

The Leaflet



KRT Charging Station

In an effort to increase the accessibility of the Kickapoo Rail Trail, the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation is seeking donations to install a solar powered wheelchair charging station between St. Joseph and Urbana. The Kickapoo Rail Trail has served as a valuable resource for those in wheelchairs during the pandemic. Access to free accessible outdoor recreation is an effective way of combating the stress of social isolation and gives people with mobility limitations a safe and enjoyable venue to connect with their community. The KRT receives significant usage for community members in wheelchairs. However, large sections of the KRT run through rural areas with no access to electricity for those in motorized wheelchairs. This leaves large sections of the KRT functionally inaccessible to a

segment of the population. Your donations, in support of a solar charging station for motorized wheelchairs, will increase the overall distance of usable trail for people with mobility limitations. The Forest Preserve Friends Foundation needs to raise \$15,000 to help expand access to outdoor recreation for ALL members of our community.



If you would like to support this project, you may donate at ccfpd.org to the **KRT Accessibility Fund.**

Land donation expands HERON VIEW FOREST PRESERVE

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) has received a land donation of 5 acres from the Preservation and Conservation Association of Champaign County (PACA). The land is located on the north side of County Road 2600 at the Sangamon River, contiguous with the Heron View Forest Preserve and expanding its total size to 103 acres. The historically designated Hazen Bridge is located on the donated parcel.

With the District's mission of preserving the natural and cultural history of Champaign County, PACA had long considered CCFPD to be an appropriate local governmental agency to take ownership of the Hazen Bridge and the 5-acre parcel of land on which it sits. The site contains good native habitat, including mature oak trees and an abundant population of Virginia bluebells in the spring. The land will help CCFPD provide more access to the river for recreation. A new parking lot and loop trail will be constructed in 2022.

PACA acquired the historic Hazen Bridge in 1991 after a new bridge over the Sangamon River was built

lining up with County Road 2600 North. The bridge was donated to PACA by the Newcomb Township Road Commission and the 5 acre parcel of land that it sits on was donated by Jack Richmond. "PACA is delighted to have the Hazen Bridge become a historic feature of the Heron View Forest Preserve.

The Hazen Bridge is of historical significance due to the Pratt truss design. It is one of only two truss bridges remaining in Champaign County. The bridge was constructed in 1893, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge will remain observable for historical



The historical Hazen Bridge is now a part of Heron View Forest Preserve.

It makes good sense to have this 5-acre parcel in the stewardship of the CCFPD" said Joe Zalabak, President of PACA. "They protect not only natural areas, but cultural treasures as well."

interpretation, but will be closed to travel due to accessibility and safety concerns. "PACA's generous donation gives Champaign County residents an additional preserved natural >

CCFPD EGG HUNT

36 EGGS - 5 PRESERVES

APRIL 1 - MAY 15



CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

A HISTORY OF HEALING

Infectious Diseases and Community Responses to Defeat Them.

Opening May 2022

MuseumoftheGrandPrairie.org



area, a historic structure, and access to the Sangamon River. We are grateful that PACA has chosen the Forest Preserve District to be the steward of these important resources as they help further our mission to protect the county's natural and cultural resources and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world," says Lorrie Pearson, CCFPD Executive Director.

As the name implies, Heron View Forest Preserve is home to a great blue herons, whose grouped nesting is called a rookery. Staying on CCFPD designated trails will help



Joe Zalabak, PACA president, and Lorrie Pearson, CCFPD Executive Director, inspect the Hazen Bridge.

visitors avoid levels of disturbance that could result in the herons abandoning their nests. The rookery should only be observed from a

distance, especially during the nesting season that lasts from mid-March until August.

PROGRAMS & VIRTUAL EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, ccfpd.org

• APRIL •

Friday, April 8 - Sunday May 1 SELF-GUIDED SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Rayburn-Purnell Woods, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Daily During Preserve Open Hours
FREE. All ages.

Thursday, April 21 - Monday, May 30 AROUND ONE LOG STORYWALK*

Timberdoodle Trail, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Daily During Preserve Open Hours
FREE. All ages.

Friday, April 22 HOMESCHOOLERS CREATE REPURPOSED MASTERPIECES FOR EARTH DAY

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.
Kids aged 5-14 with an adult can register to use our materials! Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Friday, April 22 WALK WITH A NATURALIST

Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 6:30-8 p.m.
All ages. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by April 21 at ccfpd.org. All attendees (adults and children) must register in advance.

Saturday, April 23 KIDS CREATE REPURPOSED MASTERPIECES FOR EARTH DAY

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.
Kids aged 5-14 with an adult can register to use our materials! Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Friday, April 29
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 7:30-10 p.m.
Recommended for ages 5 and up, but all ages are welcome. No cloud date. FREE. Registration required by April 28 at ccfpd.org.



• MAY •

Wednesday, May 4
A CLOSER LOOK AT A HISTORY OF HEALING: TALKING TUBERCULOSIS
Online Event, Streaming on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook & YouTube pages, 10-10:30 a.m. FREE

Wednesday, May 11
A CLOSER LOOK AT A HISTORY OF HEALING: COMMUNITY RESPONSES
Online Event, Streaming on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook & YouTube pages, 10-10:30 a.m. FREE

Saturday, May 14
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, May 20
WALK WITH A NATURALIST
Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.
All ages. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by May 19 at ccfpd.org. All attendees (adults and children) must register in advance.

Saturday, May 14
GNOME HOME MINIATURE GARDEN
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.
\$10 per child participant. Ages 5-11 accompanied by an adult. Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Wednesday, May 18
A CLOSER LOOK AT A HISTORY OF HEALING: HOUSE CALLS
Online Event, Streaming on the Museum of the Grand Prairie Facebook & YouTube pages, 10-10:30 a.m. FREE.

Saturday, May 21
EXHIBIT OPENING: A HISTORY OF HEALING
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Open Hours: 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, May 28
TAKE ME FISHING: MIDDLE FORK
Cypress Pond, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.
Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All Ages.

Volunteer Opportunity

Friday, April 22
EARTH DAY GARLIC MUSTARD REMOVAL
Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, River Bend Forest Preserve, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 23
EARTH DAY GARLIC MUSTARD REMOVAL
Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, River Bend Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Help on Earth Day by removing invasive Garlic Mustard from four of our Forest Preserves! This activity is great for all ages and all skill levels.



Come to the check in station and receive location and identification information. Prospective volunteers should please sign up on this interest form to receive further details <https://bit.ly/MustardRemoval22> or check the event calendar on our website.



Scan here to learn more or visit:
<https://idsw.darksky.org/#about>

KRT CELEBRATION DAY APRIL 24

1 PM - 3 PM

- Meet at the Kickapoo Rail Trail in Oakwood, Illinois
- Learn how to become involved with the Kickapoo Rail Trail
- Join the "Friends of the KRT"
- Visit with organizations, businesses, and groups associated with the KRT from Champaign and Vermilion Counties

3 PM - 4 PM

- Join us as we walk, run, or ride 3 miles from Oakwood to the KRT Trestle Bridge
- A special celebration event will be held on the KRT Trestle Bridge at 3:30 PM for all our supporters, donors, volunteers, recreational users!

for more information visit WWW.ONEKRT.ORG

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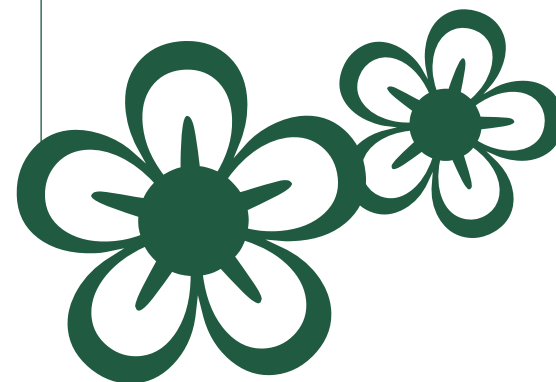
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* denotes five-year
 Perennial Donors

** denotes ten-year
 Perennial Donors

*As much as we try to avoid it, we
 do make mistakes from time to time.
 If your name is missing or listed
 incorrectly, please let us know at
 foundation@ccfpd.org and accept
 our apologies!*



Thank You

* To Our 2021 Donors *

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