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For Immediate Release
April 1, 2019

Forest Preserves of Cook County Events and Programs – April 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

Wee Wanderer Wednesdays

Wednesdays, April 3 & 17 • 10 am

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Join us for a special program for little naturalists. For children ages 2-6 with a caregiver. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 9:30 am. Donations welcomed.

Prime Real Estate

Sunday, April 7 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

See why and how we provide cavity nesting birds with accommodations, then stay to see the Tree Swallows compete.

Radio Telemetry

Saturday, April 13 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Learn about radio telemetry and how/why it is used to track some of the animals in your local Forest Preserves. Try your hand at using some of our radio telemetry equipment.

Art in Nature: Mixed Media Sketching

Sunday, April 14 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Make a new mark on your sketchbook by using more than just a pencil in this mixed media sketching class. Taught by artist Karen Sako. Registration required. Call 847-381-6592.

Bird Walks

Thursday, April 18 • 8 am

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Join the Crabtree staff to look for spring migrants. Meet in the parking lot.

Earth Day, Nature Play

Saturday, April 20 • Noon-3 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Play, plant, paint and pretend. Special Earth Day family-fun activities in our 3-acre nature play area.

Frog Calls

Friday, April 20 • 7:30pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

Learn about frogs and why they call. Then go on a hike to identifying different species based on their evening ballads. Registration required. Call 847-381-6592.

April Blooms

Sunday, April 28 • 1 pm

Crabtree Nature Center – 3 Stover Rd, Barrington Hills

April showers bring May flowers. Search for the first flowers of spring emerging along the forest floor.

NORTH

GPS Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, April 7 • anytime from Noon-2 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

Stop in and learn about this technology-inspired scavenger hunt. We'll provide you with coordinates of some hidden treasures to find in the forest. Check out one of our GPS units or bring your own. Supplies are limited.

Camping 101 for Outdoor Youth Organizations

Camp Dan Beard – 200 Portwine Rd, Northbrook

Thursday, April 11 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Help members of your youth organization master the basics of camping during these free, hands-on workshops for camping skills and team work. Learn the basics: tent set-up, campfire building, proper dress, camping etiquette and more. Registration and adult supervision required, space is limited. Email experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov to register.

Conservation @ Home Series: Building Better Soils

Friday, April 12 • 10 am-12 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

Ever wonder what makes 'good' soil? Or how to create healthy soils in your landscape? Join University of Illinois Extension staff and volunteers to explore soil science in time for this growing season. Ages 18 & up. Registration required by 4/8. Call 847-824-8360.

Wilderness Survival

Saturday, Apr 13 • 10 am-1 pm

Caldwell Woods – W Devon Ave & N Nagle Ave, Chicago

This hands-on program demonstrates how to use the natural resources around you. Learn about edible plants and weaving as well as create cordage, compass, shelter building, potable water and primitive fires. Suitable for ages 7 and up.

Sunrise Coffee and Canoe Cruise

Wednesday, Apr 17 • 6:30-8 am

Tower Road Boat Launch – Tower Rd & North Branch Trail, Northfield

Start your day with a delicious cup of coffee and canoeing! While on the water, experience the sunrise, local wildlife and learn about coffee sustainability practices from The Coffee & Tea Exchange. Coffee provided by The Coffee & Tea Exchange. Registration required. Call 708-386-4042.

Lions, Wolves & Bears – Oh My!

Sunday, April 20 • 1:30 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

Learn about the mega predators that once lived in Illinois.

Spring has Sprung Family Drop In

Sunday, April 21 • anytime from 11 am-2 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

Stop in to explore nature in spring.

Bird Walk

Saturday, April 27 • 7:30 am

LaBagh Woods, 5400 N Cicero Ave, Chicago

Join Jeff Skrentny and take advantage of his detailed knowledge of this premier Chicago birding hotspot. Wear boots. Registration required. Email aerintedesco@gmail.com to register.

Earth Day Celebration with the BackYard Nature Center

Sunday, Apr 28 • 12:30-3pm

Erickson Woods, Winnetka

Join the BackYard Nature Center for an afternoon of service, learning and fun. Activities include restoration, a fishing clinic, nature hikes and pop-up nature play.

What's in Bloom?

Sunday, April 28 • 1:30 pm

River Trail Nature Center – 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook

Enjoy a walk to observe and learn about some native woodland flowers.

CENTRAL

Nature Story Times

Thursdays, April 4 & 18 • 10:30 am

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

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

Seed Weaving and Seed Museums

Saturday, April 6 • 1 pm

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

Create a nature art piece with local artist Shilin Hora (www.shilinhora.com). Learn the basics of plants and trees through seed weaving and installation of an outdoor art piece. Registration required. Call 708-366-6530.

Archery 101

Sunday, April 7 • Noon-2 pm

Maywood Grove, Ohio St & Des Plaines Ave, Maywood

Attend this session to learn the basics of archery. Ages 10 and up. Equipment provided.

Escape(Room) from Trailside

Sunday, April 7 • 1 pm

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

Solve nature related clues that will help you escape from Trailside.

Nature Tots

Wednesday, April 10 • 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. Cal 708-366-6530.

Bird Walk

Saturday, Apr 13 • 7:30 am

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

Explore with Chicago Ornithological Society in search of early spring migrants, including Wilson's snipe and American pipit. Email aerintedesco@gmail.com for more info.

Improv in the Woods

Saturday, April 13 • 2 pm

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

Let our feet be the metronomes for this musical improv hike as we start with a lesson then find inspiration in nature. All hikable instruments are welcome. Registration required. Cal 708-366-6530.

Makin' Music Bluegrass Jam

Sunday, April 14 • 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!

Wellness Walk

Saturday, April 20 • 11 am

Bemis Woods South – Grove 7, Ogden Ave, west of Wolf Rd, Western Springs

Join us in a casual 1.7-miles fitness hike while enjoying the natural beauty of a spring afternoon.

“Bone” Appétit

Saturday, April 20 • 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.

Morning Bird Walks

Friday, April 26 • 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.

Earth Day Des Plaines River Cleanup in Thatcher Woods

Saturday, April 27 • 8-10 am

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

Join our partner, the River Forest Park District, in removing trash. A great Service Project for families, schools and scout groups! All materials provided. Contact www.rfparks.com for details and to sign up.

Forest Bathing at Thatcher Woods

Sunday, April 28 • 1pm

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

Join Roberta Janssen for a forest therapy walk and experience nature in a healthy way that will help you get out of your head, live in our body and reduce stress in your life. Registration required. Cal 708-366-6530.

SOUTHWEST

Waterfowl Watch

Wednesday, April 3 • 10 am

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

Peer through a spotting scope and watch for migratory waterfowl. Participants will meet at McGinnis Slough. Ages 14 & up. Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.

Camping 101

Wednesday, April 3 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Camp Bullfrog – 9600 Wolf Rd, Willow Springs

Perfect for families and novice campers, this free, hands-on workshop series teaches basic camping skills to first-time campers who aren’t part of outdoor groups. Learn tent set-up, campfire building, proper dress, camping etiquette and more. Parents required to be present with children 16 & younger. No registration is required.

Ornithology 101: Wood Warblers Part 1

Friday, April 5 • 10 am

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

This indoor workshop will help you identify this diverse group of birds. First of two classes. Ages 14 and up.

Canyon Tour

Saturday, April 6 • 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 in person or by phone, starts the Monday prior to the program date. Call 630-257-2045.

Peek in a Pond

Saturday, April 6 • 1:30 pm

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

Discover the secretive invertebrates and amphibians that dwell in an ephemeral pond. Ages 7 & up. Registration required. Call 708-839-6897.

Sagawau Bird Hikes

Sundays, April 7, 14, 21; Friday, April 26 • 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.

Yoga in the Woods

Sunday, April 7 • 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.

Afternoons with Mother Nature

Wednesdays, April 10 & 24 • 12:30-2:30 pm

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

Children 3 & 4 years old and their favorite adult will explore and learn through nature play. \$20. Fee is for one child and one adult. Registration required. Call 708-839-6897.

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

Thursdays, April 11 • 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.

Spring Fishing Derby

Saturday, April 13 • 8-11:30 am

Papoose Lake – McCarthy Rd, west of S La Grange Rd, Palos Park

Join us for spring fishing and fun. Prizes awarded for the largest fish caught in different age groups. Registration begins at 8am. Fishing from 8:30-11 am. Catch and release event; fishing license not needed. In partnership with the Village of Palos Park.

Restoration Workday

Saturday, April 13 • 9:30-11:30 am

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

Enjoy the fresh air and put your muscles to work as you help restore habitat by removing invasive plants. Gloves and tools available for loan. Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.

R.I.P. Stewardship Workday

Saturday, April 13 • 10 am-Noon

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

Assist us with Removing Invasive Plants. Individuals and families welcome. Not suitable for ages 9 and younger. Participants ages 10-14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Ornithology 101: Wood Warblers Part 2

Friday, April 13 • 10 am

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

After preening our warbler identification skills, we will hike the trail and search for warblers to identify. Second of two classes. Ages 14 & up.

Hike and Bike!

Sunday, April 14 • 1-3 pm

Camp Sullivan – 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

Join us for fun filled afternoon exploring our trails on foot and on bike. This relaxing adventure will provide a great excuse to get outside. Some bikes available. Registration and adult supervision required, space is limited. Email experience.camping@cookcountyl.gov to register.

Nature's Choice

Sunday, April 14 • 1:30 pm

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

Join a naturalist as we discuss a seasonal occurrence in nature. No registration required.

Afternoon Paddle & Fishing

Friday, April 19 • 11 am-1 pm

Columbia Woods, Grove 1 – Willow Springs Rd & Corcoran Rd, Willow Springs

Spend your lunch hour fishing or canoeing the Des Plaines River. Canoe instruction and fishing equipment provided. For information, call 312-533-5751.

Friday Night Frogs

Friday, April 19 • 7:30-9:45 pm - Full Moon

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

Use your sense of hearing to identify which frogs are calling tonight. The data will be used as part of the Calling Frog Survey for the Chicago Wilderness Region. Adults and children 10+. Limit 15. Registration required. Call 708-839-6897.

Sagawau Science: Spring Wildflower Walk

Saturday, April 20 • 1 pm

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

Take a closer look at these short-lived wildflowers while walking through the woods.

Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.

Wild Child

Saturday, April 20 • 1:30 pm

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

Discover how nature nurtures a child's sense of wonder and scientific curiosity through unstructured free play and outdoor exploration. Ages 6 & up. Registration required. Call 708-839-6897.

Camping 101 for Outdoor Youth Organizations

Tuesday, April 23 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Camp Sullivan – 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

Help members of your youth organization master the basics of camping during these free, hands-on workshops for camping skills and team work. Learn the basics: tent set-up, campfire building, proper dress, camping etiquette, and more. Registration and adult supervision required, space is limited. Please email: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov to register.

CLIC (Camping Leadership Immersion Course) Training

Saturday-Sunday, April 27-28

Camp Sullivan – 14630 Oak Park Ave, Oak Forest

Are you a leader of a school, community, scouting, or youth group? Interested in bringing your group camping but don't know where to begin? Our CLIC Training is an overnight course that provides skills such as camping equipment use and care, outdoor activities, teamwork and nature-based education. Upon completion, groups of up to 30 gain access to camping gear such as tents, sleeping bags, sleeping pads and cookware for an overnight stay at Camp Sullivan.

Training is required to gain access to gear. For more information, e-mail experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

Morning Bird Walks

Saturday, April 27 • 7-8:30 am

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

Take an early morning walk through various habitats in search of birds making their way north. Bring binoculars if you have them. Birders of all experience welcome and limited binocular supply for loan. No registration required.

Sagawau Science Arts: Wildflowers

Saturday, April 27 • 1 pm

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

Use your artistic skills to explore nature's beauty and render a finished drawing/painting of wildflowers. Art supplies available for loan. Ages 14 & up. Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.

Night Sky Programs: Beginning Astronomy – Develop Your New Hobby

Saturdays, April 27 • 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.

Spring Pollinators

Sunday, April 28 • 1 pm

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

Meet the mining bees and other early pollinators and learn to welcome them in your landscape.

Indoor presentation followed by hike. Ages 14 & up. Registration required. Call 630-257-2045.

SOUTH

Spring Break Nature Fun

April 1-4, April 22-26

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Drop in any time for free, family-friendly inside and outside nature fun and activities every day.

Sand Ridge Audubon Society

Friday, April 5 • 7 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join us for light refreshments, stay for a nature-themed program.

Nature Puppet Show Series: Good Morning, Spring Beauty!

Saturday, April 6 • 10 am

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Everyone is invited to join us for a puppet show exploring a different subject monthly.

Live Healthy, Discover Nature! Hike

Saturday, April 6 • 1:30 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join our monthly hiking club. One of our nature education staff will lead a vigorous hike on our beautiful trails.

Raptor Feeding Program

Sunday, April 7 • 2 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Come take a closer look at our resident birds of prey and learn about their unique adaptations.

Bird Walks

Birding walk along open trails. Ages 13 & up. For more info, contact al.thomas.al@gmail.com or 708-957-9847.

- Wednesday, April 10 • 9 am
Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton Ave, South Holland
- Wednesday, April 17 • 8 am
Plum Creek Meadow – Burnham Ave, north of 223rd St, Chicago Heights

Wee Wonders

Wednesday, April 10 • 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.

Fire 101

Saturday, April 13 • 1:30-3 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Learn how a forest can benefit from fire and fire safety camping basics.

Please Touch! Reptiles and Amphibians

Sunday, April 14 • 10 am-3 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Have you ever touched a turtle shell or a snake skin? Now's your chance!

Tuesday Mornings are for the Birds!

Tuesdays, Apr 16, 23 & 30 • 8 am

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

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

Spring Breakout Adventures

Come out for a full day of activities suitable for all ages including archery, nature exploration and artmaking. Registration required for groups of 10 or more.

- Wednesday, April 17 • 11am-2pm
Beaubien Woods – Flatfoot Lake – I-94 & Doty, Chicago
- Thursday, April 18 • 11am-2pm
Dan Ryan Woods Central – S Western Ave, south of W 83rd St, Chicago

Hike the Preserves

Take a hike and enjoy the natural beauty around you. Fitness hikes are longer with an emphasis on exercise, Interpretative hikes are shorter with a guided theme. All hikes begin at 10 am.

- Saturday, April 20
Fitness Hike 8 miles
Dan Ryan Woods North – W 83rd St, east of S Western Ave, Chicago
- Saturday, April 20
Interpretative Hike 2 miles
Plum Creek Meadow – Burnham Ave, north of 223rd St

Earth Day – Don't Miss

Saturday, April 20 • 10 am-3 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join us for a day set aside as a reminder to be good stewards of our planet every day. Activities include art-making, puppet shows, hikes and Earth Day Jeopardy!

Wellness in the Woods

Saturday, April 20 • 1:30 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Check our Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/woodswellness](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/woodswellness) for monthly opportunities. Improve your mental and physical wellbeing. Be active, playful and restful in your preserves.

Pioneer Living

Sunday, Apr 21 • 10 am-3 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Discover the past as you explore the interior of recreated pioneer log cabins.

Earth Day Celebration and Preserves Clean Up

Saturday, April 27 • 9 am-1 pm

Beaubien Woods – I-94 & Doty, Chicago

Clean up the preserves in partnership with Friends of the Parks and enjoy fun nature activities and snacks during your break. Groups with 10 or more people, please register in advance with Credell.walls@cookcountyil.gov.

Conservation@Home: The Down and Dirty: Building Better Soils

Saturday, April 27 • 10 am-Noon

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

Join University of Illinois Extension staff and volunteers as we explore the soil science for native ornamental plantings in time for this growing season. Registration required. Call 708-868-0606.

Nature Explorers

Saturday, April 27 • 1-2 pm

Sand Ridge Nature Center – 15891 Paxton, South Holland

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

Bird ID Cruise

Sunday, April 28 • Check in at 7:30am

Powderhorn Lake – S Brainerd Ave, east of S Burnham Ave, Burnham

Join us for a paddle as we observe and identify spring migrants. Canoes and binoculars provided. Ages 12 & up. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bird-id-cruise-tickets-53016383430>.

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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.

Connect with us!

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