

The Leaflet

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

The Mighty Oaks of the Forest Preserves

OAK TREE SPECIES provide the foundation of high quality woodland and savanna ecosystems throughout the preserves. The oak tree group includes many species native to Champaign County including *Quercus alba* (white oak), *Quercus rubra* (northern red oak), and *Quercus macrocarpa* (bur oak). Oaks are considered keystone species because they provide vital habitat for many other organisms that rely on them for food and shelter.

Oak trees are particularly long-lived species. Some of the oldest oak trees in Illinois are even believed to be over 500 years old! To put this in perspective, some of these trees were alive and growing in the state in 1679, the same year that French explorers first travelled through the corridor north of Champaign County. Within the preserves, one can find oak trees over 200 years old. Since pioneers settled in the region, many oak

trees were harvested for timber and the forests and savannas were cleared for agriculture. However, undisturbed, remnant forest sites still exist in the county and there are numerous areas where large "legacy" oaks still remain standing.

The natural resources department of CCFPD is dedicated to the establishment, maintenance, and survival of oak ecosystems. Oak tree species are included in abundance in every reforestation project, either by the direct seeding of nuts, planting bare root seedlings, or planting larger container trees. The

department also encourages donors to consider choosing oak species when planting memorial trees.



Joggers, runners, bikers, et al., our fall project will

certainly be of interest to you. A portion of the Lake of the Woods Bike Trail (through Stidham Woods) will be resurfaced and the parking lot near North Prairie View Road will be expanded. The bike trail was originally constructed in 1997. While the trail has been sealed and patched over the years, the time has come to completely re-mill and resurface the asphalt. There are rarely grants available for renovating existing trails, so the availability of referendum funds is vital to completing this work. During construction, there will be temporary trail closures, so please use caution and keep an eye out for notices and signage.

Volunteer Opportunities

Open to all ages, we just ask that people wear long and closed-toed shoes.

Monday, October 11
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Kickapoo Rail Trail

Meet at Kolb Park
111-199 W. Sherman St.
Saint Joseph, IL 61873

Tuesday, October 26
1-3 p.m.

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve

Point pleasant parking lot
2590 County Rd. 3350 N
Gifford, IL 61847

PRESERVE

LOCATION

Sangamon River Forest Preserve
Middle Fork River Forest Preserve
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
Homer Lake Forest Preserve
Heron View Forest Preserve

Throughout Bottomland Trail
North Waterfowl Trail just off of main parking lot
Stidham Woods down trail off of North Bike Trail
Throughout Flicker Woods Trail
Large bur oak halfway down Sycamore Trail

PROGRAMS & VIRTUAL EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, ccfpd.org

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 2

CU LOCKDOWN TRIVIA WITH THE MUSEUM OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE

Online Event via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Want to test your knowledge?! Join CU Lockdown Trivia and the Museum of the Grand Prairie for a night of virtual trivia. The event will include four unique rounds of trivia with ties to local cultural & natural history, Abraham Lincoln, and women's history. FREE to play with donations suggested to help support the Advancing Equity Fund at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Register at <https://forms.gle/uMvu9D51DPpxpHJ6> to receive the Zoom meeting information.

Saturday, October 2

STARWATCH

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 6:30-11 p.m.

*In the event of inclement weather/overcast skies, the event may be cancelled. Cancellation notices will be made on the (217) 896-2455 number answering machine and on our Facebook pages AT LEAST two hours prior to the program start time.

Tuesday, October 5

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Museum of the Grand Prairie 10:30-11:30 a.m.

\$3 per child. Ages 5-11.

Friday, October 8

NOT-SO-SPOOKY WALK WITH A NATURALIST

Homer Lake Interpretive Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve 5-6:30 p.m.

All ages. FREE. Space is limited. Registration required by Oct. 7 at ccfpd.org.

Thursday, October 14

14th ANNUAL LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES

THE AUDACITY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

Discover a new way to look at our sixteenth president!

Friday-Sunday, October 15-17

WILDERNESS LIVING SKILLS WORKSHOP

Burr Oak Group Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Friday 6 p.m.-Sunday 12 p.m. CST

Spend 3 days camping in the hardwood forests of Illinois where you will learn to make use of the landscape around you. This is an exciting class with lots of hands-on practice in the essential skills of wilderness survival. Participants will learn to make rope, light fires with fire-by-friction, build a shelter that will keep you warm and dry, find food in the wild, and techniques of cooking food over a fire. All this while sleeping in the comfort of your own tent. Adults only. \$200 per person. Register by Oct. 8. Current public health guidelines will be followed. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or pleiter@ccfpd.org.

Note: To help keep costs down, we do not provide food in this course. If you need to cancel: The registration fee will be refunded, minus a \$50 administration fee, if the cancellation is received in writing no later than Oct. 8, 2021.

Registration Link: <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/ccfpd/activity/search/detail/1453>

Saturday, October 16

HARVEST FEST

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-5 p.m.

\$5 per person. Space is limited. Registration required by Oct. 14 at ccfpd.org. Registered guests will receive one pumpkin per registrant. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday, October 19

OUTDOOR FUN FOR HOMESCHOOLERS WITH ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE RECESS GAMES

Museum of the Grand Prairie (outside by schoolhouse), Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.

Ages 5-12. \$3 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday, October 20

INTRO TO LETTERBOXING

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 18 and up. FREE. Space is limited. Registration required by Oct. 19 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, October 22

HALLOWEEN FUN IN THE MABERY GELVIN GARDEN

Mabery Gelvin Garden behind Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 2-4 p.m.

All ages. FREE. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, October 23

EN PLEIN AIR: PAINTING WITH EVELYN TARDY

Izaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.

Supplies are provided, but you are also welcome to bring your own supplies. \$10 per person. Ages 16-103, no experience necessary. Space is limited. Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Thursday, October 28

14th ANNUAL LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES

LINCOLN & DOUGLAS: TOURING ILLINOIS IN TURBULENT TIMES - A FILM DISCUSSION

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

We invite you to join us for a discussion of a new documentary film, "Lincoln & Douglas: Touring Illinois in Turbulent Times."

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 4

PART OF THE COMMUNITY: EAST FRISIAN ORAL HISTORY IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTYS

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

Join our Curator, Mark Hanson, to learn more about the stories captured in this project and recent preservation work that has taken place with these oral histories. Also, preview content from a new travelling and online exhibit entitled *Part of the Community: East Frisian Oral History in Champaign County*. This work was funded in part by grants from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board. FREE.

Friday, November 5

SEED SCATTER FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 per child. Ages 5-11. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited. Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, November 6

SEED SCATTER FOR KIDS

Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11 a.m.

\$3 per child. Parents must accompany children.

Saturday, November 6

EXPLORE ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-4 p.m.

Join museum staff, members of the East Central Illinois Archaeological Society (ECIAS), and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey in exploring the wondrous field of archaeology. FREE.

Tuesday, November 9

OWL NIGHT: AN UP-CLOSE EXPERIENCE WITH OWLS

Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Recommended for ages 5 and up. FREE. Space is limited. Registration required by Nov. 8 at ccfpd.org.

Wednesday, November 10

LETTERBOXING: HOW TO USE AQ AND MORE!

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

Recommended for ages 18 and up. FREE. Space is limited. Register by Nov. 9 at ccfpd.org.

Thursday, November 18

14th ANNUAL LINCOLN LECTURE SERIES KNOWING HIM BY HEART: AFRICAN AMERICANS ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

Professor Matthew Norman, University of Cincinnati-Blue Ash will discuss the complex diversity of African American thoughts and feelings on Abraham Lincoln from the 1860s to the 1960s.

Friday, November 19

LEAFMAN STORYWALK WITH A NATURALIST

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

All ages. FREE. Space is limited. Registration required by Nov. 18 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, November 19

POTPOURRI CABIN CREATION FOR ADULTS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 6-7:30 p.m.

\$6 per person. Ages 15-103! Space is limited. Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Saturday, November 20

POTPOURRI CABIN CREATION FOR KIDS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 1-2:30 p.m.

\$6 per person. Ages 6-14. Space is limited. Registration required at ccfpd.org.

Bridging the Generations

Paint a special edition picture with Paint Like ME! Party

Join us as we "Bridge the Generations" to raise money for a new roof on the Covered Bridge at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.

This canvas will be pre-sketched, so no worries about whether yours will look like the bridge! (It will!). Learn some techniques for adding some life and whimsy to your painting.

Canvas size is 9x12 and cost is \$50.00 per person. Watch our Facebook page for registration information!

Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m.

Lake of the Woods Pavilion

Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, IL

The District welcomes a new leader



Hello! My name is **Lorrie Pearson** and I am the Champaign County Forest Preserve District's new Executive Director. I am delighted to serve in this role to advance our mission to protect our county's natural and cultural resources and inspire people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world.

Before looking ahead, I would first like to thank former Executive Director Mary Ellen Wuellner for her exemplary leadership over the years. I look forward to working alongside her as she stays involved through the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation Board.

Top on my to-do list is completing the backlog of maintenance projects that we can now tackle because of the additional tax dollars made available after approval of the referendum in 2020. These funds will augment the generous support already provided by donors to the Foundation. Thank you.

A bit about me: I bring to the District years of public administration experience and a passion for nature. As an outdoor enthusiast, I have long enjoyed our preserves and am eager to learn more about them and all they have to offer. I invite you to join me in exploring our forest preserves together.

Excited to get started,

Lorrie



This is not the actual design, but very similar