

## ***The Illinois Mosaic: Cultural and Natural History***

*These programs show how Illinois' rich natural and cultural history has shaped our past, impacted our present and will influence our future.*

### **"Woodland Indians"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season*



In this program, we explore the lives of historical Native Americans in Illinois. We will focus on their relationship with the land, describe how various plants were used, and examine real artifacts that were used in their daily lives.

### **"Pioneer Life"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season*

Many families made the difficult trip west, riding in wagon trains to start a new home in Illinois. In this program, we imagine the daily life of the pioneers, discuss how they utilized the land, and compare their lifestyles with ours.



### **"Illinois Agriculture"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season*

Illinois' rich soil is an important and valuable resource. In this program, we discuss past and present farming methods and the importance of sustainable agriculture.

Photo by Marjorie Kellams



## ***Traveling Naturalist Programs\****

*If you can't visit us, we'll visit you! Our Traveling Naturalist programs bring a bit of the outdoors inside to your class or group.*

*\*During select months only. Call for details.*

### **"Backyard Wilderness"**

Interesting wild animals exist, not only in zoos and the rainforest, but right here in our own neighborhoods.

### **"Nature Detectives"**

By learning to examine the clues animals leave all around us, we can gain a better understanding of their lives without ever seeing them.

### **"The Wonderful World of Insects"**

Insects, the most numerous group of animals, come in all shapes and sizes. By examining them up close and learning about their life cycles, we can really appreciate their diversity.

### **"Birds of Prey"**

From excellent eyesight to razor sharp talons, raptors have many adaptations that make them top predators in the sky.

(847) 741-8350  
www.kaneforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Kane County  
719 S. Batavia Ave. Bldg. G  
Geneva, IL 60134



# **Nature Education Programs**



Photo by Jim Judd

**Forest Preserve District  
of Kane County**

**The Kane County Forest Preserve District offers a variety of programs in which students, scouts and community groups explore and experience the natural wonders of Kane County.**

**Seasonal Spotlights**

*Every season brings exciting changes in nature, and in these programs we explore, observe and enjoy one of these fascinating topics.*

**"Trees and Their Leaves"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season, fall recommended*

From acorn to oak, trees play an important role in nature throughout their life cycle. We will compare leaves, learn identification techniques and examine the different structures of trees in this program.

**"Animal Seasonal Adaptations"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. winter*



Photo by Erica Lemon

Animals change their behavior and use different strategies to survive winter. During this program, our discussions will include hibernation, migration and food gathering. We will also examine the trade-offs of these techniques.

**"Animal Tracks and Signs"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season, winter recommended*

Wild animals can be secretive and often difficult to see. By practicing our observation skills in nature and learning about the different types of animal signs, we can put these clues together and determine where animals have been and what they were doing.



Photo by Ben Katzen

**"Maple Sugaring"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. late February - early March*



Photo by Ben Katzen

Turning maple sap into maple syrup is a fun and interesting way to show people's connection with nature. In this program, we'll demonstrate the tapping of trees and discuss the history, process and technology of maple sugaring.

**"Spring Wildflowers"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. spring*

As the forest awakens from winter, beautiful assortments of wildflowers grace its floor. Along with identification, we will discuss their structures, life cycles, and the relationship between pollinators and these flowers.



Photo by Ben Katzen

**"The Wonderful World of Insects"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. summer, fall*

Insects are the most diverse group of animals on Earth. By examining them closely, we can appreciate this diversity and also notice the characteristics that they all have in common. In this program, we will also discuss the important roles insects play in nature.



Photo by Erica Lemon

**"The Tallgrass Prairie"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. summer, fall*

Illinois, The Prairie State, was once covered with tall grass prairie that was home to animals such as bison and badgers. In this program, we discuss the natural factors that created the prairie and why so little of it remains.



Photo by Erica Lemon

**"Rivers, Streams and Everything in Between"**

*1 1/2 - 2 hrs. any season*

Streams, ponds and rivers support an amazing diversity of life and are fascinating places to study nature. In this program, we will explore the watershed and discuss the sources and impacts of pollution.



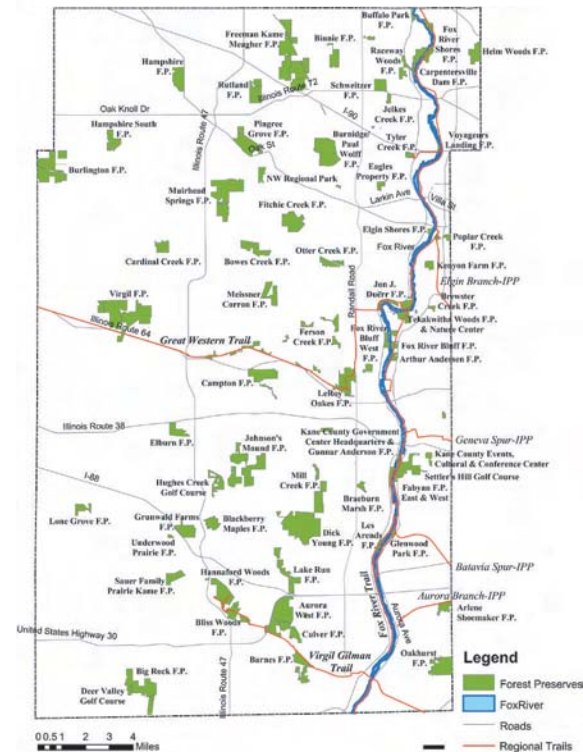
Photo by Jim Judd

For more information about programs, fees, and to register  
**Call (847) 741-8350**  
 To find out more about the Forest Preserve District of Kane County visit  
**www.kaneforest.com**



**Kane County Forest Preserve**

**Properties**



Programs are offered at preserves throughout Kane County