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For Immediate Release
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Forest Preserves of Cook County Events and Programs – May 2019

Note: For images, call 708-771-1159 or email Stacina.Stagner@cookcountyil.gov. A complete listing of all programs is posted to the Forest Preserves' events website at fpdcc.com/events with seasonal brochures that can be downloaded.

NORTHWEST

Camping with the Birds

Friday, May 10 • 4 pm – Saturday, May 11 • 9 am

Camp Reinberg – 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

Join Chicago Audubon Society for a camping trip with an owl walk, campfire sing-along, and a morning bird walk with breakfast. Contact 312-636-9750 to register.

Painting by the Pond—Spring Edition

Friday, May 10 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Rolling Knolls – 11N260 Rohrssen Rd, Elgin

Join us as an instructor leads in creating a spring painting using a large tree slice as the canvas. Materials provided. Ages 21 & up. BYOB (no glass). \$20/person. Registration required, call 708-386-4042 ext. 26.

Camp Fire Cooking Workshop

Friday, May 10 • 6-8 pm

Camp Reinberg – 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

Learn to make meals over a fire using cast-iron and basic campfire cooking techniques. Ages 14 & up. Registration required, email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

International Migratory Bird Day and #birdthepreserves Big Sit

Saturday, May 11 • 11 am-3 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Join us for a bird walk to see who is winging in and experience the perils of migration in our Migration Obstacle Course.

Hike and Bike!

Saturday, May 11 • 1-3 pm

Camp Reinberg – 1801 N Quentin Rd, Palatine

Join us for fun-filled afternoon exploring our trails on foot and bike. Registration and adult supervision required. Email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

Wee Wanderer Wednesdays

Wednesday, May 15 • 10 am

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Join us for a special program for little naturalists. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 9:30 am. Donations welcomed. Children ages 2-6 w/adult.

Amazing Eggs

Sunday, May 19 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Join us for an egg-celent program to discover which animals hatch from eggs and what features make eggs so amazing!

Setting Sun Photo Meet-up

Friday, May 24 • 7:30 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Enjoy an after-hours hike for photographers of all levels. Ages 14 & up. Registration required, call 847-381-6592.

Pollinators

Sunday, May 26 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Discover why pollinators are so important for the local ecosystems and for us. Then hike to observe pollinators in action.

NORTH

Bird Walks

Thursdays, May 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 7:30 am

Perkins Woods – Ewing Ave & Grant St, Evanston

Join the Evanston North Shore Bird Club for birding in this small spring migrant hotspot. Bonus: spring wildflowers. Email info@ensbc.org for more info.

Birding Trip to Skokie Lagoons

Saturday, May 11 • 7:30 am

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

Join Chicago Ornithological Society to look for warblers and other spring migrants. Email aerintedesco@gmail.com for more info.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 12 • 1:30 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
Learn about spring woodland wildflowers on a casual hike.

Small Serendipity

Wednesdays, May 15 & 29 • 10 am
River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
Nature stories, crafts and activities. Children ages 3-6 w/adult.

Camping 101 for Outdoor Youth Organizations

Wednesday, May 15 • 5:30-7 pm
Camp Dan Beard – 200 Portwine Rd, Northbrook
Free, hands-on workshop teaching basic camping skills to youth groups. Registration required, email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov.

Nightlife Series: Fireside Tales

Friday, May 17 • 7:15 pm check in, 7:30 pm start
River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
Experience a unique nature-themed program at River Trail in the evening. Call for information. Registration required at least two days prior. \$3/person.

World Migratory Bird Day Celebration

Saturday, May 18 • 9-11:30 am
LaBagh Woods – Grove 1, Cicero just north of Foster, Chicago
Watch scientists band and release birds migrating from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Enjoy crafts, snacks, bird walks and more.

Novice Nature Photography Workshop

Saturday, May 18 • 9:30 am-Noon
River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
A naturalist will guide you through techniques to capture your outdoor experience. Point and shoot cameras provided. Register by May 15, call 847-824-8360.

Des Plaines Canoe and Kayak Marathon

Sunday, May 19 • Race starts 8 am
Dam #2 – 906 River Rd, Mount Prospect
Race begins at Oak Springs Road in Libertyville and ends at Dam #2. Free for spectators. Activities at Dam #2 begin at 11 am. Register at canoemarathon.com.

Birding Basics

Sunday, May 19 • 1-2:30 pm
River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
Residents are beginning to nest and migrants are passing through by the thousands. Learn the basics in bird watching. Register by 5/4, call 847-824-8360.

Creature Feature

Sunday & Monday, May 26 & 27 • 1:30 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook
Stop in and say hello to one of the animals found in our forest preserves.

CENTRAL

Morning Bird Walk

Friday, May 10 • 9:30 am

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

Enjoy a casual guided walk to look for birds and bird behavior. All welcome; binoculars available.

“The Big Sit” Birdwatching

Saturday, May 11 • 6 am-Noon

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

Stop and sit a while as we see how many birds we can spot or hear without leaving a 17-foot circle. Binoculars and guidance provided.

Makin’ Music Bluegrass Jam

Sunday, May 12 • 1 pm

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

Make a simple musical instrument or bring your own. Play or just listen – all are welcome!

Nature Story Time

Thursday, May 16 • 10:30 am

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

Nature-inspired stories followed by a craft and snack. Children ages 3-6 w/adult.

River Kayaking 101

Friday, May 17 • 11 am-12:30 pm or 3:30-5 pm

Trailside Museum parking lot – 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest

Introductory class prior to a short paddle along the Des Plaines River to Maywood Grove.

Perfect for new kayakers; ages 5 & up. Registration required, call 312-533-5751.

Migration Walk

Sunday, May 19 • 8 am

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

Enjoy a spring walk that will focus on identifying birds and the phenomenon of migration. Led by John Elliott of Chicago Audubon.

Nature Tots

Wednesday, May 22 • 10 am

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

Join your tot in exploring nature! Come play with us and explore a different theme each month.

Registration required, call 708-366-6530.

“Bone” Appétit

Saturday, May 25; Monday, May 27 • 1 pm

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

Join us during feeding time to learn about Trailside’s outdoor resident animals.

Guided Spring Nature Hikes

Sunday, May 26 • 1 pm

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

Enjoy a naturalist-guided nature hike to discover signs of spring.

Adult Archery

Thursday, May 30 • Noon-2 pm

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

Try your hand at a new or old pastime. Enjoy a brief nature hike while you wait for your next turn. Ages 18 & up. Groups of 10 or more, registration required. Call 312-533-5751.

SOUTHWEST

Afternoons with Mother Nature

Wednesdays, May 8 & 22 • 12:30-2:30 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

Explore and learn through nature play. Children Ages 3 & 4 w/adult. Registration required, call 708-839-6897. \$20/May – Fee is for one child and one adult.

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

Thursday, May 9 • 10 am

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

Nature will inspire a different activity for seniors each week. Registration required, call 708-839-6897.

Sagawau Bird Hikes

Friday, May 10; Saturdays, May 18 & 25 • 8:30 am

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

Hike with a naturalist! Learn to identify birds by field marks, behavior, sound and habitat.

Binoculars available for loan.

Morning Bird Walks

Saturdays, May 11 & 18 • 7:30-8:30 am

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

Take a relaxed stroll observing birds in various habitats. Limited binoculars for loan.

World Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 11 • 9 am-2 pm

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

Enjoy and conserve birds by taking a bird hike and cleaning up litter. Litter clean-up begins 9 am. All ages.

R.I.P. Stewardship Workday

Saturday, May 11 • 10 am-Noon

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
Assist us with Removing Invasive Plants. Ages 10 & up. Children under 15 w/adult. No registration required

Spring Wildflower Hike

Sunday, May 12 • 1 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
Check out the array of wildflowers as we walk the 1-mile White Oak Trail. Registration required, call 708-839-6897.

Hike the Preserves: Fitness Hike

Saturday, May 18 • 10 am

Vollmer Road Grove – Vollmer Rd, west of Crawford Ave, Matteson
Take a 3.75-mile hike and enjoy the natural beauty around you.

Night Sky Program: Viewing the Night Sky with Binoculars

Saturday, May 18 • 7:30-10:30 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
Peek at the universe through telescopes; guided by the Chicago Astronomical Society.

Canyon Tour

Sunday, May 19 • 10 am

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center – 12545 W 111th St, Lemont
Sagawau Canyon highlights the geology of NE Illinois. Hike is over rough terrain; wading through a stream is necessary. Registration required, starts the Monday prior to the program date. Call 630-257-2045.

Yoga in the Woods

Sunday, May 19 • 10-11:15 am

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
Join us for a short hike before practicing yoga. Bring your own mat or beach towel. Ages 18 & up. Registration required, call 708-839-6897.

Camping 101

Tuesday, May 21 • 5:30-7 pm

Camp Bullfrog Lake – 9600 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs
Free, hands-on workshop series teaching basic camping skills. No youth groups. All ages; children 16 & under w/adult.

Friday Night Frogs

Friday, May 24 • 8:15-10:30 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs
Join us as we listen for the frogs calling tonight. Adults & children 10+. Registration required, call 708-839-6897.

Spring Fungi Hike

Saturday, May 25 • 1 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

Let's hike at Swallow Cliff – South to investigate the fungi present. Ages 18 & up. Registration required, call 708-839-6897.

Prairie Hike

Sunday, May 26 • 1 pm

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

Join us for a hike around Blenz Prairie. See what is blooming and how the prairie is responding to restoration efforts. Registration required, call 630-257-2045.

Nature is Accessible!

Wednesday, May 29 • 10 am-2 pm

Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center – 9800 Willow Springs Rd, Willow Springs

Visitors of all abilities are invited to celebrate nature through accessible activities.

Camping 101 for Outdoor Youth Organizations

Wednesday, May 29 • 5:30-7 pm

Camp Sullivan – 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

Free, hands-on workshop teaching basic camping skills to youth groups. Registration required, email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

SOUTH

Wee Wonders

Wednesday, May 8 • 10 am

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Preschoolers, with an adult, are invited to learn about local plants and animals while enjoying story time and artmaking.

Adult Archery

Wednesday, May 8 • 2-4 pm

Dan Ryan Woods Central – S Western Ave, south of W 83rd St, Chicago

Learn a new skill or hone an old passion. Equipment provided. Ages 18 & up.

Spring Evening Awakening

Friday, May 10 • 7-8:30 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Use your sense of hearing to identify frogs during a night hike. Registration required, call 708-868-0606.

Big Sit

Saturday, May 11 • 6 am-Noon

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join Forest Preserves staff to sit and watch as many bird species as possible when viewed from a fixed location within a 17-foot circle.

Chicago River Day Clean-up Paddle

Saturday, May 11 • 9 am-Noon

Water Clean-up: Little Calumet Boat Launch – Jackson St, east of S Ashland Ave, Blue Island

Land Clean-up: Whistler Woods – Forest View Ave, east of S Harlem Ave, Riverdale

Celebrate the 27th Chicago River Day on the Little Calumet River. All ages. Limited number of boats available for water portion. See chicagoriver.org for details.

Please Touch! Beautiful Birds

Saturday, May 11 • 10 am-3 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Did you know birds have hollow bones and rarely get wet? Learn about native birds and see feathers and wings you can touch.

Nature Explorers

Saturday, May 12 • 1-2 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join us for a fun day exploring the trails and discovering nature play.

Tuesday Mornings are for the Birds!

Tuesday, May 14 • 8 am

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Bring your binoculars and join us as we seek out spring arrivals. Binoculars available.

‘Scopes in the City

Friday, May 17 • 7:30-9 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join Adler Planetarium astronomy staff for a fun night under the stars! We'll start with a presentation, then learn how a telescope works and view our beautiful moon.

Bird Walk

Saturday, May 18 • 7:30 am

Burnham Prairie – 139th St & S Manistee Ave, Burnham

Join Chicago Ornithological Society to look for migrating shorebirds and waders. Wear sturdy footwear or waterproof boots. Beginning birders welcome; extra binoculars available. Email chicagiometti@gmail.com for more info.

Frog Frenzy

Saturday, May 18 • 10 am

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Come prepared to wade in the pond and dip one of our nets. Will you find a tadpole, adult bullfrog or a surprise? Registration required, call 708-868-0606.

Hike the Preserves: Interpretive Hike

Saturday, May 18 • 10 am
Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E, Chicago
Take a 2-mile hike and enjoy the natural beauty around you.

Nature Block Party

Saturday, May 18 • 11 am-3 pm
Eggers Grove – E 112th St & S Ave E, Chicago
Get your hands dirty with land restoration or relax with games, biking, walks and more. All ages.
Limited bikes available. Registration required for groups of 20+.

Wellness in the Woods: Stretching in Spring

Saturday, May 18 • 1:30 pm
Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland
Check our Facebook page at tinyurl.com/woodswellness for monthly opportunities. Improve your mental and physical wellbeing. Be active, playful and restful in your Preserves.

Bird Walk

Sunday, May 19 • 7:30 am
Jurgensen Woods – 183rd St, east of Cottage Grove Ave, Lansing
Join Chicago Ornithological Society to scour the woodlands and river bottom for migrating warblers, thrushes and raptors. Contact edwarhzan@gmail.com.

Pioneer Living

Sunday, May 19 • 10 am-3pm
Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland
Discover the past as you explore the interior of recreated pioneer log cabins.

Archery 101

Wednesday, May 22 • 4-7 pm
Sauk Trail Woods Central – Forest Preserve Dr, south of W 26th St, South Chicago Heights
Learn the basics of archery. Ages 10 & up. Equipment provided.

Sand Ridge by the Pool

Saturday, May 25 • Noon-2 pm
Green Lake Aquatic Center – 1100 River Oaks Dr, Calumet City
Nature center staff will share animal artifacts and tools for nature exploration.

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About the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Don't you sometimes just want to escape? Explore the natural beauty of Cook County for an hour, a day or even a night. When you're surrounded by 70,000 acres of wild and wonderful there's no better place to feel free.

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