

# The Leaflet

## CCFPD to Construct an Additional 1.5 miles of the KRT

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) is poised to construct 1.5 miles of the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT) through the Village of Ogden. Construction begins this month and will be complete by the fall.

This new section of trail will serve the residents and visitors of Ogden as both a transportation and recreational amenity and bring us one step closer to connecting neighboring communities through the KRT. The new trail will provide a safe, off-street option for people of all ages and abilities to walk, wheel, skate, scoot, or bike through Ogden between County Roads 2650E and 2800E. Similar to the trail section in St. Joseph, the trail surface will be asphalt through town and crushed gravel as it moves out of town toward the county line.

There are currently 6.7 miles of trail complete from Urbana to St. Joseph and an additional 3 miles of trail between Oakwood and Kickapoo State Park. Upon completion of the entire trail, the KRT will span 24.5 miles and



connect communities in Champaign and Vermilion Counties.

“We are thrilled to start construction of this next phase of the KRT and bring a part of the trail network to the residents of Ogden. After this section is complete, we will work with our partners to build the remaining sections of the KRT. In Champaign County, those next sections of trail will connect St. Joseph to Ogden and extend the current end of the trail in Urbana to connect to Weaver Park,” said Lorrie Pearson, Executive Director.

Funding for this section of the trail is supported by a \$949,430 grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation’s Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and \$118,678.75 in State of Illinois grant match. Any remaining costs will be provided by Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation.

**Construction updates** will be posted online at [onekrt.org](http://onekrt.org) and on the Kickapoo Rail Trail Facebook and Instagram pages.

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**FREEDOM FEST 2022**



# Forest Preserves Step Up to Climate Challenge



The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) is getting serious about climate change. When emissions like carbon dioxide build up in excessive amounts in the atmosphere, it creates a heat trapping blanket over the planet. The effects of climate change will have detrimental impacts on the local communities of Champaign County, in addition to other communities across the globe. In Illinois, we've already begun to see increased rainfall in winter and spring, more intense storms and flooding, warmer summer nights, and an increased risk of summer heat waves and drought.

At the CCFPD, we know that these changes create challenges for everyone including farmers, businesses, schools, churches, and families. We also notice how they create stress and disrupt the life cycles of our native trees, wildflowers, and wildlife.

Just before Earth Day, on April 21, 2022, the CCFPD Board of Commissioners approved a Climate Commitment. The District's mission is to protect Champaign County's natural and cultural resources and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world. In keeping with that mission, it's our duty to help reduce climate change impacts and serve as a community leader in the

transition to a low-carbon future.

There are three main ways we plan to follow through on that promise.

First, we'll work to cut our own emissions of greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases are pollutants like carbon dioxide that contribute to climate change. CCFPD operate buildings, vehicles, and equipment that generate greenhouse gases. Where it's possible and within our budget, we aim to reduce these emissions each year, reaching near-zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We've already made great progress in just the past two years, by upgrading our facilities to conserve energy and by purchasing renewably-sourced electricity.

Second, we'll continue to protect and enhance the health of our preserves. Forests, prairies, and wetlands all absorb and store carbon. This helps to slow down climate change. Additionally, a high diversity of plant species, and habitat types will make these native landscapes more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Third, we will continue our efforts to educate



and inspire the public. We'll lead by example, publicizing our upgrades and renewable energy investments. We'll spread the word about ways that business and individuals can save money and reduce emissions at the same time. And we'll bring science-based climate messages to more of our education programs.

As part of this effort, CCFPD staff will produce an annual Climate Commitment report. We'll track our emissions, evaluate our preserves' carbon-storage performance, and report actions taken and progress made.

It's not too late to slow the pace of climate change. We know what to do, we know how to do it, and now it's up to each of us to take action. Scan the QR code to see the complete CCFPD Climate Commitment or please visit [www.ccfpd.org](http://www.ccfpd.org).

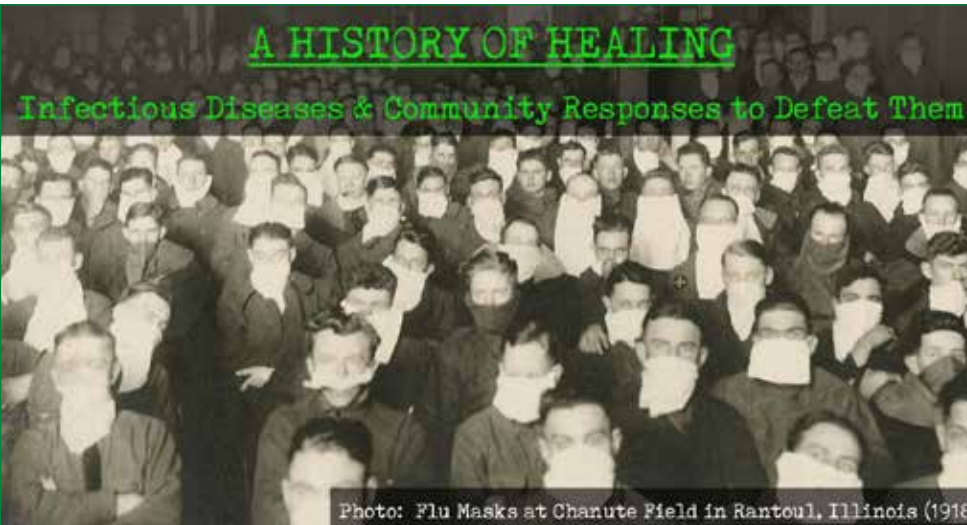


## NEW SPECIAL EXHIBIT

# The History of Healing: Infectious Disease and Community Response

**Ewww. The Museum of the Grand Prairie is opening an exhibit on what? On disease? Haven't we all had enough of that after two years of struggling through the worst pandemic of our lifetimes?**

While it is true we've all now experienced hardship from COVID-19, The Museum of the Grand Prairie is hoping to highlight how infectious disease has spurred us to community action, locally and throughout the world in a new exhibit. On May 21, the Museum of the Grand Prairie is opening a new special exhibit, "The History of Healing: Infectious Disease and Community Response."



What will you learn? Did you know that the University of Illinois closed for a couple weeks in 1938 to deal with the last major outbreak of smallpox in the area? Or that the Illinois State Water Survey was founded, in part, to deal with typhoid epidemics? Were you aware that European American settlers brought malaria to the area, mosquitoes spread it, and then modern drainage reduced the number of mosquitoes? Or maybe you would be surprised that Carle Hospital exists because Margaret B. Carle Morris left a small sum in her will to start a sanitarium for the treatment of chronic diseases.

While there are dozens of infectious diseases to choose from, the museum is concentrating on smallpox, malaria, tuberculosis, the 1918 influenza, typhoid and cholera, polio, AIDS and COVID-19. We'll also explain isolation, quarantine, and vaccination. You'll see a bifurcated needle used for smallpox vaccinations, the formulary (medical recipe book) handwritten by Abraham Lincoln's doctor, and even an iron lung used at Champaign County's own Burnham Hospital in the battle against polio.

Our ancestors left a legacy of good behind: clean water, public health systems, improvements in medicine. As we continue to move through

the COVID-19 epidemic we're celebrating many of the positive responses to disease that Champaign County has made. We're also offering the opportunity to consider our own COVID-19 experiences. The museum is asking for entries to be included in a constructed piece, assembled into a work by artist Cindy Sampson. This *Healing Hearts Community Collage*, a collage created from photos, personal artworks, poems and other two dimensional objects, will reflect our shared response to COVID-19 and

the other recent social disruptions. Everyone is invited to contribute!

Look at the Programs & Virtual Events insert for the Special Exhibit Speaker Series on the exhibit. With funding from Illinois Humanities we'll host experts to speak about medicinal plants and the University of Illinois' response to polio in June and July, with more to come in future months! **If you'd like more information about the exhibit, the collage or the speaker series contact (217) 586-2612, or [museum@ccfpd.org](mailto:museum@ccfpd.org).**

# PROGRAMS & VIRTUAL EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org)

## ● JUNE ●

**Sunday, June 12**

### **CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES SUMMER GARDEN CONCERT: NEW SOULS**

*Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.*  
FREE.

**Monday, June 13**

### **MUSEUM MONDAYS: TOY STORIES**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

FREE. Space is limited. Registration is required by June 10 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Saturday, June 18**

### **STARWATCH**

*North Waterfowl Management Area,  
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve,  
9 p.m.-12 a.m.*

All ages. FREE. No cloud date. Call (217) 351-2567 for weather updates. Register by June 17 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org) to receive updates.

**Monday, June 20**

### **MUSEUM MONDAYS: CARS AND TRUCKS AND THINGS THAT GO!**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration required by June 17 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

**Thursday, June 23**

### **SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES RESPONDING TO POLIO**

*Online Event, Streaming on the  
Museum of the Grand Prairie  
Facebook & YouTube pages, 7 p.m.*  
FREE.

**Friday, June 24**

### **WALK WITH A NATURALIST**

*Interpretive Center, Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.*

All ages. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by June 23 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).



Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve

**Saturday, June 25**

### **CANOEOING FOR BEGINNERS**

*Walnut Hill Boat Launch, Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Minimum age to participate is 8 years old; an adult must accompany children under 18. \$8 per participant, or \$4 if you bring your own canoe. Space is limited. Registration required by June 23 via phone or email: (217) 896-2455 or [jwick@ccfpd.org](mailto:jwick@ccfpd.org).

**Sunday, June 26**

### **CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES MUSIC ON THE LAKE: ACES 'N RHYTHMS**

*Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake  
Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.*  
FREE.

**Monday, June 27**

### **MUSEUM MONDAYS: DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake  
of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration is required by June 24 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## ● JULY ●

**Friday, July 1**

### **HISTORY COMES ALIVE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN & A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

This program is supported in part by our friends at the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. FREE.

**Friday, July 8**

### **SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: HISTORY**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10-11 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration required by July 7 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Saturday, July 9**

### **TAKE ME FISHING WITH THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

*Walnut Hill Shelter,  
Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.*

All event fishing is catch-and-release. Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All Ages.

*more programs on back >*

See the full program descriptions online, [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org)

**Sunday, July 10**  
**HEALING HEARTS:  
CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY!**

*Urbana Free Library, 2-4 p.m.*

This event takes place at The Urbana Free Library. This event is inspired by the *Healing Hearts Community COVID Collage* - a collage piece being created by Cindy Sampson at the Museum of the Grand Prairie this summer. Community members are invited to contribute photos, art, poems etc. that speak to the pandemic occurring in our community from March 2020 to the present.

**Sunday, July 10**  
**CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
SUMMER GARDEN CONCERT:  
CANDY FOSTER AND THE  
SHADES OF BLUE**

*Rayburn Purnell Shelter, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.*  
FREE.

**Monday, July 11**  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS:  
LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration required by July 8 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Thursday, July 14**  
**TALLGRASS PRAIRIE:  
WHAT WAS AND WHAT CAN BE**

*Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Recommended for ages 15 and up. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by July 13 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

**Friday, July 15**  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE:  
READING & WRITING**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration is required by July 14 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

**Monday, July 18**  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS:  
ADVENTURES IN CLAY**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30-11:30 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration is required by July 15 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

**Friday, July 22**  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE:  
GEOGRAPHY**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10-11 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration required by July 21 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org).

**Saturday, July 23**  
**TAKE ME FISHING:  
LAKE OF THE WOODS**

*Lakeview Shelter, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.*

Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All Ages.

**Sunday, July 24**  
**CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
MUSIC ON THE LAKE:  
HOT IRON STRING BAND**

*Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.*

FREE.

**Monday, July 25**  
**MUSEUM MONDAYS:  
FUN WITH FOSSILS!**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie,  
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve,  
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration is required by July 22 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Thursday, July 28**  
**SPECIAL EXHIBIT SPEAKER SERIES  
MEDICINAL PLANTS & USES  
BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF  
THE GREAT PLAINS**

*Online Event, Streaming on the  
Museum of the Grand Prairie  
Facebook & YouTube pages, 7 p.m.*

This program is supported in part by our friends at Illinois Humanities. FREE.

**Friday, July 29**  
**SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE:  
ARITHMETIC**

*Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.*

\$5 per child. Space is limited. Registration required by July 28 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Friday, July 29**  
**WALK WITH A NATURALIST**

*Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.*

All ages. FREE. Space is limited; registration required by July 28 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org). All attendees (adults and children) must register in advance.

**Saturday, July 30**  
**STARWATCH**

*Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m.*

No cloud date. Call (217) 351-2567 for weather updates. All ages. FREE. Register by July 29 at [ccfpd.org](http://ccfpd.org) to receive updates.



Lake of the Woods  
Forest Preserve