

# NEWS

Champaign County Forest Preserve District  
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*“Celebrating 60 Years”*

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve • Homer Lake Forest Preserve • Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve • River Bend Forest Preserve

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## **NEW THIS SPRING!** **At the Homer Lake Environmental Education Center**

Homer, IL, May 2 – Three new exhibits at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District’s Environmental Education Center were completed this spring and are now on display. They feature the three main habitats of East Central Illinois - prairie, forest and aquatic.

The prairie section includes an exhibit entitled Mammals of the Illinois Prairie featuring a life-size bison skull and actual bison fur. It also includes pelts and skull replicas from elk, coyote, fox and badger.

The aquatic section features Aquatic Turtles of Illinois. Visitors can touch the items and learn little-known facts about these unique reptiles. There is also an exhibit featuring the fish of Homer Lake.

The forest section includes a rotating exhibit featuring spring woodland wildflowers.

These exhibits were funded in part by a generous grant from The Lumpkin Family Foundation. The LFF is a local private foundation that provides grants to nonprofit organizations to support education and protecting the environment.

These updates are just the beginning! In the future we will be adding even more exhibits that offer exciting hands-on learning opportunities. Make sure to plan a visit to the Environmental Education Center, also open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturdays through October.

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District provides conservation, education and recreation for the citizens of Champaign County and manages 3,500 acres of open space located at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet; River Bend Forest Preserve, Mahomet; Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer; and Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield. The CCFPD includes the Early American Museum, Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden and Lake of the Woods Golf Course in Mahomet and the Middle Fork Campground in Penfield.