

Peoria Park District

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS - WINTER 2023

Nature Programs

PPD Photo Contest

Submit your photos to our park district-wide photography contest! Digital submissions are accepted during the months of January, February, and March, and select photos will be displayed at the Bonnie W. Noble Center and online for Earth Day. Learn more and submit photos at www.peoriaparks.org.

Ages: All

Fee: Free to enter



DIY Maple Syrup Workshop at Camp Wokanda

Ever wanted to learn how to make maple syrup from trees in your own yard? Our Camp Wokanda manager and maple syrup operator will take you through a step-by-step process of how you can make your own syrup.

Ages: 8+

Fee: \$10/person

Saturday 1/7 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Nature Classes for Home Learners at Forest Park

Discover our natural world with Forest Park's biologists! Participants should be prepared to spend at least half of our class time outside as we explore different features of our local environment. Themes and dates:

Ages: 7-12

Fee: \$12/child, or \$6 for FPNC members

Animals of Illinois' Past

Tuesday 1/10 10:00-11:30 am

What Tree is That? Winter Edition

Tuesday 2/14 10:00-11:30 am

Tracking Woodland Wildlife

Tuesday 3/14 10:00-11:30 am



Camp Wokanda · 620 E. Boy Scout Rd, Chillicothe, IL · 309-579-2157

Open all year daily from dawn to dusk.

Forest Park Nature Center · 5809 N Forest Park Dr, Peoria Heights, IL · 309-686-3360

Visitor Center and Nature Store: Tuesday through Saturday 9 am - 5 pm, hours subject to change.

Trails open all year daily from dawn to dusk.

Luthy Botanical Garden · 2520 N Prospect Rd, Peoria, IL · 309-686-3506

Open all year daily from 10 am - 5 pm

Tawny Oaks Field Station · 715 W Singing Woods Rd, Edelstein, IL · 309-418-7051

Open seasonally April through October, Wednesday - Saturday 10 am-4 pm

Trails open all year daily from dawn to dusk.

Sommer Farm · 6329 N Koerner Rd, Edwards, IL · 309-691-8423

This is a use-by-reservation facility, available primarily from April through October.

Chill Billy at Camp Wokanda

Time to get outside for a full day of winter fun. Learn cast-iron cooking, try ice-fishing and orienteering, learn how to make maple syrup and identify trees, enjoy a chili lunch, and much more.

Ages: All

Fee: \$5/person

Saturday 1/14

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Love Letters to Nature at Forest Park

In honor of Valentine's Day, share your love of nature! Drop by our art station in February to write a poem, share a story, or draw a picture about how nature inspires you. If you choose, hang up your work for others to enjoy!

Ages: All

Tues—Sat in February

9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Vino Van Gogh at Luthy Botanical Garden

Have an evening out while painting and sipping a glass of wine in the Conservatory. Please register at www.peoriaparks.org/registration.

Ages: 21+

Saturday 2/4

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Preschool Party at Luthy Botanical Garden

Join staff from the Garden and Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum for a morning of fun learning about plants, nature, art, and more. Please register at www.peoriaparks.org/registration.

Ages: 2-5

Fee: \$6/child, or \$3 for Garden/PlayHouse members

Wednesdays 3/8, 3/22,
4/12 & 4/26

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.



'The Secret Garden' Lily Show at Luthy Botanical Garden

Explore and experience the lily show, themed 'The Secret Garden,' displayed in the lush, tropical Conservatory! A community tradition, this show is a wonderful way to greet spring.

Ages: All

Fee: Donations appreciated

March 17 - April 9

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Guided Hikes

Join us for guided hikes with our knowledgeable naturalist staff! Many of these hikes take place on accessible trails for strollers and wheelchairs; please call for specific information regarding these and other accommodations.

Hikes are intended for all ages unless noted otherwise. Some of these hikes require advance registration in-person at Forest Park Nature Center, by calling 309-686-3360, or at:

www.PeoriaParks.org/registration

Fees are \$3 per person or FREE for FPNC members. All ages are welcome!

Winter Wonder Walk at Forest Park

Saturday 1/7 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Start your year by immersing yourself in the beauty of the forest in winter. We'll search for signs of native animals and gain understanding of how Illinois ecosystems survive during the season.

Winter Bird Hike at Forest Park

Saturday 2/11 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Leafless trees make birds easier to spot in winter! Bundle up for a bird hike as we search for raptors, woodpeckers, songbirds, wild turkeys, and more. Bring your own binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours.

Leafless Tree ID Hike at Forest Park

Saturday 2/25 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Don't let winter trees 'leaf' you 'stumped!' Our foresters are here to help you figure out which tree is which in the winter forest.

Scats & Tracks Hike at Forest Park

Saturday 3/18 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Search for signs of woodland animals on this guided hike. We'll cover common animal tracks, scat, and possibly some fur and feathers.

Peoria Wilds Ecological Restoration Workdays

Join these restoration workdays to meet new people, learn about native (and non-native) flora and fauna, have fun and get some exercise! Bring gloves and water and dress appropriately for an outdoor experience. For more information, call one of the stewards listed below or just show up at one of the workdays. Age: Teen to Adult. Minors must have guardian-signed waiver.

For more information about volunteering with us, visit:

https://ec.samaritan.com/custom/1562/volunteer_home



Horseshoe Bottoms

Meet at the West end of St. Mary's Cemetery.

Contact: David Pittman at 309-573-2354 by text

Saturday 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1

9:00 a.m.

Rocky Glen

Meet at the Rocky Glen parking lot off of Kickapoo Creek Road. Contact: David Pittman at 309-573-2354 by text

Sunday 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2

9:00 a.m.

For upcoming events hosted by the Friends of Rocky Glen, visit: www.facebook.com/friendsofrockyglen

Springdale Cemetery Savanna

Meet at the cemetery office lot off of Prospect Rd.

Contact: Mike Rucker at 309-648-4153

**Saturday 1/21, 2/4, 2/25, 3/18,
4/8, 4/29**

9:00 a.m.

Donovan Park

Meet in Cyd's parking lot. Contact: David Pittman at 309-573-2354 by text

Sunday 1/15, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9

1:00 p.m.

Looking for a nature-based activity for your classroom, scout troop, family gathering, or other group or organization? Consider:

A naturalist-guided field study, woodland birthday party, or Girl Scout Badge Workshop at **Forest Park**
309-686-3360 / singram@peoriaparks.org

Cabin and facility rentals, tent camping, canoeing, hiking, and fishing at **Camp Wokanda**.
309-577-4157 / jmol@peoriaparks.org

Pioneer adventure, canoeing and hiking, or teams course field trips to **Sommer Farm**.
309-691-8423 / tmiller@peoriaparks.org

A **Traveling Naturalist** program at a convenient location of your choice.
309-686-3360 / singram@peoriaparks.org

