First Fridays Concerts

7:00–8:30 pm  Site closes at 9 pm

Lost Valley Visitor Center Patio, Glacial Park

Join us the first Friday of each month this summer for an evening of music and the great outdoors. Bring a picnic dinner, soak in the beautiful view and sunset from the Lost Valley Visitor Center patio, and enjoy a free concert from talented, regional musicians.

Note: No glass containers. In the case of inclement weather, concerts will be moved indoors.

The StingRays — back by popular demand!
The StingRays play the greatest music ever written with the energy, passion and authenticity of the artists whose music they love. The music, their rapport with the audience, and the famous StingRay moves have made them repeated favorites at events throughout the Midwest. The group loves to interact with the audience through trivia, dance contests, and strolling through the audience. They are sure to have you up dancing and singing along!

Jaik Willis
Jaik Willis is a strumming and drumming one man band; playing an 11-piece drum set, guitars, bass and harps, while singing and beatboxing simultaneously. Jaik performs at nearly 300 shows a year with appearances at venues like the Chicago Bluegrass & Blues Fest, Bonnaroo, Summer Camp Music Fest and Dunegrass. Jaik also got a shout out in Rolling Stone magazine for his vocal contribution to the Bassnectar album “FreeStyle” that debuted at #1 on iTunes.

Georgia Rae Family Band
Kelly Jo and Georgia Rae are the sister-song writing duo from Richmond, who anchor the Georgia Rae Family Band. The group has always pushed the envelope of traditional music. Their progressive sound is inspired by a mix of Americana, contemporary folk and roots, and a little jazzy swing, all flavored with family harmony and youthful energy.

Fox Crossing Stringband
Fox Crossing Stringband is a 4 piece all-female bluegrass band from Chicago who just released their debut album, Box of Memories. These foxes are ready to fill the evening with their charming blend of sweet and strong sounds from their original songs that blend traditional and newgrass, jamgrass, and fun country-twang rock with the help of their acoustic instruments.
Pedal - Paddle - Saddle through the Prairie
An Annual Fundraising Event!

Sunday, June 9, 2019
Glacial Park, Ringwood, IL

Pedal 9:30 a.m.
12K, 20K, or 30K

Paddle 7:30 a.m.
2 hour (6 mi) Canoe or Kayak

Saddle 9:00 a.m.
5.5 mi Trail Ride

Plus Live Music & Pasta Feast

Register by May 25 to get a free t-shirt!

McHenryConservation.org
(815) 759-9390 ●

All proceeds of this event go to support McHenry County Conservation Foundation and its mission of preserving open space!
Bring the whole family out for a fun morning of fishing, prizes, and more! For this FREE event a fishing license is not required. Bring your own gear or borrow ours! Children get first preference on poles. First come, first served. Adult supervision of children is required.

**Plein Air Art Exhibit**

A Celebration of Wildflowers and Art

June 3–July 26
Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

Enjoy artwork created by our local plein air artists. *Plein air is a French expression referring to painting “in the open air”.* The exhibit features artist’s work recently created at the Conservation District’s May event *Celebration of Wildflowers and Art*, held at Coral Woods, as well as previously created pieces by the participating artists. Stop in and witness how the fleeting beauty of native spring wildflowers and the woodland backdrop have been captured on canvas. If you like what you see, many of the works may be available to purchase directly from the artists.

Note: Images are examples of works created at previous years’ events.
Ice Cream Social of 1858
Sunday, June 9, 12–4:00 p.m.
Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park
No registration required. Drop in any time during the open hours.

Take a break from your hectic modern life, step back in time and enjoy the simple pleasures of an old-fashioned ice cream social. Enjoy fresh-scooped ice cream, play old-time games, and chat with your neighbors while visiting the historic Powers-Walker House it’s summertime glory. Various historical characters will stop by to tell you of their lives, including a cavalryman and his horse heading off to defend the frontier. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole afternoon of fun.

Living History Open Houses

Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park
No registration required. Drop in any time during the open hours.

Visit this 1854 Greek Revival restored house and learn more about the resident families that called this area home. Volunteers in historical attire will be on hand to answer questions. Enjoy the war-time memorabilia and listen to the stories of both the home-front and the soldiers’ perspective on these important conflicts that changed our world.

Over There & Over Here: Sun., July 21, 12–4:00 pm
July’s open house features the Miller family who inhabited the area during the World War I era.

Life & Times of WWII: Sun., August 11, 12–4:00 pm
August’s open house features the Schaeffer and Steinmetz families, who lived in the area during the World War II era.

National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6, 5:30–8:30 pm
PETERSEN PARK
4300 Peterson Park Rd, McHenry

McHenry County Conservation District, McHenry County Sheriff’s Office and the City of McHenry Police Department team up to present National Night Out Against Crime to promote crime prevention and safety programs, while strengthening police-community partnerships and encouraging neighborhood camaraderie. The evening is action packed with demonstrations, food and fun for the entire family! Various police equipment will be on display. Booths include: Electronic Fingerprinting ID System for Children, Project S.W.E.E.P., Sheriff’s Office Explorer, Volunteer and other programs. Stop by for complimentary food and beverages and enjoy the ongoing activities!

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS:
Precision Riding Motorcycle Demo—McHenry County Conservation District & McHenry County Sheriff’s Motor Units
Police K9 Demo—McHenry County Sheriff’s Office
If you love sampling good craft beer and spending time outdoors, this event is for you!
Walk the one mile partially wooded trail while visiting various regional brewers along the way. Play a pick up game of bags, sand volleyball or basketball and visit outdoor recreation retailers.

For more information, visit bit.ly/TGOBT2019Tickets

$35  [$45 after 7/19] Tastes From Each Brewer & Commemorative Glass
$50  VIP Pass – enjoy early entry 1 hour before the crowds

Get your tickets early — prices increase day of event.

Live music!
Food trucks!

Note: Ticket sales end at 5 p.m. day of the event. You must be 21 or older to attend. The site will be closed to all other visitors during the hours of the event. The trail is paved and wheelchair accessible. This event is dog friendly—leash required.
3rd Annual

Run Wild...

Race for Open Space 5K

Saturday, October 5
Hickory Grove Highlands | 500 Hickory Nut Grove Ln., Cary

Seeking Event Sponsors, contact MCCD@MCCDistrict.org

To register, or for more information visit bit.ly/RunWild5K-2019

Early registration: $30 thru July 31
$35 thru 5pm Oct. 4 / $42 day of event
$20 Youth 5–13
Includes t-shirt, race bib, and race day snacks.

7–8:00 am On-site Registration (cash or check only)
8:30 am Race Start
9:30 am Awards (overall & age group)

Race Day overflow parking, Fel-Pro RRR, 1520 Crystal Lake Road, Cary

Connect with your wild self on this run through wide open spaces in McHenry County!
Journey through woodland, prairie and wetland habitats. Enjoy the colors of fall with stunning views of wildflowers, grasses and towering oak and hickory trees along the wooded trail. This timed event features moderate terrain to provide an exciting and challenging experience for runners of all skill levels.
**Special Events**

**Explorations ...in Nature!**

**Saturday, June 22, 1–4 p.m.**

Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

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Join The FOX Club (Families Outside eXploring)

This is a free opportunity designed to help families spend quality time outdoors while learning about nature. As a member of the FOX Club, families receive an exploration backpack, Conservation District site and trail maps, fun seasonal activity ideas, a log book to journal activities, and a bimonthly newsletter. The club offers six gatherings a year, hundreds of outdoor exploration ideas, and a chance to meet other outdoor-loving families.

Join online with Code 5123. For more information, contact the FOX Club coordinator at (815) 479-5779.

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**Become an OUTDOOR EXPLORER**

Families with Children Age 14 and Under

Want to challenge your kids physically, intellectually, and creatively through scavenger hunts, wildlife observations, tree measurements, hiking challenges and more?

Purchase a full color Outdoor Explorer Activity Book to start exploring the outdoors and help keep your kids active, happy, and healthy this summer!

Outdoor Explorer books are available for $5 to purchase at Prairieview Education Center, Lost Valley Visitor Center, or online Code: 5698 (Note: there is a $2 online transaction fee).

Once (at least) 10 pages of the book are completed, stop in to receive an Outdoor Explorer Certificate and a prize! Activities need to be completed by September 3, 2019 to be eligible to redeem a prize.

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**Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, oh my!**

Join us for a family-friendly adventure as we weave the natural Environment into these themes.

Visit stations with hands-on activities that pique your natural curiosity and foster critical thinking.

Drop in for a little while or stay for the afternoon and have a great time in the natural world!

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Lost Valley Nature Detectives: Self-Guided Explorations at Glacial Park

It’s a beautiful day for hiking, bird watching, and wildlife tracking! Start your adventures at Lost Valley Visitor Center where each month a new topic is featured. Indoor displays and activities will get you ready for an outdoor exploration.

Check out the free exploration backpack to borrow binoculars and field guides and grab a scavenger hunt to help you search the wild spaces of Glacial Park. Come any time the visitor center is open!

**Summer Topics:**

- June — Turtles
- July — Predators and Prey
- August — Incredible Insects
Celebrate your next birthday with us!

Nature-Themed Birthday Parties!

Add an exciting twist to your child’s next birthday and book a nature-themed party hosted at the District’s Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd., Crystal Lake. Choose one of five different party themes to help celebrate the special day!

Each 2-hour party includes one hour of staff-guided activities and one hour use of the party room on your own for 10-15 children. Parties are scheduled on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Sundays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and Nocturnal Critters on Friday or Saturday from 7–9 p.m.

Book your party by calling (815) 479-5779 no more than 60 days in advance.

Note: Outdoor activities are weather dependent and may be replaced with alternative indoor activities.

Cost: R $140/NR $180 ($50 deposit required)
For up to 10 children. Additional child $10 each, 15 max, including the birthday child and siblings.

Nature Detectives | Ages 4–7 and 8–12:
There’s so much to explore as kids take part in a scavenger hunt and earn a Nature Detective badge.

Letterboxing | Ages 4–7:
Simple clues lead to special birthday letterboxes. This is a great introduction to Geocaching and just as much fun!

Geocaching | Ages 8–12:
Use GPS coordinates to find birthday caches in this popular treasure hunt adventure.

Get Your Game On | Ages 4–7 and 8–12:
Play classic party games with nature-themed twists.

Nocturnal Critters | Ages 8–12:
Head outdoors for a night hike to discover the critters that are active at night. We’ll end the hike around a warm, crackling campfire.