

This summer get out and explore the trails in each of the preserves or use the same trail every day, either way **we're challenging you to accumulate seventy-five miles in the preserves between Memorial Day and Labor Day.** Walk, run, bike, or paddle, it's up to you, just make sure to register online and track your miles. We have 47 miles of trails for you to explore! www.ccfpd.org



Improving Water Recreation at Homer Lake Forest Preserve



The Champaign County Forest Preserve District needs your help to meet the demand for improved water recreation at the Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Since its initial construction, the North Boat Launch has been a popular spot for people to access Homer Lake. However, the current amenities do not meet the demand created by the popularity of the site. There are also limited opportunities for visitors with mobility limitations

to access the water. To address these needs we need your help to raise funds for improvements to the existing boat launch which will include replacing the retaining wall, restoring the existing dock, ADA parking, and accessible paths. Improvements made possible by your donations will allow the District to support long time users of the preserve and broaden opportunities for new visitors to enjoy Homer Lake.

With the help of the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation, we are seeking to raise \$20,000 to help provide greater access to one of Homer Lake Forest Preserves most popular recreational amenities.

Please consider making a donation to fund the Homer Lake North Boat Launch Improvements. Your support of this project will make an immediate and lasting impact on accessible recreation in Champaign County.



Scan or visit:
secure.qgiv.com/for/ccfpd

Multiply Your Impact!

The Forest Preserves Natural Resources department has secured a grant through the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to support habitat restoration at the Timberdoodle Woods. Timberdoodle is a 25-acre forest at Homer Lake Forest Preserve.



The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation will match your donation 3-to-1. For every dollar donated by a donor like you, the District will receive \$4 to help transform this valuable habitat at Homer Lake Forest Preserve.

The Timberdoodle Woods, located just north of the Homer Lake Interpretive Center, is an incredible resource for Champaign County. The restoration will support the District's mission to preserve the natural and cultural resources of Champaign County. Timberdoodle is home to ecologically valuable oaks and hickories, provides educational and recreational opportunities for nearby residents, and provides native habitat for wildlife including the American Woodcock (also known as the Timberdoodle).

The Timberdoodle Woods is in desperate need of invasive brush removal and selective tree thinning to allow native savanna oaks and hickories to grow and thrive. The forest floor is being shaded out by invasive bush honeysuckle and autumn olive. We need your help to fund the removal of these harmful plants and expand staff and volunteers' ability to care for and restore this important habitat.



Please consider donating to support the enhancement of this incredible habitat.

Scan or visit: secure.qgiv.com/for/hl-timberdoodle-stewardshipchallenge

JUNE - JULY 2023

The Leaflet



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

See the full program descriptions online, ccfpd.org

Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays;
June through August
DOCENT-LED TOURS

Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Times may vary
Enjoy guided tours and other educational experiences led by volunteer museum docents! Times may vary, with most experiences being offered mid-day on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays this summer. FREE. All Ages.

● JUNE ●

Saturday, June 3
CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
MUSIC AT MIDDLE FORK: CORDUROY
Harry L. Swartz Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.
This local folk artist combines acoustic guitar, crisp vocals, on-stage effects, and the occasional thunder of a bass drum to create a unique and unforgettable experience. FREE.

Saturday, June 3
PADDLE WITH A NATURALIST
North Boat Ramp/West Lake Trailhead, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Prices start at \$8; see our website for pricing info. Ages 8 and up; adults must accompany participants under 18. Space is limited; Registration required by June 1 at ccfpd.org. In the event of inclement weather, this program will be canceled.

Monday, June 5
MUSEUM MONDAY: HISTORY COMES ALIVE WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
This program will be provided in English & Spanish and is supported in part by our friends at the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition. FREE. All Ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, June 10
STARWATCH
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 8 p.m.- 12 a.m.
FREE. All Ages. Children must be accompanied by adults. No cloud date. Call (217) 351-2567 for weather updates. *In the event of inclement weather/overcast skies, cancellation notices will be posted at least two hours before the program on the William M. Staerke Planetarium's (217) 351-2567 phone line and on CCFPD & Homer Lake Interpretive Center Facebook pages.*

Monday, June 12
MUSEUM MONDAY: ART IN NATURE
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 8 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, June 17
BISON BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 1-3 p.m.
Light refreshments will be provided. FREE. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, June 24
TAKE ME FISHING: HOMER LAKE
Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.
FREE. All Ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, June 25
CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
SUMMER GARDEN CONCERT: DREAMCATCHERS
Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.
Help us welcome DreamCatchers! Featuring a four-piece band, DreamCatchers plays a variety of American classics from the 70's to now. FREE.

Monday, June 26
MUSEUM MONDAY: 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 required by June 22 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Friday, June 30
WALK WITH A NATURALIST
Buffalo Trace Prairie (East Parking Lot), Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 10-11:30 a.m.
FREE. All ages. Space is limited; registration required by June 29 at ccfpd.org.

Friday, June 30
FREEDOM FEST
Lake of the Woods Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 4-10 p.m.
Join us for the Grand Finale of Freedom Fest at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve! Music begins at 4 p.m. At 9 p.m., after a tribute to our service men and women, we Light Up The Lake with a spectacular fireworks display set to music. Admission is \$2 per person, with children 5 and under free.

● JULY ●
Saturday, July 1
MEET THE CRITTERS
Harry L. Swartz Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
FREE. All Ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Saturday, July 1
EMILY ANNE & CLAYTON BURKE
Harry L. Swartz Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 5:30-7 p.m.
This acoustic songwriting duo brings you some country, folk, originals, and other songs about making the most of the simple pleasures life has to offer. FREE.

Friday, July 7
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 required by July 5 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, July 9
CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
MUSIC BY THE LAKE: CANDY FOSTER AND SHADES OF BLUE
Lake of the Woods Pavillion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.
These talented rhythm and blues musicians have been entertaining crowds together for over 20 years together. This concert is supported in part by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. FREE.

Friday, July 14
SUMMER IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE: MATH
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 12 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, July 15
FUN WITH FIREFIGHTERS!
Harry L. Swartz Campground, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 1-3 p.m.
FREE. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Friday, July 21
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 19 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, July 22
TAKE ME FISHING: LAKE OF THE WOODS
Boathouse Peninsula, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, 9-11 a.m.
FREE. All Ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, July 23
CCFPD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
MUSIC ON THE LAKE: ONE FOOT IN
Walnut Hill Shelter, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 5-7 p.m.
One Foot In is made up of four friends who performed together in the 60's and are now back together to have fun and play a wide range of classic rock 'n roll hits. FREE.

Thursday, July 27
PADDLE WITH A NATURALIST
North Boat Ramp, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
Experience nature from a different perspective as we explore the aquatic life of Homer Lake via canoe or kayak. We are teaming up with Lunatic Kayak Rentals to offer this new experience! Prices start at \$8; see our website for pricing info. Ages 8 and up; adults must accompany participants under 18. Space is limited; Registration required by June 1 at ccfpd.org. In the event of inclement weather, this program will be canceled.

Friday, July 28
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 26 at ccfpd.org. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday, July 29
WALK WITH A NATURALIST AT SUNSET
Point Pleasant Wetland, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, 7:30-9 p.m.
FREE. All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Current campground guests may RSVP with the campground host, or register online at ccfpd.org. Registration required by July 28 at ccfpd.org.

EXPANDING THE DARK SKY AMENITIES AT MIDDLE FORK RIVER FOREST PRESERVE



The Champaign County Forest Preserve District plans to improve Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Illinois' first and only International Dark Sky Park, by creating a new Dark Sky Trail to support Dark Sky tourism, recreation, and education. The project will construct an observatory, expand parking and camping capacity, and install educational signage on the harm of light pollution and value of dark skies.

Middle Fork is the largest preserve in Champaign County and is a popular camping and hiking destination. It also boasts some of darkest skies in the county, making conditions optimal for stargazing, and in 2018, was recognized as an International Dark Sky Park, the first and only in Illinois. Since then, Middle Fork's visitation has significantly increased and the park has received Visit Champaign County's 2021 Tourism Impact Award for its expanding role in local astro-tourism.



Scan or visit:
secure.qgiv.com/for/darkskytrail

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) was awarded \$294,000 in grant funding by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant Program to support the construction of a dark sky trail and amenities at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve in Penfield, Illinois.

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Forest Preserve Friends Foundation need your help to raise \$100,000 in order to match this grant and make this project a reality. **Your donations will help protect the night sky and preserve our natural environment.**