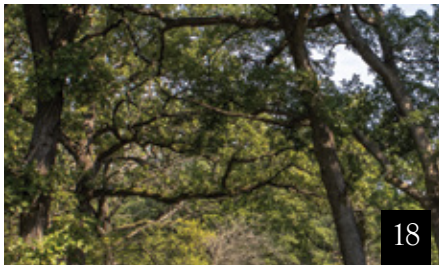
On the cover: North American river otter Cheryl Fleishman/Shutterstock.com

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



© Kyle Tansley



news & notes

LIVE and on Demand

Can't make it to a board meeting? Find schedules and agendas and watch it live or on demand at dupageforest.org under "Our Board." You can also link directly to live streaming video from the Forest Preserve District's Facebook page at [facebook.com/dupageforest](https://www.facebook.com/dupageforest). Commission meetings and planning sessions are open to the public and held at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton. Normally, commission meetings are at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; planning sessions, 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. At both the board hears public comments and staff reports, discusses business, and votes on agenda items.



2023 ANNUAL PERMITS ON SALE DEC. 1

Annual permits for 2023 for private boating, archery, off-leash dog areas, and model crafts go on sale Thursday, Dec. 1 at dupageforest.org under "Registration & Permits."

Permits will also be available Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Visitor Services at 630-933-7248 or at Forest Preserve District headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Questions? Call Visitor Services, or use our convenient online chat at dupageforest.org.

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT Celebrates Upcoming Master Plan Projects

Forest Preserve District commissioners and staff recently joined forest preserve fans to kick off two major master plan projects.

On July 16 the Forest Preserve District marked the start of a yearlong exterior restoration project at historic Mayslake Hall. The \$6.4 million certified master plan project will repair structural deficiencies and other problems with the roof, masonry, wood, stucco, windows, doors, and foundation. A \$750,000 capital grant from the Public Museum Capital Grants Program, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Museum will help pay for the renovations.

On Aug. 16 the District also held a ceremonial groundbreaking for an ambitious \$25.5 million project for Willowbrook Wildlife Center, which will transform the center and make it the agency's first net-zero-designed building. The project includes a 27,000-square-foot wildlife rehabilitation clinic and visitor center that will allow visitors to view animals through one-way windows and video monitors as patients are examined, treated, in surgery, being fed, and rehabilitated.



▲ (L to R) State Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, Commissioner Linda Painter, President Daniel Hebreard, Commissioner Tina Tyson-Dunne, and State Sen. Suzanne Glowiak Hilton at Mayslake



▲ Forest Preserve District commissioners with staff from contractor Wight & Company at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center ceremonial groundbreaking



MANY Thanks

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District supports the District by inviting individuals, corporations, and foundations to donate for the benefit of natural areas, wildlife, and master-plan projects. We thank the following donors who contributed \$500 or more in the second quarter to help enhance our environment and quality of life in DuPage. If you would like to learn more about how you, your group, or your business can partner with us, visit dupageforest.org/friends or call 630-871-6400.

Estate of Beth Fikar \$25,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center Master Plan Improvements	Ace Hardware Corporation \$500 — Native Plant Presale sponsor
Kline Creek Farm Visitors \$5,770 — Kline Creek Farm	Keith and Dorine Bryant \$500 — Area of greatest need
Giving DuPage \$5,477 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Cathleen Carter \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Marilyn L. Schweitzer and Michael Firman \$5,064 — Natural Resources, Willowbrook Wildlife Center, and Education	Dawn Chiang \$500 — St. James Farm
Jessica Ahn, in memory of Edwin Eunkyuh Ahn \$5,000 — Tribute bench	The Davey Tree Expert Company \$500 — Native Plant Presale sponsor
ComEd, an Exelon Company \$2,500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Domtar Paper \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Willowbrook Wildlife Center Visitors \$2,252 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	John and Diane Fiore \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Robert and Rosemary Carroll \$2,000 — Mayslake Peabody Estate	Daniel Hebreard and Family \$500 — Native Plant Presale sponsor
Edward and Clare Malysiak, in memory of Holden Wight \$1,030 — Tribute bench	Allan G. Hins \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Gregory Baird \$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Kathleen Isoda \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
Palais Charitable Foundation \$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Kathleen Murphy \$500 — Kline Creek Farm
Robert R. McCormick Foundation \$1,000 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center	Precision Homes LLC., in memory of Holden Wight \$500 — Tribute bench
Mr. David Nienke \$750 — Area of greatest need	Jefferson and Catherine Reiter \$500 — Willowbrook Wildlife Center
J. Lyons \$625 — Area of greatest need	Rice Lake Square \$500 — Native Plant Presale sponsor
	Schwab Charitable \$500 — Area of greatest need
	Chet and Jeanette Wilczak \$500 — Mayslake and St. James Farm

COLLECTIONS CORNER

When the Forest Preserve District purchased Hidden Lake in 1978, it also acquired something unexpected: two 12-foot-tall, 5.5-ton statues.

After much research and help from the Chicago Historical Society, the District discovered that the two statues, one posing with a cornucopia symbolizing agriculture and one with an anchor and anvil representing industry, had once graced the second-story ledge of the 1833 Chicago Board of Trade building. The pieces' origin is unknown, but researchers speculated they were crafted in Italy. When the trade building was razed in 1930, businessman Arthur Cutten preserved the statues, moving them to his Sunny Acres Farms, today's Hidden Lake.

The statues eventually moved to Danada Forest Preserve, but in 2004 the District returned them to the Board of Trade, where they now stand on display, demonstrating how research and a commitment to discovering the provenance of items are as important as maintaining the pieces that remain in the Forest Preserve District's collection.

- ▼ The statue representing agriculture as it stood at Danada Forest Preserve





◀ River otter whiskers are super sensitive and help the animals as they search for food.

© Kyle Tansley

The Return of the River Otter

by **DAN THOMPSON**, NATURAL RESOURCES

They're covered in fur but live in the water. They're fond of fish and crayfish and sliding in the snow, and ecologists are excited that they're back again in DuPage County forest preserves. They're North American river otters, and the story of their return is as interesting as the animals themselves.

Before Europeans arrived in Illinois, river otters lived statewide. But soon after Father Jacques Marquette and fur trapper Louis Jolliet made their way through the area in the late 1600s, fur trading became a big – and unregulated – economic driver for the region, one that lasted well into the mid-1800s. River otters declined drastically, and sightings soon became rare.

To save the otter, Illinois made harvesting illegal in 1929, but although the otter was protected, its habitat was not. There were few environmental regulations in the early to mid 1900s,

and once-pristine rivers and lakes became dumping grounds for just about anything cities needed to discharge or flush. It wasn't until later in the century, when people began to realize how environmental conditions affected human health, that the Environmental Protection Agency was created and the way people looked at native wildlife and natural areas began to change.

In 1977 Illinois listed the river otter as threatened; in 1989, endangered. By then, only about 100 otters lived in the state. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources wanted to boost populations, but budget cuts in the early 1990s prohibited purchasing animals from the state of Louisiana, which had a robust population. A clever and resourceful deal in 1994 helped solve the dilemma. Louisiana captured 50 river otters for release in Illinois. Kentucky paid Louisiana for the otters, and Illinois

repaid Kentucky with 75 wild turkeys. Over a three-year period, Illinois released 346 river otters as a result of the arrangement, mostly in southern and central parts of the state. Relatively uninhabited rivers provided uninhabited travel corridors where the otters could spread and recolonize. In 2004, just 10 short years after the first reintroduction, the river otter was removed from the endangered species list in Illinois. Today an estimated 20,000 live throughout the state – some right here in DuPage.

But what exactly are river otters? Well for starters, they're members of the weasel family, Mustelidae. Notable relatives include weasels, mink, ferrets, badgers, martins, and wolverines. Like mink, though, river otters are aquatic mammals, spending most of their time in the water.

River otters have elongated bodies with flattened heads and streamlined profiles. They weigh 11 to 30 pounds and range from 26 to 42 inches. Their tails can be about a third of their body length and, along with their webbed feet, help their agility when propelling through the water.

Otters' thick dense coats insulate the skin from the water as well as cold temperatures. Their fur's waterproofness comes from glands that produce oils the animals distribute throughout their bodies by frequent grooming.

As carnivores, otters dine on fish, crayfish, mussels, frogs, turtles, and snails. Their long whiskers help them locate prey in dark or turbid waters, and their sharp teeth and claws make for easy meals. They will occasionally eat waterfowl, muskrats, beavers, and cottontails, the latter showing they're capable predators on land as well as in the water.

River otters den in or near the water, typically along the banks of rivers or lakes and sometimes in abandoned beaver or muskrat lodges. Polygamous, otters mate with several partners in their lifetimes. Females give birth to pups in their dens with litters from one to six, although two to three is more common, and will stay with their young in family groups for seven to eight months. The males do not stay with their families but will form social groups with other males that hunt and travel together.

Like most mammals, river otters are active year-round, although they tend to be more nocturnal during spring through fall and more active during the day in winter. On land they walk, run, or bound, but they even slide, which can be more efficient when travelling across snow or ice or down slopes.

When spotted, river otters can be fun to watch in social settings because they often appear to be playful. They like to chase each other on land and in the water while indulging in a slide when an embankment is nearby. These activities may look like simple play, but they improve hunting skills and strengthen social bonds.

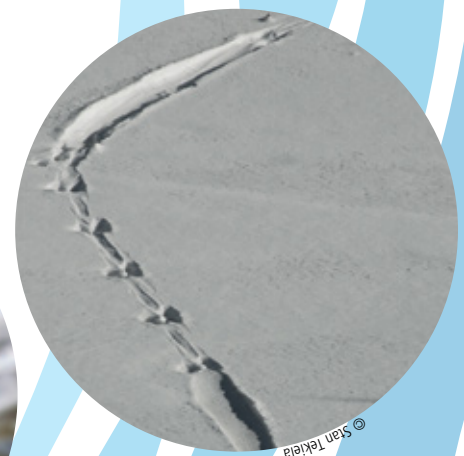
Whenever a species like the river otter recovers, it adds to the biodiversity of the land. After all, each species is unique and has a niche in the ecosystem. Next time you're near a river, marsh, or lake, scan the area. You might be rewarded with an otter sighting of your own. •

- ▼ Their sharp teeth and claws help otters with their primary diet of fish, frogs, and crayfish.



- ▲ Adult otters live singularly or in pairs but will spend some of their time socializing in groups.

- ▼ Known as "playful" animals, otters will run and slide on their bellies as they make their way down muddy slopes or across snowy patches, as shown by their tracks.



- ◀ Young otters stay with their families for seven to eight months.



fall calendar



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October

- 1** Astronomy Night
Pop, Pop, Pop, Popcorn!
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 2** Birding by Boat
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 3** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 5** After-School Wildlife Keeper Club
Six-Part Program Begins
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 7** Bird Walk
Fresh Air Friday
Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Morning Discussions Begin
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 8** Fall Festival at Danada
Pop, Pop, Pop, Popcorn!
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 9** Fall Festival at Danada
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Forest Hike
Parent-Child Nature Journaling
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 11** Peabody's Pages Book Club Three-Part Evening Discussions Begin
- 12** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 13** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Bird Walk
- 15** Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener
Girl Scouts: Nighttime Nature
Pop, Pop, Pop, Popcorn!
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 16** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 17** Forest Hike
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 18** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 19** Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 21** Bird Walk
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families
- 22** Corn Harvest
Pumpkin Night Hike for Families
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 23** Corn Harvest
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 24** Drumming Circle
Forest Hike
- 26** Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 28** Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 29** Corn Harvest
Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 30** Corn Harvest
OAKtober Walk
Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 31** Forest Hike



Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

November

- 2** Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 4** Fresh Air Friday
- 5** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride
- 7** Forest Hike
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 9** Willowbrook Wilderness Walk
- 11** Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 12** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Volunteer Workday at the Nursery
- 13** Nature Poetry Walk
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 14** Forest Hike
- 15** Pre-K Outdoor Play
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 19** Urban Stream Research Center Open House
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 20** Cast-Iron Cooking: Thanksgiving
History of St. James Farm
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 21** Forest Hike
- 26** 1890s Holiday Candy Making
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 27** 1890s Holiday Candy Making
Volunteer Restoration Workday
Waterfowl Walk
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 28** Drumming Circle
Forest Hike

December

- 2** Fresh Air Friday
- 3** Among the Leaves So Green
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 4** Among the Leaves So Green
Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 6** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 10** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 11** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 13** Pre-K Outdoor Play
- 17** Volunteer Restoration Workday
- 18** Volunteer Restoration Workday
Willowbrook Happy Hour
- 21** Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike
- 31** Volunteer Restoration Workday



CHALLENGE YOURSELF THIS FALL!

Join us for the **Healthy Driven Take a Hike! Challenge**.

For eight weeks, from Sept. 1 to Oct. 27, rediscover the healthy benefits of being active and spending time outdoors.

Participation is free and easy with 3 simple steps. Visit EEHealth.org/TakeaHike to learn more and sign up.





Plants & Wildlife

After-School Wildlife Keeper Club

Six-Part Program 22228

Hey, teens, looking to become more involved with animal care and to learn about the industry for career and volunteer development? Then join this special after-school program! Ages 13 – 17. \$60 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 5 – Nov. 9	4 – 5:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Wednesdays		

Birding by Boat 22229

Join a wildlife interpreter for a paddle on Silver Lake to look for birds along the shore. Paddling experience is not required. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent a District kayak for an additional \$15. Age 18 and up. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 2	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Blackwell
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Bird Walk 22060

Enjoy birding camaraderie, and learn ID tips and tricks while looking for migrating birds on a casual 2-mile guided walk. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 7	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	McDowell Grove
Oct. 14	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	St. James Farm
Oct. 21	7:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Greene Valley

Girl Scouts: Nighttime Nature 22097

Experience nature after dark! Join other Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts to learn about nocturnal animals, and use your senses to explore the outdoors on a guided nature hike. Then, bring your own s'mores supplies, and gather around the campfire for storytelling and a celebration of the night. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per Scout. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 15	6 – 8:30 p.m.	Greene Valley
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OAKtober Walk 22150

Enjoy the fall colors as you learn about oaks on a guided walk. If you wish, bring crayons and paper to make your own leaf and bark rubbings. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 30	2 – 3 p.m.	St. James Farm
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Urban Stream Research Center Open House 22134

See science in action, and get a behind-the-scenes look at the Forest Preserve District's important conservation efforts to raise freshwater mussels and federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies. Tours leave at 10, 10:30, 11, and 11:30 a.m. and at noon, 12:30, 1, and 1:30 p.m. All ages; 12 and under with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 19	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Blackwell
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Waterfowl Walk 22230

Take a guided autumn bird walk where you'll search for the bright, colorful feathers of migrating waterfowl. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Nov. 27	8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	West Branch
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Willowbrook Happy Hour 22239

Join us for an after-hours tour of the center's ambassador animals. During this quiet, small-group experience we'll deliver their dinners, discuss their stories, and share how we care for these wild residents. Ages 5 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 1, 10, 22 & 30	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Nov. 11, 19 & 27	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Willowbrook
Dec. 10 & 18	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Willowbrook

Willowbrook Wilderness Walk 22231

Join a wildlife expert on a nature hike where you'll observe the changing seasons and the wildlife that visit and reside in Willowbrook's back 40 acres. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26	8 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook
Nov. 2 & 9	8 – 10 a.m.	Willowbrook



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3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Ways to Play

Fall Festival at Danada

The Forest Preserve District's largest event returns for two days this year! Festivities will include equestrian performances and demonstrations in the outdoor arena, wagon rides, pony rides and other children's activities, barn tours, and more. All ages. Admission and parking are free, but there are small fees for some activities. No registration. Questions? Call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 8 & 9 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Danada



Time With Your Horse

Danada Equestrian Center and St. James Farm

Interested in getting the latest on obstacle course play dates, weigh days, indoor riding arena openings, and other opportunities? Then text HORSES to 866-743-7332 to sign up for text alerts. As we add them to the calendar, we'll get the word out!



Riding Your Horse in the Indoor Arena

St. James Farm

Exercise and school your horse at the indoor riding arena. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per horse-rider combo per hour. To register, call 630-580-7027.

Fishing: Fall Trout Season Opener

Drop a line for this popular sport fish at Silver, Grove, and Pickerel lakes. Anglers 16 and older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses with inland trout stamps. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Oct. 15 6 a.m. Blackwell, Pratt's
Wayne, Wood
Dale Grove

Lantern-Lit Halloween Hike 22075

Light your way through St. James Farm, starting with a ghost story. Experience a 2-mile self-guided lantern-lit walk along the trails, ending with haunted conversation around the fire and decorated buildings. Hikes leave every 15 minutes 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 28 & 29 6:30 – 10 p.m. St. James Farm



Riding Lessons 22252

Danada Equestrian Center

Learn horsemanship and riding skills in a friendly group setting, or receive one-on-one instruction and progress at your own pace with individual lessons. We have lessons for new to advanced riders ages 12 and up in October and November. \$40 – \$250 per DuPage County resident; \$50 – \$300 per nonresident. Register online or at 630-668-6012.



More Ways to Play

SCENIC OVERLOOK

Greene Valley

Get a bird's-eye view of Greene Valley — and the Chicago skyline — from 190 feet above the landscape. Free. Questions? Call 630-792-2100.

Through Oct. 30

Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Weather or IEPA work may affect hours without notice.

SNOW TUBING

Blackwell

When there's plenty of snow on Mount Hoy (usually more than 3 inches) take a thrilling 800-foot ride down the hill. Only Forest Preserve District inner tubes are allowed. Rentals are \$10 per tube per day and end at 3:30 p.m. Credit card or exact cash only. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Weekends Dec. 3 – Feb. 26 (except Dec. 25)

Plus Dec. 23, Dec. 27 – 30, Jan. 3 – 6, Jan. 9,

Jan. 16 & Feb. 20

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SNOWSHOES

Blackwell & Fullersburg Woods

Rentals are \$10 per day and are only available when there's plenty of snow on the trails. Credit card or exact cash only.

- When snow tubing at Mount Hoy is open, rent at the base until 2 p.m.
- Rent Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last rental at 2 p.m.) at Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center. Call 630-850-8110 in advance for availability.



Fore!

The Preserve at Oak Meadows

Maple Meadows • Green Meadows

A round at a DuPage forest preserve course is a great way to enjoy the outdoors! We have outings and leagues for all abilities. For tee times and specials visit DuPageGolf.com.



Fall in Love With Wood Dale Grove

Wood Dale Grove

Explore the sights and sounds of fall on a self-guided bilingual scavenger hunt where you'll use your smart phone to scan QR codes you find along the way. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1 – Nov. 30

One hour after sunrise – one hour after sunset



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3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Pre-K Outdoor Play 22130

Engage your little ones in outdoor adventure as you participate together in stories, songs, movement, and games followed by a guided outdoor exploration activity. Ages 2 – 4 with an adult. \$5 per child. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 18	1 – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Nov. 15	1 – 2 p.m.	St. James Farm
Dec. 13	1 – 2 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods

Pumpkin Night Hike for Families 22099

Use jack-o-lanterns to light your way on a self-guided night hike through Fullersburg Woods, where kids can go on Halloween-themed scavenger hunts (a pumpkin patch for little kids and a QR code hunt for older) with treats at the end. Hikes leave every 15 minutes 5:30 – 8 p.m. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person ages 3 and up; under 3 free. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 21 & 22	5:30 – 9 p.m.	Fullersburg Woods
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Health & Well-Being

Astronomy Night 22059

Drive to the top of the scenic overlook for spectacular views of the stars and planets complete with telescopes. All ages; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 1	7 – 10 p.m.	Greene Valley
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Cast-Iron Cooking: Thanksgiving 22147

Celebrate Thanksgiving by helping to prepare a hearty meal over an open campfire as you learn tips for cooking with cast iron. Ages 8 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$20 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 20	10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Churchill Woods
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Forest Hike 22065

Gear up to enjoy some healthy exercise on a 3- to 5-mile quick-paced guided hike, where you'll enjoy the wonders of a popular DuPage preserve. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 3	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Fullersburg Woods
Oct. 10	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Timber Ridge
Oct. 17	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Pratt's Wayne
Oct. 24	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Greene Valley
Oct. 31	8:30 – 10 a.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 7	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Salt Creek Park
Nov. 14	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Waterfall Glen
Nov. 21	8:30 – 10 a.m.	Blackwell
Nov. 28	8:30 – 10 a.m.	W. DuPage Woods

Fresh Air Friday 22143

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

Oct. 7	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Nov. 4	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm
Dec. 2	Noon – 1 p.m.	St. James Farm

Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike 22238

Hike atop Mount Hoy early in the morning for a well-deserved look at the winter solstice sunrise. Learn about early morning wildlife and secrets of the solstice and relax as we welcome the first day of winter. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$10 per person. Register online or at 630-942-6200.

Dec. 21	6:45 – 7:45 a.m.	Blackwell
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Heritage

1890s Holiday Candy Making

Enjoy the sweet life as you learn to make candy confections with an heirloom recipe on a wood-burning stove in a historic farmhouse. We'll see how nature and candy making connect when flavored oils distilled from plants from the farm's garden combine with syrup derived from corn. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Nov. 26 & 27 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Among the Leaves So Green

Step back into winter holiday traditions of the 1890s as you tour the farmhouse decked out in all its splendor with antique ornaments, piney boughs, holly, and more. Learn about the importance of "planting" the tree and sprucing up in winter. Help decorate the farm by stringing popcorn and twisting greenery, and join staff around the fire to mull cider and enjoy some sweet treats. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Dec. 3 & 4 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Corn Harvest

Help with the annual corn harvest as you learn about the importance of corn to an 1890s farm family and how the heirloom corn feeds the farm's livestock throughout the year. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-876-5900.

Oct. 22, 23, 29 & 30 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

History of St. James Farm ²²¹⁴⁸

Get an in-depth look into the site'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.

Nov. 20 2 – 3 p.m. St. James Farm

Pop, Pop, Pop, Popcorn!

Learn how to make a selection of historic popcorns from different Midwest regions on an 1890s wood-burning stove. Thirty-minute demonstrations start at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. All ages. Free. No registration. Questions? Call 630-567-8900.

Oct. 1, 8 & 15 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kline Creek Farm

Tractor-Drawn Wagon Ride

Enjoy a 30-minute ride through the scenic forest preserve. Rides leave at 1, 1:45, and 2:30 p.m., and tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at noon the day of the ride. All ages; under 13 with an adult. \$5 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. No registration. For questions or to reserve a private group ride, call 630-668-6012.

Oct. 1, 2, 15, 16, 1 – 3 p.m. Canada
22, 23, 29 & 30

Nov. 5 & 6 1 – 3 p.m. Canada



Nature Art & Culture

Drumming Circle ²²⁰⁵⁴

Celebrate autumn's arrival in a new way: by drumming in the crisp seasonal weather at Fullersburg. Bring your own drum, or borrow one of our homemade percussion instruments. No experience necessary. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 24 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Fullersburg Woods

Nov. 28 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Fullersburg Woods



Registering on dupageforest.org?

Here's a quick way to find your program online.

1. Visit dupageforest.org and click "Registration & Permits."
2. In the search box, enter the five-digit number next to the program name in this calendar.
3. If a program has more than one date, time or location, click "More" to find the one you want.

Nature Poetry Walk 22149

Learn about haiku (a poetic form that originated in Japan) on a leisurely walk; then create your own haiku inspired by your fresh experiences. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Nov. 13 2 – 3:15 p.m. St. James Farm



Parent-Child Nature Journaling 22151

Kids and parents, use your senses to observe the natural world while creating a memory record you can return to for reflection or scientific value. Ages 7 – 10 with an adult. \$5 per person. Register online or at 630-933-7248.

Oct. 10 10 – 11:15 a.m. St. James Farm

Peabody's Pages Book Club

Three-Part Program 22340

Sign up for these enriching meetings where you'll discuss great reads with fellow book fans! In October we'll discuss *Frankenstein*; in November, *Mountains of the Heart*; and in December, *Cold Mountain*. Titles are subject to change. Ages 18 and up. \$5 per person for all three discussions. Register online or at 630-206-9566.

Oct. 7, Nov. 4 & Dec. 2 10 – 11:15 a.m. St. James Farm

Oct. 11, Nov. 8 & Dec. 13 6:45 – 8 p.m. Online

Volunteer

Volunteer Restoration Workday 22161

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).

Oct. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Oct. 1 & 8	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada
Oct. 8	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Oct. 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Oct. 8 & 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Oct. 9, 13, 22 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Oct. 15 & 29	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Oct. 22	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
Nov. 5	9 a.m. – Noon	Churchill/Glacial
Nov. 5, 12 & 19	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada
Nov. 5, 15 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Nov. 5 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Nov. 5 & 19	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Nov. 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Nov. 12	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks
Nov. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 & 31	8:30 – 11 a.m.	Churchill Woods
Dec. 3, 6, & 11	9 a.m. – Noon	Springbrook
Dec. 3 & 10	1 – 3 p.m.	Danada
Dec. 3 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Maple Grove
Dec. 3 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Willowbrook
Dec. 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Fullersburg Woods
Dec. 10	9 a.m. – Noon	Oldfield Oaks

Volunteer Workday at the Nursery 22152

Lend a hand weeding, watering, or collecting and cleaning seeds from native grasses and flowers. Ages 12 and up; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register online or at 630-206-9630 at least five days in advance (10 days ahead for groups of five or more).

Oct. 7, 12 & 17	9 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
Oct. 22 & 28	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell
Nov. 2, 7 & 12	10 a.m. – Noon	Blackwell



◀ Woolly oak galls can look like tiny yellow-pink cotton balls clinging to the undersides of leaves.

© Claire O'Neill

The Inside Story on Galls

by **DEREK GRONLUND**, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES

As summer fades into autumn, and autumn begins to crisp into winter, we find ourselves slowing down, wrapping up in protective layers of clothing, and relying more on shelters to keep us from the cold. It may be surprising, but many insects are doing the same thing. Instead of thermal layers and heated houses, though, these tiny creatures rely on galls.

A gall is an abnormal growth on a plant caused by an external stimulus. Fungi, bacteria, nematodes (aka roundworms), and physical injuries can all cause galls, but in most cases, growth is initiated by the presence of insect larvae. In North America about 1,500 species of insects form galls on different plants, and although the exact details vary depending on the insect and the plant, the general process is the same.

In late spring when plants are actively growing, certain female insects (often types of wasps or midges) deposit eggs into plants' leaves, buds, stems, or bark. The eggs hatch, and

the resulting larvae begin to feed on the plants' tender tissues. It's this feeding that triggers a gall to grow. As a larva feeds, the surrounding area fills with an excess of plant growth hormones, resulting in rapid cell division. As the plant's cells divide and grow, they form thick layers that encase the larva inside.

As fall approaches, this larval growth slows. The developing insect prepares for winter by producing concentrated levels of glycerol, which acts like antifreeze and keeps the larva's soft body from forming damaging ice crystals. In spring when temperatures rise, the larva resumes development, eventually emerging from the gall as a winged adult, ready to initiate the cycle again.

Galls can be found in forest preserves as well as in backyards on trees, bushes, and flowers. Some can disfigure leaves or stems, but it's uncommon for them to harm or kill a healthy plant. In fact, the presence of galls in a yard can attract insect predators that provide a natural biological control of the



© Frederic Desnuelles

▲ Often mistaken for different kinds of blooms, flower galls form when midges lay their eggs in undeveloped leaf buds.



▲ Named for their similarity to the spiny mammals, hedgehog galls form on the leaves of oaks.



© Gary James

▲ This cross section of a gall shows the layers of plant cells that form around the developing goldenrod gall fly inside.



© Stephan John Davies

▲ Fall is a good time to look for goldenrod galls along a DuPage forest preserve trail.

insects making the galls. (If galls are unsightly and affecting the aesthetics of a plant, concerned gardeners can prune back the branches.)

Aside from playing brief yet vital roles in many insects' life cycles, galls hold an important place in local ecology. Many animals such as birds and mice peck or chew through galls to reach the developing larvae inside as a source of food. After the adults exit, the empty gall structures provide shelter for different insects and other tiny animals. Plus, galls are fun to find, interesting to look at, and a good way to draw people of all ages into the joys of observing nature.

In any case, fall in DuPage forest preserves is a good time to keep an eye out for different types of galls. Goldenrod is a common fall flower and the host plant to several gall-forming insects. The aptly named goldenrod gall fly and goldenrod gall moth both lay their eggs in the stems of goldenrod plants. The resulting galls are either smooth and spherical (ball galls) or shaped like elongated footballs (elliptical galls) and are easy to spot. The larvae overwinter in the stems and emerge the following spring.

There are also several species of midges (types of flies)

that form "bunch" galls on goldenrods by laying their eggs in undeveloped leaf buds. This causes the affected stems to alter their development and grow dense clusters of leaves where the eggs were laid. The leafy rosettes are often mistaken for blooms, and thus bunch galls are sometimes known as a flower galls.

Oak trees are important plants for about 500 gall-forming insects. Oak apple galls, some of the more conspicuous, form on the ends of branches where various species of tiny wasps lay their eggs in developing leaves. The infected leaves swell and grow into spherical structures that look like miniature fruits hanging from the stem.

Other oak galls take a bit more searching to find but are worth the effort. Careful observers can find hedgehog galls on the leaves of white oaks. These galls look like miniature yellow and red sea urchins. And woolly oak galls can look like tiny yellow-pink cotton balls clinging to the underside of leaves.

The diversity of galls is staggering, and once you notice a few, you will spot them on just about every tree and plant you see. The next time you find yourself on an autumn stroll, take a closer look under a leaf or at a stem. That oddly shaped colorful bump you see may very well be hiding an insect. •

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

Conservationist Subscriptions

630-933-7085

Partnership & Philanthropy

Friends of the Forest Preserve

District

630-871-6400

Law Enforcement

630-933-7240

HOURS

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

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 prior to attending a registration-based program.

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.

FULLERSBURG WOODS NATURE EDUCATION CENTER

3609 Spring Road
Oak Brook • 630-850-8110

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

KLINE 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

ST. JAMES FARM

2S541 Winfield Road • Warrenville
630-580-7025

Office & 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

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

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

Due to work on the exterior, the interior of Mayslake Hall is closed for the year. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

WILLOWBROOK WILDLIFE CENTER

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

Animal Admittance

Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Outdoor Exhibit Trail

Daily 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Visitor Center

Although Willowbrook continues to accept animals, the visitor center will be closed until a new building opens in 2024. For updates, visit dupageforest.org.

PARTNER Sites

DANADA HOUSE

Wheaton • 630-668-5392

FISCHER FARM

Bensenville • 630-766-7015

GRAUE MILL AND MUSEUM

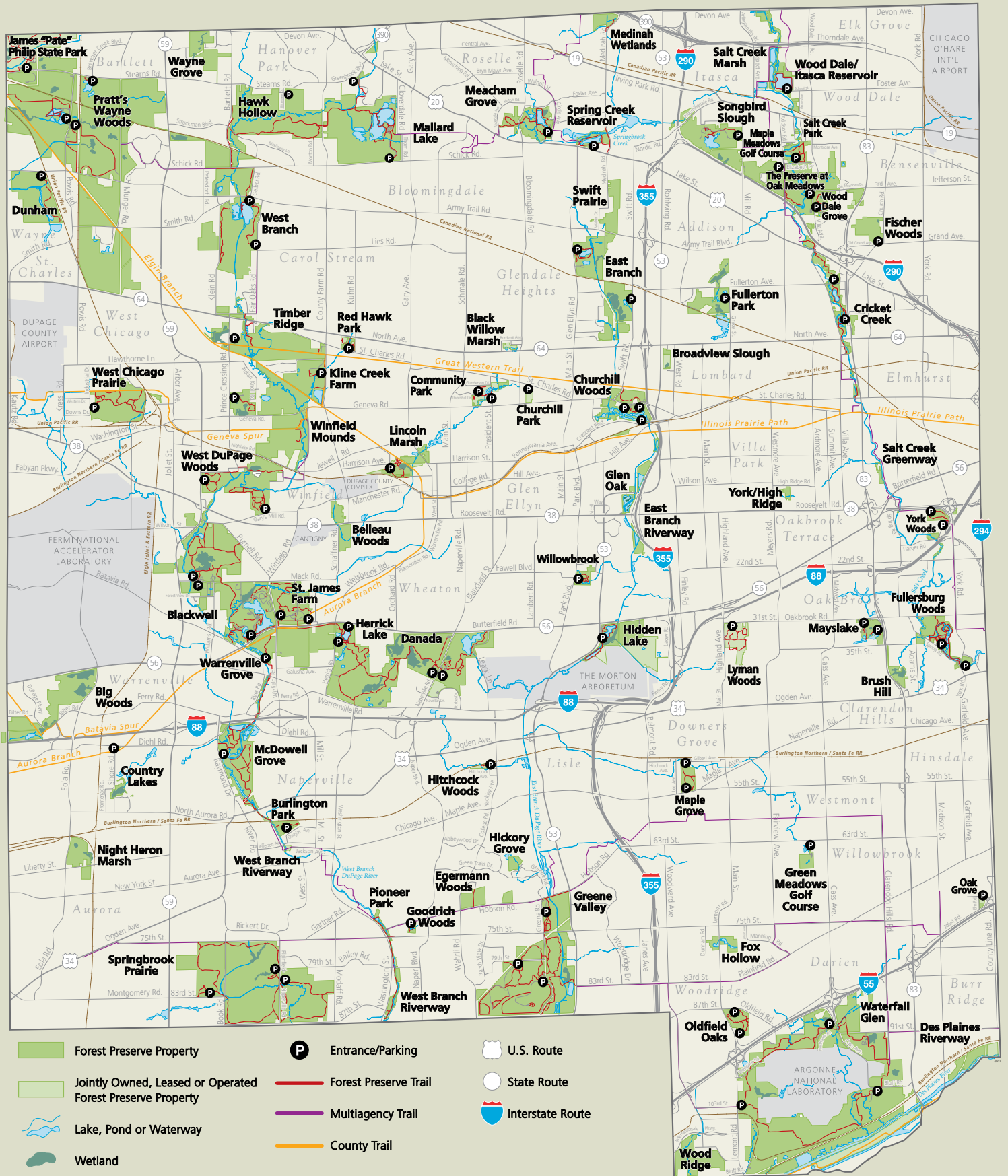
Oak Brook • 630-655-2090







BARTLETT NATURE CENTER

Bartlett • 847-608-3120

LYMAN WOODS NATURE CENTER

Downers Grove • 630-963-9388



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|--|---|--|
|  Forest Preserve Property |  Entrance/Parking |  U.S. Route |
|  Jointly Owned, Leased or Operated Forest Preserve Property |  Forest Preserve Trail |  State Route |
|  Lake, Pond or Waterway |  Multiagency Trail |  Interstate Route |
|  Wetland |  County Trail | |



**Forest Preserve District
of DuPage County**

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A Quarterly Publication of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Fall 2022

FALL FESTIVAL AT DANADA

OCT. 8 & 9
11 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Free Admission (Fees for Some Activities)
Horse Show Performances in Our Outdoor Arena
Wagon Rides • Horse-Care Demos • Hobbyhorse Craft
Pony Rides • Food & Entertainment • Face Painting
Nature Art & Photo Show • Stable Tours • And More!

For more information, call the Danada Equestrian Center in
Wheaton at 630-668-6012, or visit dupageforest.org.

NOW TWO DAYS!

